



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 7/18/2023

New Business

Department: Equity and Human Rights Office

Presenter(s): Dr. Noreal Armstrong, Chief Equity & Human Rights Officer

Contact(s): DK Wesley, Assistant County Manager & Dr. Noreal Armstrong

Subject: Inter-Local Agreement between the City of Asheville and the County of Buncombe

Brief Summary: At its December 5, 2022 meeting, the Community Reparations Commission (CRC) unanimously approved an immediate recommendation for Buncombe County and the City of Asheville to stop further harm by ceasing the repetition of institutional processes that lead to racially disparate outcomes. This recommendation included a request that the City of Asheville and Buncombe County contract with an independent third-party firm to conduct an official audit to ensure compliance with federal and state laws, regulatory bodies, codes of conduct, court orders, and consent decrees.

On February 7, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners authorized the County Manager to develop a scope of work for this official audit. This work was completed and a request for proposals (“RFP”) was issued inviting qualified firms to apply. A selection panel was convened that include City and County staff and four CRC members to evaluate the proposal and select a firm to complete the audit. The selection panel have reviewed responses to the RFP, interviewed applicants, and have selected the best qualified applicant to conduct this audit.

The proposal lists a contract price for deliverables in the amount of \$174,375 to be shared between the City and the County on a 50% - 50% basis. The County will provide funding from its Reparations Project Fund. An Interlocal agreement is required for such a mutual undertaking. Pursuant to GS 160A-461 a city and county may enter into agreements with

each other in order to execute any undertaking as ratified by resolution of the governing board of each unit of government. City Council is scheduled to consider and approve such a resolution and County staff are requesting approval of this Board.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action: Approve the execution of the Inter-Local Agreement between the City of Asheville and the County of Buncombe.

County Manager's comments and Recommendation: Approve as recommended.