



Questions About the City's Administration of the Iris Roley Contracts

The following are 5 lines of inquiry about the city's lack of care in compliance with standard contracting practices and the lack of a proper record of its contracting decision-making.

Normally, the higher up in an organization, the more exacting compliance you can expect to find and where greater care is taken of the organization's reputation. Apparently not in this case. The city has already acknowledged errors concerning subcontractors. But there are more.

City officials negotiated the contracts; six city officials signed off on each of them; the contracts appear to have been administered from the City Manager's direct office, including examination of invoices, approval of payments, and ensuring contract compliance. So why are there so many questions?

1. Why are important contracting documents absent from the contracting files? For example, why has the city not produced a Request for Qualifications; or Statement of Contractor Qualifications; or a market survey of compensation levels for comparable positions?
2. Since the public record does not appear to contain a market survey, compensation analysis, independent estimate, or other documentation to establish that the compensation paid under these contracts was fair and reasonable. Exactly how were the compensation levels determined and who negotiated them on behalf of the City?
3. The contracts provide that the contractor reports directly to the City Manager. Contract correspondence, invoice processing, and program oversight appear to have been concentrated within the City Manager's direct office. Which City officials were responsible for ensuring compliance with contract requirements and approving invoices for payment?
4. The contracts required subcontractor approval requests to be submitted prior to commencement of work. That was not followed and the city stated that it waived the requirement. How was the waiver done? Who approved the waiver? Also, the city's spokesperson responded to a question about payments to subcontractors. She stated that, "We would not maintain that information." In fact, the contract requires that reports of all payments to subcontractors be filed with the city by the 15th of each month?
5. The Iris Roley LLC contract (dated 11.6.25) and the Cincinnati Collaborative Foundation contract (dated 11.4.26) involve substantial overlap and apparent duplication. Why is the city contracting in this unusual way and how will the city ensure that invoices and payments do not also overlap and duplicate?