



City and Borough of Juneau  
City & Borough Manager's Office  
155 Heritage Way  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Telephone: 586-5240 | Facsimile: 586-5385

---

TO: Borough Assembly

DATE: April 7, 2025

FROM: Robert Barr, Deputy City Manager

THRU: Katie Koester, City Manager

RE: Bidding Review Board (BRB), RFP 25-190

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, I issued a best interest finding to the procurement officer per CBJC 53.50.062(f) to immediately enter contract negotiations with the highest scoring respondent to RFP 25-190, related to developing and installing a downtown wireless network before the 2025 summer tourism season. This finding was rooted in ensuring that network was online this season to mitigate the network congestion and resolve the related public complaints that we received last year.

The BRB finding seems to indicate a preference for a design-bid-build process typical in construction projects. This RFP was for professional services, not construction, which follow a different process that the BRB appears to believe inappropriate. Further, and critically, the BRB only heard from the protestor and CBJ staff and not from the successful bidder. Relying on the complaint from the protestor without hearing responses from the successful bidder (and subsequent rebuttals) made the BRB unable to establish a set of agreed upon facts, areas of disagreement, and in general holistically consider the protest.

The evaluators of this RFP are subject matter experts with experience in the specific area addressed by the RFP. Further, they have professional experience with all but one of the respondents to the RFP. Both the evaluators and the purchasing officer have determined that the proposals were responsive and scored fairly. I concur with their findings.

**Recommendation:**

I recommend you take no action, allowing the Manager's best interest finding to stand.

Alternatively, if you accept the BRB's recommendation, CBJ will be liable for up to the contract amount currently awarded – \$750,000 – and in that case I recommend you direct staff to negotiate a cancellation of the award and to make a recommendation to the Assembly on whether to re-bid the project in a future year.