



Leah Wilson | Vice Chair
Police Accountability Board
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June 30, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL [Email]

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
Council@berkeleyca.gov
2180 Milvia Street,
Berkeley, CA 94704

Re: Item 19 — Formal Bid Solicitations and Request for Proposals (Spec. No. 26-11794-C)

Dear Honorable Mayor Ishii and Members of the City Council

I write in my capacity as Vice Chair of the Police Accountability Board (PAB) and as a member of the Berkeley Police Department's (BPD or department) informal Request for Proposals Stakeholder Working Group (working group). This letter concerns Item 19 on tonight's consent calendar, which seeks City Council (council) approval to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for public safety technology tools (Spec. No. 26-11794-C). I am not writing to oppose the item, but to flag a timing concern that I believe the council should address before the RFP is issued.

The item itself reflects an approximate RFP release date of July 8, eight days after council approval. I am concerned because the department has communicated to members of the working group that it intends to issue the RFP on July 2 — six days earlier than the date stated in the agenda item. As of the date of this letter, the version of the RFP planned for issuance on July 2 has not been shared with the working group, making any release premature.

The working group conducted an initial RFP review that surfaced several substantive issues; the department addressed some but not all of them in a subsequent draft. Remaining outstanding are issues that go to the heart of whether the RFP can result in the selection of a fair and transparent competitive solicitation: the RFP currently lacks Master Services Agreement (MSA) terms, which means the solicitation's "accept or state exceptions" to the city's proposed binding contractual terms is not actionable. Further, current scoring requirements do not account for a vendor's agreement, or lack thereof, to the city's proposed MSA terms. The working group also flagged that functional requirements need to be restructured to distinguish mandatory from optional features, and that the scoring criteria underweight vendor credibility and demonstrated track record. If the RFP is issued before working group members have had an opportunity to review the latest draft, there will be no way to verify that outstanding revisions were incorporated or to raise remaining

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concerns before the solicitation goes to the public. I have asked BPD to clarify whether it intends to circulate a further revised draft prior to issuance and have requested sufficient time for working group review of that version; I have not received a response.

I respectfully ask the council to direct the following in connection with tonight's vote: direct the department to provide the working group with the revised draft RFP before it is issued, with sufficient time for working group members to identify any remaining substantive concerns.

The RFP covers technology with significant civil liberties implications and a procurement history that has already drawn scrutiny. Getting the process right at each step matters. I appreciate the council's attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Leah Wilson

Leah Wilson, Vice Chair
Police Accountability Board

Cc: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager
David White, Deputy City Manager
Jennifer Louis, Chief of Police
Jen Tate, Deputy Chief of Police
Katherine Lee, Interim Director of Police Accountability