

City of Mississauga  
**Corporate Report**



<p>Date: May 3, 2022</p> <p>To: Chair and Members of General Committee</p>	<p>Originator's files:</p>
<p>From: Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer</p>	<p>Meeting date: June 15, 2022</p>

## Subject

**Prequalification of Suppliers for Cybersecurity Procurements**

## Recommendation

1. That the list of Qualified Suppliers from the Province of Ontario's Vendor of Record (VOR) arrangement for "IT Security Products and Services" (Tender 11558) and the Qualified Suppliers on the City's IT Roster for "IT Security Services" (Role 12) listed as the City's Prequalified list of Cybersecurity suppliers in Appendix 1 and 2 of the report dated May 3, 2022, from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer entitled, "Prequalification of Suppliers for Cybersecurity Procurements" be approved.
2. That the City's Chief Procurement Officer or designate be authorized to issue cybersecurity-related procurements by direct invitation only to the list of Qualified Suppliers identified in the Province of Ontario's VOR for "IT Security Products and Services" and the City's IT Roster for "IT Security Services".
3. That the list of Qualified Suppliers be adopted in accordance with the Province of Ontario's VOR for "IT Security Products and Services" and the City's IT Roster for "IT Security Services" renewals and or prequalification processes.

## Executive Summary

- Maintaining and improving City's cybersecurity posture includes the ability to acquire the latest technologies to mitigate against zero day events in a confidential manner. It is advantageous for the City to adopt the list of Qualified Suppliers from the Province of Ontario's Vendor of Record (VOR) for "IT Security Products and Services" and be able to issue procurement requests by invitation to this group of suppliers as well as the suppliers in the City's IT Roster for "IT Security Services" (Role 12). Leveraging this approach will ensure that cybersecurity related procurements are issued only to a group of prequalified suppliers thus minimizing cybersecurity information exposure.

## Background

The City's Information Technology division follows approved City processes for procuring software, professional services, maintenance and support and subscription services through a balance of competitive procurements, pre-qualified supplier rosters procurements and single source procurements.

Cybersecurity related procurements are specific type of IT procurements which typically require heightened confidentiality. It is known that cyber criminals take every opportunity to collect intelligence about their victims before launching attacks. It is likely that information about cybersecurity related procurements may be used against the potential victims. In recent years' multiple public organizations in Canada have fallen victim to cyber attacks (including several in Ontario).

In 2018, the City completed a competitive process to establish an IT Roster which includes a group of prequalified cybersecurity suppliers that are engaged "by invitation" to bid on procurements on an "as needed" basis. The IT Roster is a way to conduct procurements for professional services in a discrete, confidential manner. Since its inception the roster was leveraged over thirty times for cybersecurity related engagements.

The IT Roster was designed for professional services only and does not include the ability to procure products. The City's IT division requires a similar procurement mechanism which would allow for procurements of cybersecurity related products in addition to professional services.

The Province of Ontario's Vendor of Record (VOR) for "IT Security Products and Services", is designed in a way similar to the City's IT Roster; however, the Provincial VOR includes the ability to procure products. The Provincial VOR includes an extensive list of prequalified suppliers (Appendix 1). The City's IT division proposes to adopt the list of prequalified suppliers from the Ontario's Vendor of Record (VOR) for "IT Security Products and Services" and leverage it as the City's own list of prequalified Cybersecurity suppliers for procurements of products and services.

## Comments

The City's Information Technology division follows approved City processes for procuring software, professional services, maintenance and support and subscription services through a balance of competitive procurements, IT Roster procurements, single source procurements, and contract renewals.

It is advantageous to the City to expose minimal information about its Cybersecurity posture, including information about cybersecurity products and services which are procured and used by the City. It is advantageous to the City to leverage Qualified Suppliers from the Province of Ontario VOR for “IT Security Products and Services” (Appendix 1) and the list of cybersecurity suppliers from the IT Roster (Appendix 2) and be able to issue procurement requests by invitation to these suppliers, thus minimizing the potential exposure of information about cybersecurity products and services utilized by the City.

It is also advantageous for the City to adopt the list of Suppliers from the Province of Ontario’s Vendor of Record (VOR) arrangement for “IT Security Products and Services” (Appendix 1) and the list of cybersecurity suppliers from the IT Roster (Appendix 2) and adopt it as the City’s own prequalified list of suppliers. This would potentially eliminate the need to conduct prequalification sessions and allow the City to work with suppliers examined and accepted by the Province of Ontario.

#### Procurement By-law Authorization

The recommendations are made in alignment with Procurement By-law 0013-2022, Schedule A, 1 (g) *There is a need to limit the distribution of confidential or security related information;*

Although this section of the procurement by-law describes criteria for single source and emergency procurements, the purpose of the proposed procurement process for cybersecurity related procurements is to maintain the spirit of competitiveness. By issuing “by invitation” procurement requests, the City would allow only reputable and prequalified suppliers to compete for business while minimizing the exposure of information.

## **Financial Impact**

The capital accounts currently associated with the Cybersecurity Program are as follows:

- IT Security Program – PN 20506 (\$340K)
- IT Security Enhancements – PN 18507 (\$264K), PN 20507 (\$150K)
- Cybersecurity Operations Centre – PN 19555 (\$325K)

Funding for future cybersecurity projects will be submitted as capital budget requests through the City’s regular annual budget planning process as required and subject to future budget approvals.

## Conclusion

It is important to protect critical business functions in the City by implementing adequate Cybersecurity measures. By adopting the Qualified Suppliers from the Province of Ontario (VOR) for “IT Security Products and Services” and the list of cybersecurity suppliers from the IT Roster as the City’s Prequalified list of Cybersecurity suppliers and having the ability to issue procurement requests by invitation to the prequalified suppliers as proposed in this report, the City will minimise the exposure of sensitive cybersecurity related information and will allow IT to work with suppliers already prequalified by the Province of Ontario.

## Attachments

Appendix 1: Qualified Suppliers from the Province of Ontario’s Vendor of Record (VOR) arrangement for “IT Security Products and Services

Appendix 2: IT Roster – Cybersecurity Suppliers



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