



City of Cambridge

Executive Department

YI-AN HUANG
City Manager

CMA 2025 #64
IN CITY COUNCIL
March 24, 2025

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Please find enclosed for your consideration a proposed Home Rule Petition prepared by the Law Department which would raise the sound business practices and written quote contract thresholds under M.G.L. c. 30B for City contracts with certified disadvantaged businesses.

Specifically, the proposal would allow a City department to use sound business practices for items purchased up to \$20,000 (currently, the threshold under state law is \$10,000) and request three (3) written quotes from certified disadvantaged businesses for contracts valued up to \$250,000 (currently, the threshold under state law is \$50,000). Increasing these thresholds makes the bidding and quote seeking process significantly simpler and cost-effective for local small businesses and City departments. The home rule petition would also enable the City to make the process easier for certified disadvantaged businesses to apply for City contracts.

Yi-An Huang
City Manager



AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING PROCUREMENTS BY THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives in the General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding chapter 30B of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the City of Cambridge (“Cambridge”) may, for the procurement of a supply or service in the amount of \$20,000 or less, use sound business practices (as defined in M.G.L. c. 30B, § 2) so long as the business awarded the contract is a disadvantaged businesses, diverse businesses, or small and local business enterprises, as certified by the supplier diversity office, by the City of Boston (“Boston”), by Cambridge by virtue of its compact (which may be amended from time to time) with Boston, or by virtue of certification by Cambridge, customarily providing the supply or service. Cambridge shall meet the requirements of section 3 of chapter 30B, for those instances where contracts result from a purchase of \$10,000 or more.

SECTION 2. Notwithstanding chapter 30B of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the procurement officer of Cambridge may, for the procurement of a supply or service in the amount of \$20,000 or greater, but not more than the small procurement threshold as defined by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Operational Services Division, seek written quotations through a procurement officer from not fewer than three (3) disadvantaged businesses, diverse businesses or small and local business enterprises, as certified by the supplier diversity office, by Boston, by Cambridge by virtue of its compact (which may be amended from time to time) with Boston, or by virtue of certification by Cambridge, customarily providing the supply or service. The procurement officer shall record: (i) the names and addresses of all persons from whom quotations were sought; (ii) the

specifications used for the procurement; (iii) the names of the persons submitting quotations; and (iv) the date and amount of each quotation. The recorded information shall be retained in the file required pursuant to section 3 of said chapter 30B. The procurement officer shall award the contract to the eligible and responsible bidder offering the needed quality of supply or service at the lowest quotation. After awarding a contract under this section, Cambridge shall publish notice of such award on Cambridge's website or other appropriate notification platform.

SECTION 3. The provisions of this act are severable and if any provision, or portion thereof, should be held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions, which remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.



City of Cambridge

Agenda Item Number 11
IN CITY COUNCIL
March 24, 2025

ORDERED: That the City Council petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to enact the attached home rule petition entitled, AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING PROCUREMENTS BY THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE.