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Transmittal via Email

April 21, 2016

Jonathan P. Sanford
Assistant General Counsel
Florida Department of Corrections
501 South Calhoun Street
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RE: The Broward County Bridge
Substance Abuse Transition Re-Entry Center (SATREC) Program in Broward
(Pompano) County

Dear Jonathan:

As you know, our firm represents Bridges of America, Inc. ("Bridges") which currently operates the Work Release Transition/Substance Abuse Transition Re-Entry Program at the Pompano Work Release/Program Center in Broward County (the "Broward (Pompano) SATREC Program"). On behalf of Bridges, I am following up on our conversations of April 18 and 19, 2016, wherein you informed me that the Department of Corrections has recently decided to shut down or otherwise terminate the Broward (Pompano) SATREC Program as of May 16, 2016. You have advised that the Department therefore does not intend to re-issue its recent Request for Proposals (RFP) which sought proposals from vendors to operate the Broward (Pompano) SATREC Program beyond May 16, 2016 when the current contract between the Department and Bridges expires.

This stands in stark contrast to the Department's position as of just short of a month ago when, on March 22, 2016, the Department stated in an internal memorandum (attached hereto for your immediate reference) that it was rejecting Bridges' proposal to continue operation of the Broward (Pompano) SATREC Program in order to re-issue the Request for Proposals "in the hope that a new solicitation will increase competition." Then again, on Monday, April 11, 2016, I, along with representatives of Bridges, met with you and others from the Department to discuss the pending RFP for operation of the Broward (Pompano) SATREC Program and the Department's decision to reject Bridges of America's proposal and re-issue the RFP to seek additional competition. The Department made no mention whatsoever at this meeting of shutting down or otherwise closing the Broward (Pompano) SATREC Program.

You advise that the Department of Corrections has now determined, since our meeting of April 11, that it must close the Broward (Pompano) SATREC Program because the Department needs to use the space for other Department functions, including Probation and Parole office space. You advise that this is due to zoning restrictions around the facility that are making it increasingly difficult to utilize privately owned property for Department operations. Of course, your notification of this on April 18, 2016, was the first I or Bridges of America has heard of this need, or even that a move as drastic as closing down the Broward (Pompano) SATREC Program was even being considered by the Department. We are troubled by this seemingly sudden shift of direction by the Department, which carries with it such drastic impacts.

The Broward (Pompano) SATREC Program is the longest-running such program in Florida. It is also one of the—if not the—most successful SATREC programs in the state, and is the only such program in Broward or Miami-Dade Counties. Since 2005, this program has remained highly successful, with a client program completion rate of 89% (as of April 19, 2016). In addition, the Broward County Bridge has received numerous awards for its service to the community, in providing inmates with a second chance and preparing them for life outside the prison system. These awards include (but are not limited to), the National Partnership for Community Leadership Award, the National Fatherhood Initiative Grant Award, and the Broward County 2nd Chance Society Award. The operation of this program conservatively saves the state hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, an amount which does not even account for the long-term savings associated with significantly reducing recidivism amongst our outgoing prison population.

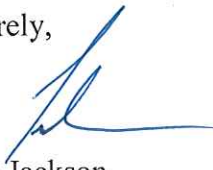
Given the importance of these SATREC programs (the Department's own recidivism report of 2014 indicated that men and women in community transition centers have a recidivism rate of only 10% and 5% respectively), and particularly the long-standing success of the Broward (Pompano) SATREC Program, Bridges of America is devastated to learn that the Department will end this critical program in one of the most populated areas of our state and implores the Department to reconsider this drastic decision. The impact of this decision effects several layers of stakeholders, from our partnering private employers for the work release inmates, to the Bridges employees at the facility, to the families of the inmates who are key partners in their loved one's rehabilitation, and of course the inmates themselves who are preparing to reenter our communities after time spent in the system. This decision by the Department seemingly circumvents legislative direction to inform the Legislature and Governor in advance of any plans to close, substantially reduce the use of, or change the purpose of any state correctional facility.

In the event the Department will not reconsider, Bridges must begin taking steps to close down its operation of the Broward (Pompano) SATREC Program by the May 16, 2016, expiration of the current contract. This will include, but is not limited to, assisting program participants with the transition out of the program and/or into other programs if possible. Bridges also has various personal property on the Broward (Pompano) SATREC Program site that will need to be removed as allowed by its current contract with the Department.

To that end, Bridges requests that the Department immediately confirm in writing its decision to terminate or otherwise shut down the Broward (Pompano) SATREC Program as of May 16, 2016. Bridges also requests that the Department immediately advise Bridges of any plan the Department has in place for the transition of program participants so that Bridges may review that plan, and if possible, assist with the implementation thereof. Please also advise whether Bridges must remove all of its property and be prepared to vacate the premises as of May 16, 2016, or whether the Department will provide additional time beyond that date for Bridges to completely vacate the premises.

Given the short time before May 16, 2016, I ask that the Department provide the requested information without delay, and no later than April 22, 2016, if at all possible. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



D. Ty Jackson

Enclosure

DTJ:ko



STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
BUREAU OF SUPPORT SERVICES

MEMO TO: File, RFP-15-089 SATREC Broward/Manatee

FROM: JOHN M. MELTON

DATE: March 22, 2016

SUBJECT: AGENCY DECISION - REJECT ALL – RFP-15-089

To encourage competition, the Agency has decided to “reject all” responses received in regards to the subject RFP, in the hope that a new solicitation will increase competition.

Only one (1) reply was received in response to this solicitation, even though a total of three (3) Vendors attended the Mandatory Site Visits, and all expressed not only their interest in the opportunity, but their intent to reply.

This note is added to the subject solicitation file to document the lack of competition resulting from the solicitation.

John M. Melton
Purchasing Manager