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3/20/19

Mayor Jonathan Rothschild
City Hall, 10th Floor
255 W. Alameda St
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Mayor Rothschild,

We at West Point were surprised and disappointed to learn from an Arizona Daily Star article published March 1, 2019 of the City Council's decision to place West Point Contractors, Inc. on the City of Tucson's divestment list for work we are currently performing on Border Fence Replacement in El Paso, TX. We were further disappointed that we were not contacted or notified by the City as to any proceedings or to its final decision, and were not given an opportunity to respond prior to this decision. We would like to present the City Council with additional information that, had it been aware of at the time, might have changed the Council's decision to disparage the reputation of a small business that is committed to benefitting Southern Arizona.

West Point has a long tradition of supporting Southern Arizona

West Point Contractors, Inc. is a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned construction company that has been headquartered in Southern Arizona for the past 25 years. Our staff of exceptional professionals live and work in Southern Arizona, as well as in areas along the border of the southwestern United States. As a whole, we are committed to building a sustainable infrastructure for the future. In the history of this company, we have built strong partnerships with federal, state, county, and private entities.

West Point is rooted in the rich history of southern Arizona, and our portfolio of projects displays our sensitivity to maintaining and preserving historically and culturally significant areas. Many of our projects require archeologists, hydrologists, and monitoring of water, noise, and wildlife. Our teams are extremely proud of the projects we work on and take pride in the service we offer to our clients. A brief list of some of our projects in Southern Arizona include:

- Renovation of campsites on Mt. Lemmon
- Restoration of historic buildings including Tumacácori National Historical Park, Saguaro National Monument Visitor Center, Coronado National Forest, and University of Arizona Florida Canyon Station
- Construction of bridges and airfield paving at Tucson International Airport and Davis Monthan Air Force Base
- Completion of emergency repair work to the Nogales Wash and town of Duncan's dikes during monsoon season flooding.
- Construction on nearly every major roadway and neighborhood for the City of Tucson Transportation Department, as well as several of the City's parks, including the complete renovation of Julian Wash Cultural Historic Park.

As to Government projects, West Point's government division focuses on work for the United States Forest Service, National Park Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Air Force, NAVFAC, Pima County, City of Tucson, Arizona Department of Transportation, AZ Game and Fish, and numerous other agencies and departments for federal, state and local governments.

The City Council's decision to place West Point on the divestment list for border wall construction ties was ill-informed and misguided

The City Council has mistakenly assumed that West Point is building "Trump's border wall." The fact is, the specific Border Fence Replacement projects West Point provided proposals to the US Army Corps of Engineers were forecasted in 2015 and out for solicitation in 2016, prior to the inauguration of Mr. Trump. These projects were planned with bipartisan support and were recommended for construction under the term of President Obama.

Projects West Point Bid:

8(a) Multiple Award Task Order Contract (MATOC) for Horizontal Construction Services in support of the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Border Patrol Sector and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Southwestern Division (SWD) Fort Worth District (SWF).

Solicitation Number: W9126G-16-R-0064

Agency: Department of the Army

Office: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Location: USACE District, Fort Worth

Original Synopsis

Presolicitation

Jun 02, 2016

1:07 pm

8(a) Multiple Award Task Order Contract (MATOC) for Horizontal Construction Services in support of the El Paso, Tucson and Yuma Border Patrol Sectors and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Southwestern Division (SWD) Fort Worth District (SWF).

Solicitation Number: W9126G-17-R-0034

Agency: Department of the Army

Office: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Location: USACE District, Fort Worth

Original Synopsis

Presolicitation

Dec 29, 2016

2:40 pm

For additional background, West Point is replacing 4 miles of chain link fence in downtown El Paso, TX with the type of metal fence found around most Ports of Entry. At the time West Point bid on the project, there was no stigma or social outcry against this type of work. As mentioned, the work had bipartisan support and was initially approved under the Obama Administration. Further debate of the merits or need for such a project may be warranted, but West Point would encourage the City Council to research the history of these and similar projects prior to making conclusions about the intent and character of the companies involved with them. West Point believes the approach to the complexities of border security should be met with an open mind, especially in tandem with immigration. Whether those two things should even be discussed together in the first place is something West Point also struggles with in this debate. For the record, West Point decided against submitting proposals for the prototype walls requested under President Trump's Administration. Additionally, we would like to clarify that West Point does not have a contract for similar border work in Nogales, AZ, as incorrectly claimed by the Arizona Daily Star article.

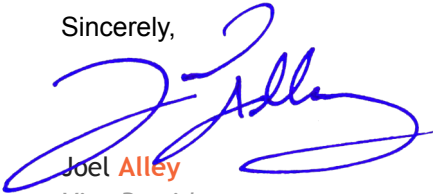
Furthermore, politicians should not place their constituents and the companies their constituents work for in harm's way while grandstanding on issues without doing their due diligence. More importantly, I hope looking further into this encourages productive debate and for all involved to be less divisive. People have been quick to judge the work being performed by West Point because of political divide, as it reinforced personal and political biases, rather than investigate thoroughly and protect companies and people looking to do the right thing.

Our company's mission is to devote efforts and energy to things that will better the lives of others. West Point respects the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights - We are all born free & equal; We all have the

right to seek a safe place to live; We have a duty, a responsibility to other people, and we should protect their rights and freedoms to ensure a fair and free world. Our employees and company culture promotes this, as well as an understanding that the end user is the public, the funding is ultimately the taxpayer, and there is a balance required between preservation and new infrastructure.

As a small business working in this industry, not only do we encounter ups and downs when governments change priorities, but we also deal with shutdowns, delays, lack of funding, etc. West Point should not have to defend its record of service to the City, but we certainly should have been given the opportunity to. This divestment list will have no impact on West Point, as it is a small, privately held corporation with no outside investment. However, we ask that West Point be removed from this list as it does not meet the criteria set forth in the policy, and in consideration of the employees and service West Point has and continues to perform for the City, the State of Arizona, US Government and our fellow citizens. I would be happy to discuss further with you and the council. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Joel Alley

Vice President

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Article Link:

https://tucson.com/news/local/companies-fall-on-city-of-tucson-s-divestment-list-for/article_460cb487-8888-525f-bf21-6eea9e7c875d.html

CC:

Jonathan Rothschild, Mayor, City of Tucson
Regina Romero, Tucson City Council, Ward One
Paul Cunningham, Tucson City Council, Ward Two
Paul Durham, Tucson City Council, Ward Three
Shirley Scott, Tucson City Council, Ward Four
Richard Fimbres, Tucson City Council, Ward Five
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Mike Rankin, City Attorney, City of Tucson

Jill Jorden Spitz, Editor, Arizona Daily Star
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