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2 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
3 PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC MEETING
4 BEFORE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PROPERTY, PUBLIC WORKS

5 - - -
6 Room 400, City Hall
7 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
8 Wednesday, May 31, 2000
9 2:35 p.m.
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13 RESOLUTION NO. 000375 - Approving the closed-
14 circuit television system, design and installation
15 services contract between the Pennsylvania
16 Convention Center Authority ("Authority") and
Advanced Electronics Solutions ("AES").

17 PRESENT: COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY, Vice Chair
18 COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE
19 COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER
20 COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER
21 COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN

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6	Grace Scott Jones	11
7	Vice President General Counsel	
	Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority	

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2 P R O C E E D I N G S

3 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Good afternoon,
4 ladies and gentlemen. This is the meeting of the
5 Council Committee on Public Property and Public
6 Works, and we're here to hear testimony on
7 Resolution No. 375, which is a resolution
8 approving the closed-circuit television system
9 design and installation services contract between
10 the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority
11 ("Authority") and Advanced Electronics Solutions
12 ("AES").

13 Who's ever going to testify, please
14 approach the witness table, and state your name
15 for the record and proceed with your testimony.

16 (Witness comes forward.)

17 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Good afternoon.

18 MR. BUTERA: Good afternoon. I'm
19 Robert Butera, B-U-T-E-R-A, President of the
20 Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority.

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Yes, please
22 proceed.

23 MR. BUTERA: I've circulated some
24 written testimony, which I'll read, but let me
25 preface it by saying we're here pursuant to the

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2 lease and service agreement, which runs between
3 the City Council and the Convention Center
4 Authority, which requires us to receive
5 Councilmatic approval of expenditures in excess of
6 3 percent of our expense budget, which is
7 approximately -- which amounts to approximately
8 \$500,000. Since this contract would be in excess
9 of that, we seek your approval.

10 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Mr. Butera, you
11 don't have to read your testimony into the record.
12 Do you want to just synopsise and --

13 MR. BUTERA: Okay, certainly.

14 We currently have an electronics
15 circuit system of 23 black and white cameras,
16 which are fed into three recorders, which are
17 placed in our command center, which is a 24-hour,
18 360-day, 5-day operation. Pursuant to a request
19 of our Board about a year ago, we were asked to
20 reassess our electronics system, where upon, we
21 engaged U.S. Security as a consultant, and U.S.
22 Security is comprised of former Secret Service
23 Officers, and they came in and did a survey, and
24 Phase I to effectuate that survey is to upgrade
25 our system.

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2 What is proposed is that we install 77
3 cameras to replace the 23, in color digital, which
4 permits storage on all 77 cameras. So we would
5 immediately increase our electronic capability by
6 a hundredfold, so to speak.

7 The technology has changed from seven
8 years ago, and we want to take advantage of it.
9 It's been highly recommended that we do so.

10 The cost is just something less than
11 \$1 million. We explained the bidding process and
12 the selection process, we did happen to select the
13 lowest bidder by some \$193,000. And we have a
14 start and finish date as soon as we get approval.
15 And, of course, we have a penalty clause if they
16 fail to meet those dates.

17 Times have changed, and we have to
18 change with it. Your next question might be, Well
19 how are you going to pay for this? and we have a
20 renewal and replacement fund at the Convention
21 Center, which currently is in excess of
22 \$4 million, which was created by the original bond
23 issue. And it is from those funds that we would
24 pay for this upgraded system, this renewal system.

25 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Is there a time

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2 sensitivity vis-a-vis the RNC, or is this just the
3 general --

4 MR. BUTERA: Yes, but it would be -- we
5 would like to have it certainly by then, because
6 that's going to be a time of intense security
7 arrangements, but that's not why we're doing.
8 This was requested long before that was a
9 consideration.

10 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: What are some of
11 the security issues at the facility?

12 MR. BUTERA: Theft. We haven't had any
13 and, you know, it's kind of one of those things
14 you cross your fingers. We haven't had any
15 serious threats of bodily harm in our seven years
16 of operation, but we have had theft from the
17 exhibit hall floor, from meeting rooms, as well as
18 the usual things that you find in cities, such as
19 pickpockets and that sort of thing.

20 But we went through a rash about two or
21 three years ago of laptop computers from the
22 exhibit hall floor, which were causing great
23 consternation among our customers and their
24 exhibitors. But also, it's the -- it's whatever
25 threat is out there is -- we want to be prepared.

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2 In other words, we don't want to wait until
3 something happens; we want to be prepared prior to
4 it happening.

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Are these cameras
6 hidden in any way, or will they be clearly
7 visible? I mean, is it --

8 MR. BUTERA: Both.

9 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Both?

10 MR. BUTERA: We want some of them to be
11 visible, because we want people who work in the
12 building on a full-time or a casual basis to be
13 aware that we do have a very sophisticated
14 state-of-the-art system that records very clear
15 television images in color and, all 77 cameras can
16 be stored.

17 For example, many of our doors are
18 electronically signaled, as you would imagine. If
19 an electronic signal goes on, these cameras
20 automatically zero in on that door and focus in on
21 that door. When you look at the grand hall coming
22 in from the Marriott, that fence there is a
23 security risk; we have to keep a guard there all
24 night.

25 We're suggesting an electronic system,

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2 which would be like an electric eye, that if
3 someone does scale the fence, that person can be
4 picked up by four cameras, and that will help to
5 alleviate the fear of that risk.

6 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay. Is there
7 anything that you'd like to testify to or add to?
8 You have to identify yourself if there's anything
9 you want to say.

10 MS. JONES: No, sir.

11 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Okay. Councilman
12 Clarke?

13 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you,
14 Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Mr. Butera.

15 MR. BUTERA: Good afternoon.

16 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Mr. Butera, I have
17 a question with respect to the company that's
18 being recommended. In your arrangement with the
19 City, you currently have -- the Authority has a
20 lease and service agreement with the City. Does
21 that require that you submit a certain
22 participation plan?

23 MR. BUTERA: Yes.

24 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: So is that involved
25 in the selection process --

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2 MR. BUTERA: Yes.

3 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: -- of this entity?

4 MR. BUTERA: Yes. I believe there's a
5 summary -- I don't know if it was passed out, but
6 there is a summary of the contract. If you turn
7 to Page 2, affirmative action, I'll read.

8 "AES will purchase all cabling through
9 RPM, a certified MBE, and will subcontract with
10 MJK Electrical Corporation, a certified MBE, to
11 install all cabling and mounting of new equipment
12 at a 37 percent participation level."

13 COUNCILMAN CLARKE: Thank you. I'm
14 sorry, I did not see that.

15 Thank you.

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Councilmember
17 Miller.

18 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you. Just
19 a follow-up to Councilman Clarke's question. Who
20 is RPM? What is the official name? Is that a
21 acronym, RPM?

22 MR. BUTERA: That is the name of the
23 company.

24 (Unidentified man responds off camera.)

25 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Sir, I'm sorry.

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2 You're going to have to come up to the table if
3 you want to give testimony and identify yourself
4 for the record, please.

5 MR. BUTERA: This is our consultant,
6 Chris Ames, from U.S. Security.

7 (Witness comes forward.)

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Please identify
9 yourself for the record.

10 MR. AMES: My name is Chris Ames with
11 USSI, U.S. Security.

12 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Please proceed.

13 MR. AMES: RPM is a distributor of
14 cabling and other components, and I do not have
15 the information as to the address currently, but I
16 do know that they were checked through the City
17 Records, and they are certified with the City.

18 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. Also, MJK,
19 is that the name, the official name of the
20 company?

21 MR. AMES: Yes, ma'am, that is.

22 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. Who
23 watches -- so all you do, really, is come in and
24 set up the whole system, then someone else
25 monitors it, watches the cameras, etc., and those

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2 are Convention Center employees?

3 MR. BUTERA: Yes, they are.

4 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay.

5 MR. BUTERA: For 24 hours a day, 365
6 cays a year.

7 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. So you
8 think someone would really be kind of angry to
9 climb the fence over that walkway.

10 (Laughter.)

11 MR. BUTERA: Well, you never know, and
12 we want to be prepared, and we're just making a
13 tremendous leap forward, which will certainly help
14 us in all of our efforts, our marketing efforts
15 and others, if we can advise people that we're
16 this far in advance compared to our competition.

17 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay, all right.
18 Thank you.

19 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Councilmember
21 Nutter?

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you,
23 Mr. Chairman. And good afternoon, Mr. Butera.

24 MR. BUTERA: Good afternoon.

25 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Miss Grace Scott

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2 Jones and the consultant. I didn't catch the
3 name.

4 MR. BUTERA: Ames.

5 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Ames, good
6 afternoon.

7 Mr. Butera and Miss Jones, we are
8 always pleased to see the Convention Center
9 Authority over, but it is a rare indication. So
10 just for the record and kind of for educational
11 purposes, why is it that you need our approval on
12 this particular project?

13 MR. BUTERA: The lease and service
14 agreement provides that any contract which we have
15 in excess of 3 percent of our expense budget,
16 which is around 16 million, requires City Council
17 approval by resolution.

18 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Any contract in
19 excess of 3 percent, you say?

20 MR. BUTERA: In excess of 3 percent of
21 16 million, which is about 500,000.

22 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Right, mm-hmm
23 okay.

24 And with regard to the resolution, it
25 makes reference on, Page 2, in the last resolved

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2 clause, to an Exhibit A. Is that the contract
3 summary information or. . . ?

4 MS. JONES: Good afternoon. I'm Grace
5 Scott Jones, Vice President and General Counsel.

6 I believe that reference to Exhibit A
7 refers to the actual contract itself, which I
8 believe should be on file in the Clerk's Office.
9 I sent over several copies to the Council
10 President's office. It's bound in a binder, so
11 it's pretty thick and I don't have it with me
12 today.

13 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: I understand,
14 okay. But that's the contract between the
15 Convention Center Authority and would that be
16 AES?

17 MS. JONES: AES.

18 MR. BUTERA: AES, yes.

19 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: And then it makes
20 reference, I'm assuming, to the various
21 contractors that we've talked about?

22 MR. BUTERA: Right.

23 COUNCILMAN NUTTER: All right, okay.

24 Thank you very much.

25 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Councilmember

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2 Brown.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Mr. Butera, please
4 state again for the record the fund that will be
5 used to cover this 900,000-plus dollars.

6 MR. BUTERA: Oh, yes. When the
7 Convention Center Authority was funded through a
8 authority bond issue backed by the City, there was
9 a sum of \$3 million that was set aside for renewal
10 and replacement, and that fund has grown over the
11 years. It's been used occasionally for much
12 smaller amounts than is called for in this
13 resolution. And the fund is now in excess of
14 \$4 million through interest and other
15 contributions.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: And so even with
17 that reserve that will cover these costs, you're
18 still required to come before this body.

19 MR. BUTERA: Yes.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay.

21 MR. BUTERA: Yes. Even though we're
22 not asking for funding, we still have to come by
23 our interpretation of the agreement.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Oh, okay, thank
25 you.

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2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

3 Councilmember Rizzo?

4 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you,
5 Mr. Chairman.

6 Mr. Butera, my question is more so on
7 the operation and the expansion of the system.
8 You're going to be observing areas that have not
9 presently been observed, correct?

10 MR. BUTERA: Yes, or that have been
11 observed by individuals rather than
12 electronically.

13 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Are these all public
14 areas?

15 MR. BUTERA: Yes, public areas and
16 areas that would be leased to customers.

17 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Okay. My concern is
18 the fact that since your expanding the
19 surveillance at your facility that I would hope
20 that your employees would be made aware of the
21 areas that you're expanding the surveillance of so
22 that there's no complaints about privacy or
23 areas. You know, you hear about somebody
24 installing a camera in a restroom, things like
25 that, so I'm hoping that everyone's going to be

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2 communicated about that coverage.

3 MR. BUTERA: That's a very good point.

4 And what we'll do is to circulate plans of the
5 building and show exactly where the cameras are.
6 I'm very glad you mentioned that, as a matter of
7 fact.

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: But are there truly
9 -- I can see in private changing areas and things
10 of that nature, but are there -- are there privacy
11 issues when it comes to the convention floor? I
12 mean, I don't know necessarily whether we'd want
13 to advise potential thieves that we're putting
14 cameras on them. I mean, I think part of the
15 problem with the theft issue is catching people
16 who are unaware that they're being watched.

17 And I understand where Councilman
18 Rizzo's coming from. I mean, issues of personal
19 privacy and changing areas and things of that
20 nature, absolutely, but on the convention floor, I
21 don't know if I want them to know where the
22 cameras are, frankly.

23 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I was referring to
24 the expansion, because I am sure they're already
25 conditioned on what exists presently and sometimes

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2 just knowing -- I remember we put bogus cameras in
3 school buses, and they were a deterrent in
4 themselves. So sometimes knowing that you're
5 being monitored would in itself be a deterrent.

6 MR. BUTERA: Yeah. There will be no
7 cameras in any sensitive areas. However, I still
8 understand your suggestion.

9 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Okay, thanks,
10 Mr. Chairman.

11 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

12 Any other questions?

13 (No further questions.)

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Any other comments?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Anyone else in the
17 room to testify on this resolution?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Hearing none, that
20 will conclude our public hearing on Resolution No.
21 375.

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2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: The Chair
3 recognizes Councilmember Brown for a motion to
4 report Resolution No. 000375 out of this committee
5 with a favorable recommendation.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Yes. I move to
7 report Resolution No. 375 out of the committee
8 with a favorable recommendation.

9 (Duly seconded.)

10 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: It's been moved and
11 seconded.

12 All in favor.

13 There are none opposed.

14 (The resolution passes.)

15 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Please let the
16 record show that this committee was attended today
17 by Councilmembers Brown, Nutter, Kenney, Miller,
18 Clarke, and Rizzo.

19 And that will conclude the business of
20 this committee.

21 MR. BUTERA: Thank you for your
22 courtesy.

23 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you.

24 (Adjourned at 2:55 p.m.)

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RE: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PUBLIC WORKS

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RESOLUTION NO. 000375

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JOSEPHINE CARDILLO,

Registered Professional Reporter