



EQUAL BENEFITS CERTIFICATION FORM FOR DOMESTIC PARTNERS AND ALL MARRIED COUPLES

Except where federal or state law mandates to the contrary, a Contractor awarded a Contract pursuant to a competitive solicitation shall provide benefits to Domestic Partners and spouses of its employees, irrespective of gender, on the same basis as it provides benefits to employees' spouses in traditional marriages.

The Contractor shall provide the City and/or the City Manager or his/her designee, access to its records for the purpose of audits and/or investigations to ascertain compliance with the provisions of this section, and upon request shall provide evidence that the Contractor is in compliance with the provisions of this section upon each new bid, contract renewal, or when the City Manager has received a complaint or has reason to believe the Contractor may not be in compliance with the provisions of this section. Records shall include but not be limited to providing the City and/or the City Manager or his/her designee with certified copies of the Contractor's records pertaining to its benefits policies and its employment policies and practices.

The Contractor must conspicuously make available to all employees and applicants for employment the following statement:

“During the performance of a contract with the City of Pembroke Pines, Florida, the Contractor will provide Equal Benefits to its employees with spouses, as defined by Section 35.39 of the City’s Code of Ordinances, and its employees with Domestic Partners and all Married Couples”.

The posted statement must also include a City contact telephone number and email address which will be provided to each contractor when a covered contract is executed.

SECTION 1 DEFINITIONS

- 1. Benefits** means the following plan, program or policy provided or offered by a contractor to its employees as part of the employer's total compensation package which may include but is not limited to sick leave, bereavement leave, family medical leave, and health benefits.
- 2. Cash Equivalent** mean the amount of money paid to an employee with a domestic partner or spouse in lieu of providing benefits to the employee's domestic partner or spouse. The cash equivalent is equal to the employer's direct expense of providing benefits to an employee for his or her spouse from a traditional marriage.
- 3. Covered Contract** means a contract between the City and a contractor awarded subsequent to the date when this section becomes effective valued at over \$25,000 or the threshold amount required for competitive bids as required in section 35.18(A) of the Procurement Code.
- 4. Domestic Partner** shall mean any two (2) adults of the same or different sex who have registered as domestic partners with a governmental body pursuant to state or local law authorizing such registration, or with an internal registry maintained by the employer of at



least one of the domestic partners. A contractor may institute an internal registry to allow for the provision of equal benefits to employees with domestic partners who do not register their partnerships pursuant to a governmental body authorizing such registration, or who are located in a jurisdiction where no such governmental domestic partnership registry exists. A contractor that institutes such registry shall not impose criteria for registration that are more stringent than those required for domestic partnership registration by the City of Pembroke Pines.

5. **Equal benefits** means the equality of benefits between employees with spouses and/or dependents of spouses and employees with domestic partners and/or dependents of domestic partners, and/or between spouses of employees and/or dependents of spouses and domestic partners of employees and/or dependents of domestic partners.
6. **Spouse** means one member of a married pair legally married under the laws of any state within the United States of America or any other jurisdiction under which such marriage is legally recognized, irrespective of gender.
7. **Traditional marriage** means a marriage between one man and one woman.

SECTION 2 CERTIFICATION OF CONTRACTOR

The firm providing a response, by virtue of the signature below, certifies that it is aware of the requirements of Section 35.39 "City Contractors providing Equal Benefits for Domestic Partners and all Married Couples" of the City's Code of Ordinances, and certifies the following (**Check only one box below**):

- A. Contractor currently complies with the requirements of this section; or
- B. Contractor will comply with the conditions of this section at the time of contract award; or
- C. Contractor will not comply with the conditions of this section at the time of contract award:
or
- D. Contractor does not comply with the conditions of this section because of the following allowable exemption (**Check only one box below**):
 - 1. The Contractor does not provide benefits to employees' spouses in traditional marriages;
 - 2. The Contractor provides an employee the cash equivalent of benefits because the Contractor is unable to provide benefits to employees' Domestic Partners or spouses despite making reasonable efforts to provide them. To meet this exception, the Contractor shall provide a notarized affidavit that it has made reasonable efforts to provide such benefits. The affidavit shall state the efforts taken to provide such benefits and the amount of the cash equivalent. Cash equivalent means the amount of money paid to an employee with a Domestic Partner or spouse rather than providing benefits to the employee's Domestic Partner or spouse. The cash equivalent is equal to the employer's direct expense of providing benefits to an employee's spouse;



3. The Contractor is a religious organization, association, society, or any non-profit charitable or educational institution or organization operated supervised or controlled by or in conjunction with a religious organization, association, or society;

4. The Contractor is a governmental agency;

The certification shall be signed by an authorized officer of the Contractor. Failure to provide such certification (by checking the appropriate boxes above along with completing the information below) shall result in a Contractor being deemed non-responsive.

COMPANY NAME: _____

AUTHORIZED OFFICER NAME / SIGNATURE: _____