

HOTLINE CASE

2008-23

Dec. 2008

This was an anonymous call to the Hotline. The caller alleged that John Clark's wife, Hester Clark does business with the city; does this go out for bid? Are her contracts legal? (John Clark is the CEO and Executive Director of the Jacksonville Airport Authority.)

The IG researched the contract awarded to Hester Clark's company (The Hester Group, LLC) and that data is attached. It was contract #8811-01 to perform Community Outreach Consulting for the city Ash Sites. This was a "PSEC" contract for Professional Services. It does not go out to bid, but instead, has a notice and interview process. After review of the data, the Ethics Officer called Michael Clapsaddle, the chief of Procurement.

He said that the initial request for this contract came from the Solid Waste Division. It was advertised, per the code, and 6 companies applied. The top 3 firms applying were ranked and interviewed. All meetings pertaining to the selection were noticed and the final selection process, including interviews with the finalists, were taped. Hester Clark's company and the Dalton agency both won contracts from this process, as the initial request allowed for the bid to be split with 2 companies.

This process complies with the city's existing procedures.