

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
Telephone: (716) 286-4310

August 28, 2020

The City Council  
Niagara Falls, New York

*RE: Agreement to Provide Employee COVID-19 Health Screening  
(Grit Seed, Inc.)*

Council Members:

In an effort to prevent the further spread of the coronavirus, New York State requires employers to screen employees for COVID-19 symptoms before the employee can enter the workplace each day and maintain documentation of health screenings. Our review of the various methods available to gather and process this information has led the Administration to conclude that a simple to use, text message-based system is the most effective way to collect accurate information. Since we do not possess the technological capacity to implement such a program, it will be necessary to enter into an agreement with a company who can provide this service. Accordingly, it is hereby proposed that the City enter into an agreement with Grit Seed, Inc. for COVID-19 health screening.

Grit Seed is a Buffalo-based company that can provide two way personalized texting communication at scale making it easy to achieve higher check in rates and more accurate results. After the employee opts in by text message, they will receive a series of customizable questions in order to check in at the start of every shift. Grit Seed will also provide automated reminders if the employee has not checked in and will deliver detailed analytics on each check in and question response to the City. This company also has the ability to send mass text messages on behalf of the City.

Grit Seed will provide their service at a cost of \$3,000.00 per month over the length of the agreement; for 2020 purposes, the cost to the City would be \$12,000 for the City. Funding is available to cover these costs from savings previously earned within the City Administrator's bi-weekly pay line (A.1210.0001.0110.000). Additionally, COVID-19 related FEMA grant funding may be available to partially reimburse the City for these costs.

This service is not subject to competitive bidding as it is being procured in accordance with Section 103(4) of the General Municipal Law due to the unforeseen public health emergency arising from the COVID-19 crisis and the City's need to protect the life, health and safety of our employees, residents and the general public while they are present at public buildings. This situation requires immediate action which cannot wait due the potential health implications of not implementing this technology.

Kennedy \_\_\_\_\_ Spanbauer \_\_\_\_\_ Tompkins \_\_\_\_\_ Touma \_\_\_\_\_ Voccio \_\_\_\_\_

Will the Council so approve and authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement satisfactory to the Corporation Counsel in both form and content?

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT M. RESTAINO  
Mayor

Funding Approval:

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Daniel Morello, City Controller  
City Council Meeting, September 2, 2020