

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES



SECTION J
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

J.1 LIQUIDATED DAMAGES:

Liquidated Damages will be described in each Task Order. The Contractor and the Department agree that the liquidated damages do not constitute and shall not be deemed a penalty, but represent a reasonable approximation of the damages to the Department associated with a delay in the Project.

J.2 EXTENT OF CONTRACT:

The Contract, which includes this Agreement and the exhibits attached hereto, and other documents incorporated herein by reference, represents the entire and integrated agreement between the Department and Contractor and supersedes all prior negotiations representations or agreements, either written or oral. The Contract may be amended only by written instrument signed by both the Department and Contractor. If anything in any document incorporated into this Agreement is inconsistent with this Agreement, this Agreement shall govern.

J.3 GOVERNING LAW:

The Contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the District of Columbia, without regard to its conflict of laws principles.

J.4 ASSIGNMENT:

The Department and Contractor respectively bind themselves, their partners, members, joint venturers, constituent entities, successors, assigns and legal representative to the other party hereto and to partners, members, joint venturers, constituent entities, successors, assigns and legal representatives of such other party in respect to covenants, agreements and obligations contained in the Contract. Neither party to the Contract shall assign the Contract as a whole without written consent of the other. If either party attempts to make such an assignment without such consent, that party shall nevertheless remain legally responsible for all obligations under the Contract.

J.5 RETENTION OF RECORDS AND INSPECTIONS AND AUDITS:

J.5.1 The Contractor shall maintain books, records, documents and other evidence directly pertinent to performance under the Contract in accordance with generally accepted professional practice and appropriate accounting procedures

and practices consistently applied in effect on the date of execution of the Contract.

- J.5.2** The Contractor shall also maintain the financial information and data used in the preparation and support of the costing and cost summary submitted to the Department and the required cost submissions in effect on the date of execution of the Department.
- J.5.3** The Department, the District of Columbia government, the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Office, the Comptroller General of the United States, the U.S. Department of Labor and any of their authorized representatives shall have access to the books, records, documents and other evidence held, owned or maintained by the Contractor for the purpose of inspection, audit and copying during normal business hours and upon advance written notice to the Contractor. The Contractor shall provide proper facilities for such access and inspection.
- J.5.4** The Contractor agrees to include the wording of this Section in all its subcontracts in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) that directly relate to Project performance.
- J.5.5** Audits conducted pursuant to this Section will be in accordance with generally acceptable auditing principles and established procedures and guidelines of the applicable reviewing or audit agency.
- J.5.6** The Contractor agrees to the disclosure of all information and reports, resulting from access to records, to any authorized representative of the Department. Where the audit concerns the Contractor, the auditing agency will afford the Contractor an opportunity for an audit exit conference and an opportunity to comment on the pertinent portions of the draft audit report. The final audit report will include the written comments, if any, of the audited parties.
- J.5.7** The Contractor shall preserve all records described herein from the effective date of the Contract completion and for a period of seven (7) years after a final settlement. In addition, those records which relate to any dispute, appeal or litigation, or the settlement of claims arising out of such performance, or costs or items to which an audit exception has been taken, shall be maintained and made available until seven (7) years after the date of resolution of such dispute, appeal, litigation, claim or exception.

J.6 INSPECTION FOR SUPPLIES AND SERVICES:

- J.6.1** To the extent applicable or appropriate, the Department may, in its sole discretion, enter the place of business of the Contractor or the place of business of any Subcontractor in order to inspect or test supplies or services for acceptance by the Department. If inspections and tests are performed at the

place of business of the Contractor or any Subcontractor, the inspections and tests shall be performed in a manner so as to not unduly delay the Work. Inspections and tests by the Department shall not relieve the Contractor or any Subcontractor of responsibility for defects or other failures to meet Contract requirements, and shall not constitute or imply acceptance.

J.6.2 Notwithstanding the Department's acceptance of or payment for any product or service delivered by Contractor, the Contractor shall remain liable for latent defects, fraud, gross mistakes amounting to fraud and the Department's rights under any warranty or guarantee.

J.6.3 The Department shall have the right to enter the place of business of the Contractor or the place of business of any Subcontractor in order to investigate any contractor or offeror with respect to a debarment or suspension of the Contractor or any such Subcontractor.

J.7 LAWS AND REGULATIONS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE:

All federal and District of Columbia laws and regulations, and all Department procedures now or hereafter in effect, whether or not expressly provided for or referred to in the Contract, are incorporated by reference herein and shall be binding upon the Contractor and the Department. It shall be the responsibility of the Contractor to perform the Contract in conformance with the Department's procurement regulations and all statutes, laws, codes, ordinances, regulations, rules, requirements, and orders of governmental bodies, including, without limitation, the U.S. Government and the District of Columbia government; and it is the sole responsibility of the Contractor to determine the procurement regulations, statutes, laws, codes, ordinances, regulations, rules, requirements, and orders that apply and their effect on the Contractor's obligations thereunder. However, if the application of a future law or regulation requires the Contractor to undertake additional work that is materially different in scope than that presently contemplated or required, the Contractor shall be entitled to an equitable adjustment for such additional work.

J.8 TAX EXEMPTION PROVISION:

Any tax exemptions applicable to the District of Columbia, including the gross receipts sales tax exemption for the sale of tangible personal property to the District, codified in D.C. Code § 47-2005, shall apply to the performance of the Contract.

J.9 ANTI-COMPETITIVE PRACTICES AND ANTI-KICKBACK PROVISIONS:

J.9.1 The Contractor recognizes the need for markets to operate competitively and shall observe and shall comply with all applicable law, rules, and regulations prohibiting anti-competitive practices. The Contractor shall not engage, directly or indirectly, in collusion or other anti-competitive practices that reduces or eliminates competition or restrains trade. The Department shall report to the

appropriate authority any activity that evidences a violation of the antitrust laws, and take such other further action to which it is entitled or obligated under the law.

J.9.2 The Contractor shall observe and comply with all applicable law, rules, and regulations prohibiting kickbacks and, without limiting the foregoing, Contractor shall not (i) provide or attempt to provide or offer to provide any kickback; (ii) solicit, accept, or attempt to accept any kickback; or (iii) include, directly or indirectly, the amount of any kickback in the contract price charged by Contractor or a Subcontractor of the Contractor to the Department. The Contractor shall have in place and follow reasonable procedures designed to prevent and detect possible violations described in this subparagraph in its own operations and direct business relationships. The Department may take any recourse available to it under the law for violations of this anti-kickback provision.

J.9.3 The Contractor represents and warrants that it did not, directly or indirectly, engage in any collusive or other anti-competitive behavior in connection with the bid, negotiation or award of the Contract.

J.10 RESPONSIBILITY FOR AGENTS AND CONTRACTORS:

At all times and during performance under this contract, the Contractor shall be responsible to the Department for any and all acts and omissions of the Contractor's agents, employees, Subcontractors, Sub-Subcontractors, material suppliers, and laborers, and the agents and employees of the Subcontractors, Sub-Subcontractors, material suppliers, and laborers performing or supplying Work in connection with the Project.

J.11 ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR DEPARTMENT'S EMPLOYEES AND FORMER EMPLOYEES:

The Department expects the Contractor to observe the highest ethical standards and to comply with all applicable law, rules, and regulations governing ethical conduct or conflicts of interest. Neither the Contractor, nor any person associated with the Contractor, shall provide (or seek reimbursement for) any gift, gratuity, favor, entertainment, loan or other thing of value to any employee of the District or the Department not in conformity with applicable law, rules or regulations. The Contractor shall not engage the services of any person or persons in the employment of the Department or the District for any Work required, contemplated or performed under the Contract. The Contractor may not assign to any former Department or District employee or agent who has joined the Contractor's firm any matter on which the former employee, while in the employ of the Department, had material or substantial involvement in the matter. The Contractor may request a waiver to permit the assignment of such matters to former Department personnel on a case-by-case basis. The Contractor shall include in every subcontract a provision substantially similar to this section so that such provisions shall be binding upon each Subcontractor or vendor.

J.12 GRATUITIES AND OFFICERS NOT TO BENEFIT PROVISIONS:

J.12.1 If it is found, after notice and hearing, by the Department that gratuities (in the form of entertainment, gifts, payment, offers of employment or otherwise) were offered or given by the Contractor, or any agent or representative of the Contractor, to any official, employee or agent of the Department or the District with a view toward securing the Contract or any other contract or securing favorable treatment with respect to the awarding or amending, or the making of any determinations with respect to the performance of the Contract, the Department may, by written notice to the Contractor, terminate the right of the Contractor to proceed under the Contract and may pursue such other rights and remedies provided by law and under the Contract.

J.12.2 In the event the Contract is terminated as provided in J.12.1, the Department shall be entitled:

J.12.2.1 To pursue the same remedies against the Contractor as it could pursue in the event of a breach of the Contract by the Contractor; and

J.12.2.2 As a penalty in addition to any other damages to which it may be entitled by law, to exemplary damages in an amount (as determined by the Department) which shall be not less than ten times the costs incurred by the Contractor in providing any such gratuities to any such officer or employee.

J.12.3 No member of, nor delegate to Congress, Mayor or City Council Member, nor officer nor employee of the District, nor officer nor employee of the Department shall be admitted to any share or part of the Contract or to any benefit that may arise therefrom, and all agreements entered into by the authorized representative of the Department in which he or any officer or employee of the Department shall be personally interested as well as all agreements made by the Department in which the Mayor or City Council Member or officer or employee of the District shall be personally interested shall be void and no payments shall be made on any such contracts by the Department or by any officer thereof; but this provision shall not be construed or extend to the agreement if the share of or benefit to the member of, or delegate to Congress, Mayor or City Council Member, or officer or employee of the District is de minimus.

J.13 COVENANT AGAINST CONTINGENT FEES PROVISIONS:

The Contractor warrants that no person or selling agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure the Contract upon an agreement or understanding for a Commission,

percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, excepting bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial or selling agencies maintained by the Contractor for the purpose of securing business. For breach or violation of this warranty, the Department shall have the right to terminate the Contract without liability or in its discretion to deduct from the contract price or consideration, or otherwise recover, the full amount of the Department, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee.

J.14 NON-DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONS:

J.14.1 The Contractor agrees to take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, or physical handicap. The affirmative action shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

J.14.1.1 Employment, upgrading, or transfer;

J.14.1.2 Recruitment or recruitment advertising;

J.14.1.3 Demotion, layoff, or termination;

J.14.1.4 Rates of pay, or other forms of compensation; and

J.14.1.5 Selection for training and apprenticeship.

J.14.2 Unless otherwise permitted by law and directed by the Department, the Contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the Department setting forth the provisions of this Section concerning non-discrimination and affirmative action.

J.14.3 The Contractor shall, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment pursuant to the non-discrimination requirements set forth in this Section.

J.14.4 The Contractor agrees to send to each labor union or representative of workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement, or other contract or understanding, a notice to be provided by the Department, advising each labor union or workers' representative of the Contractor's commitments under this Section, and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

J.14.5 The Contractor agrees to permit access by the Department to all books, records and accounts pertaining to its employment practices for purposes of

investigation to ascertain compliance with this Section, and shall post copies of the notices in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

J.14.6 The Contractor shall include in every subcontract the equal opportunity clauses of this Section so that such provisions shall be binding upon each Subcontractor or vendor.

J.14.7 The Contractor shall take such action with respect to any Subcontractor as the Contracting Officer may direct as a means of enforcing these provisions, including sanctions for non-compliance.

J.15 BUY AMERICAN ACT PROVISION:

The Contractor shall comply with the provisions of the Buy American Act (41 U.S.C. § 10a), including, but not limited to, the purchase of steel.

J.16 RESERVED

J.17 TERMINATION OR SUSPENSION:

J.17.1 Cancellation before Notice to Proceed:

The Department may cancel the Contract at any time before issuance of a Notice to Proceed, in the Department's sole discretion. Such a cancellation shall not be a breach of the Contract, and the Contractor shall not be entitled to any compensation or damages if cancellation occurs.

J.17.2 Termination for Default:

The Department may terminate the Contract for default if the Contractor fails materially to perform any of its duties or obligations under the Contract. In particular, but without limitation, the Department may terminate the Contract if:

J.17.2.1 the Contractor fails to prosecute the Work diligently, in accordance with the Project Schedule or to make such progress in the Work as the Department reasonably believes is necessary to complete the Project within the time required by the Contract; or

J.17.2.2 the Contractor fails to perform the Work in a good and workmanlike manner or to correct defects in the Work promptly upon notice by the Department; or

J.17.2.3 the Department reasonably determines that the Contractor has abandoned the Work, or has failed to pay laborers, mechanics, materialmen, Subcontractors or suppliers when payment is due; or

- J.17.2.4** becomes insolvent, makes an assignment for the benefit of creditors, files a voluntary petition under any chapter of the Bankruptcy Code or has an involuntary petition filed against it under any chapter of the Bankruptcy Code, or has a receiver appointed, or files for dissolution or otherwise is dissolved; or
- J.17.2.5** the Contractor fails to pay its debts in a timely manner or becomes insolvent, or the Department reasonably determines that the Contractor does not have the financial ability to carry out its obligations under the Contract and the Contractor fails to give the Department prompt and reasonable assurances of its ability to perform.
- J.17.2.6** the Department must provide the Contractor with written notice of its intent to terminate the Contract under this provision seven (7) days before actually putting the termination into effect. If the Contractor has begun its curative action and has made progress satisfactory to the Department within the seven days, the Department may so notify the Contractor and the termination will not take effect. Otherwise, the termination shall take effect after seven days without further notice or opportunity to cure.
- J.17.2.7** If the Department terminates the Contract for default, the Department will have the right to take over the Work, to accept assignment of some or all Subcontracts or agreements with material suppliers, to take possession of the Project, to take and use all tools, equipment and supplies then being used in connection with the Work, and to finish the Project by whatever method it deems expedient, including accepting assignment of all outstanding Subcontracts and Supply Agreements.

J.17.3 Termination for Convenience:

- J.17.3.1** The Department may, upon seven (7) days written notice to the Contractor, terminate the Contract in whole or specified part, for its convenience, whether the Contractor is in breach of Contract or not. The notice of termination shall state the effective date of termination, the extent of the termination, and any specific instructions.
- J.17.3.2** After receiving notice of termination for convenience, the Contractor shall (1) stop work on the terminated portion of the Project as of the effective date of the termination and stop placing subcontracts or supply agreements thereunder; (2) consult with the Department regarding the disposition of existing orders and subcontracts, and use its best efforts to terminate them on terms favorable to the Department; (3) consult with the Department to decide what actions should be taken to protect work in place and equipment that has been delivered and not yet installed, and

to render the site safe, and proceed to take such actions as may be agreed upon or, absent agreement, as may be reasonable; (4) take necessary or directed action to protect and preserve property in the Contractor's possession in which the Department has or may acquire an interest and, as directed by the termination notice or other order from the Department, deliver the property to the Department; and (5) promptly deliver to the Department all computer files it has prepared relating to the Project. The Contractor shall also promptly notify the Department, in writing, of any legal proceeding arising from any subcontract or supply agreement related to the terminated portion of the Project, and, in consultation with the Department, settle outstanding liabilities arising out of the terminated portion of the Project on the best terms reasonably possible.

J.17.3.3 The Contractor shall be entitled to receive only the following with respect to the terminated portion of the Project: (1) Cost of Work performed up to the date of termination; (2) reasonable costs of terminating outstanding subcontracts and supply agreements and other similar wind-up costs in a reasonable amount; (3) a fair and reasonable portion of the overhead and profit attributable to the Work performed on the terminated portion of the Project, up to the time of termination. The Contractor shall not be entitled to recover overhead or profits on unperformed portions of the Work. Further, if it appears to the Department that the cost of completing Work would have exceeded the Price, the Department shall have the right to adjust the settlement figure downward in an appropriate amount. In no case shall the Contractor be entitled to receive an amount in settlement for termination for convenience that would exceed the percentage value of the Work actually performed in accordance with the Contract, multiplied by the Price, and reduced by any damages, liquidated or otherwise, the Contractor may owe the Department.

J.17.3.4 Payment of such amounts shall be the Contractor's sole remedy for termination for convenience.

J.17.3.5 The Contractor shall, promptly after termination, submit a proposal for settlement of the amounts due to it as a result of the termination for convenience. The proposal shall be consistent with the requirements of Subparagraphs J.17.6.2 and shall be accompanied by such documentation of costs as the Department may reasonably require. Such documentation may include cost and price data in accordance with the Department's Regulations.

J.17.4 Effect of Wrongful Termination:

Any termination for cause which is later determined to have been improperly effected shall be deemed to have been a termination for convenience pursuant to Paragraph J.17.3 and shall be governed by that Paragraph.

J.17.5 Continued Responsibility after Termination:

If the Contractor is terminated, either for default or otherwise, the Contractor shall remain responsible for defects or non-conformities in all Work performed to the date of the termination.

J.17.6 Suspension:

J.17.6.1 Suspension at the Convenience of the Department:

The Department may at any time, with or without cause, suspend, delay, reduce or interrupt performance of all or any portion of the Work for such period or periods as the Department elects by giving the Contractor written notice specifying which portion of the Work is to be suspended and the effective date of such suspension. Such suspension, delay or interruption shall continue until the Department terminates such suspension, delay or interruption by written notice to the Contractor. No such suspension, delay, interruption or reduction by the Department shall constitute a breach or default by the Department under the Contract Documents. The Contractor shall continue to diligently perform any remaining Work that is not suspended, delayed, reduced or interrupted and shall take all actions necessary to maintain and safeguard all materials, equipment, supplies and Work in progress affected by the suspension, delay, reduction or interruption.

J.17.6.2 Payment upon Suspension for Convenience.

In the event of suspension, delay, reduction or interruption for convenience by the Department, the Department shall pay the Contractor and the Price shall be increased by such amounts (subject to the payment and related requirements of the Contract Documents) as follows:

J.17.6.2.1 Additional Costs of the Work, if any, which are incurred by the Contractor, its Subcontractors and Vendors as a result of continuing to maintain dedicated personnel, materials and equipment at the Site at the Department's request during any suspension, delay or interruption period, including for the purpose of safeguarding all material, equipment, supplies and the Work in progress caused solely by such suspension, delay or interruption ordered by the Department for convenience,

but the Price shall be increased only if and to the extent such delay, suspension or interruption exceeds a period of thirty (30) consecutive days following commencement of the Work; and

J.17.6.2.2 Other reasonable and unavoidable Costs of the Work, if any, which are directly related to any subsequent re-mobilization of the suspended, delayed or interrupted the Work caused solely by such suspension, delay or interruption ordered by the Department for convenience, but the Price shall be increased only if and to the extent such delay, suspension or interruption exceeds a period of thirty (30) consecutive days following commencement of the Work.

J.17.6.2.3 Provided, however, that no adjustment shall be made to the extent that performance was otherwise subject to suspension, delay or interruption by another cause for which the Contractor is responsible. Furthermore, the Contractor shall not be entitled to an increase in overhead or profit for a suspension ordered by the Department.

J.18 FALSE CLAIMS ACT:

Contractor shall be governed by all laws and regulations prohibiting false or fraudulent statements and claims made to the government, including the prescriptions set forth in District of Columbia Code § 22-2514.

J.19 INTERPRETATION OF CONTRACT:

All of the documents comprising the Contract should be read as complementary, so that what is called for by one is called for by all. Ambiguities should be construed in favor of a broader scope of work for the Contractor, as the intent of the Contract is, with specific identified exceptions, to require the Contractor to assume entire responsibility for a Project. If there is any inconsistency among the documents comprising the Contract, the order of precedence among them is as follows, with the first listed document having the highest priority: this Agreement and its Exhibits. Any Change Order issued and executed by the Department shall supersede those portions of earlier dated contract documents to which it pertains.

J.20 INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR:

In carrying out all its obligations under the Contract, the Contractor shall be acting as an independent Contractor, and not as an employee or agent of the Department, or joint venture or partner with the Department. The Contractor shall have exclusive authority to manage, direct, and control the Work, and shall be responsible for all methods, techniques, sequences, and procedures, as well as for Project safety.

J.21 CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION:

In the course of the Contractor's performance of the Work, the Department may make available to the Contractor information that the Department designates as trade secrets or other confidential engineering, technical and business information. As long as, and to the extent that, such information remains confidential and available to others only with the consent of the Department, or is not generally available to the public from other sources, the Contractor shall maintain such information in strict confidence and shall not disclose any such information to others (including its employees or Subcontractors), except to the extent necessary to enable the Contractor to carry out the Project. The Contractor shall similarly obligate any and all persons to whom such information is necessarily disclosed to maintain the information in strict confidence. The Contractor agrees that, in the event of any breach of this confidentiality obligation, the Department shall be entitled to equitable relief, including injunctive relief or specific performance, in addition to all other rights or remedies otherwise available.

J.22 NO THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARY RIGHTS:

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as creating third-party beneficiary rights in any person or entity, except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement.

J.23 MEDIA RELEASES:

Neither the Contractor, its employees, agents or Subcontractors or material suppliers shall make any press release or similar media release related to the Project unless such press release have been discussed with the Department prior to its issuance.

J.24 GOODS AND SERVICES:

This Agreement shall be construed fairly as to all parties and not in favor of or against any party, regardless of which party prepared the Agreement.

J.25 NOTICES:

All notices or communications required or permitted under the Contract shall be in writing and shall be hand delivered or sent by telecopier or by recognized overnight carrier to the intended recipient at the address stated below, or to such other address as the recipient may have designated in writing. Any such notice or communication shall be deemed delivered as follows: if hand delivered, on the day so delivered, if sent by telecopier, on confirmation of successful transmission, and if sent by recognized overnight carrier, the next business day.

If to the Department:

If to the Contractor:

Christopher Weaver
Acting Director/Chief Contracting Officer
Department of General Services
2000 14th St, NW – 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20009

This Paragraph shall be read as imposing minimum requirements for distribution of required contractual notices, and not as displacing distribution requirements with respect to periodic reports and other documents.

J.26 LIMITATIONS:

The Contractor agrees that any statute of limitations applicable to any claim or suit by the Department arising from this Contract or its breach shall not begin to run, or shall be deemed to be tolled, until Final Completion or, with respect to latent defects or nonconformities, such later time as the Department knew or should have known of the defect or nonconformity.

J.27 BINDING EFFECT; ASSIGNMENT:

The Contract shall inure to the benefit of, and be binding upon and enforceable by, the parties and their respective successors and permitted assigns. The Contractor acknowledges that, in entering into the Contract, the Department is relying on the particular qualifications of the Contractor, and the Contractor therefore shall not delegate or assign any of its duties or obligations under the Contract, except in accordance with the Contract's provisions relating to subcontracting, or pursuant to the Department's prior written consent. The Contractor shall not assign its rights under the Contract, including the right to all or a portion of its compensation, without the Department's prior written consent. Any delegation or assignment made contrary to the provisions of this Paragraph shall be null and void.

J.28 SURVIVAL:

All agreements warranties, and representations of the Contractor contained in the Contract or in any certificate or document furnished pursuant to the Contract shall survive termination or expiration of the Contract.

J.29 NO WAIVER:

If the Department waives any power, right, or remedy arising from the Contract or any applicable law, the waiver shall not be deemed to be a waiver of the power, right, or remedy on the later recurrence of any similar events. No act, delay, or course of conduct by the Department shall be deemed to constitute the Department's waiver, which may be affected only by an express written waiver signed by the Department.

J.30 REMEDIES CUMULATIVE:

Unless specifically provided to the contrary in the Contract, all remedies set forth in the Contract are cumulative and not exclusive of any other remedy the Department may have, including, without limitation, at law or in equity. The Department's rights and remedies will be exercised at its sole discretion, and shall not be regarded as conferring any obligation on the Department's to exercise those rights or remedies for the benefit of the Contractor or any other person or entity.

J.31 HEADINGS/CAPTIONS:

The headings or captions used in this Agreement or its table of contents are for convenience only and shall not be deemed to constitute a part of the Contract, nor shall they be used in interpreting the Contract.

J.32 ENTIRE AGREEMENT; MODIFICATION:

The Contract supersedes all contemporaneous or prior negotiations, representations, course of dealing, or agreements, either written or oral. No modifications to the Contract shall be effective unless made in writing signed by both the Department and the Contractor, unless otherwise expressly provided to the contrary in the Contract.

J.33 SEVERABILITY:

In the event any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision of this Agreement, and in lieu of each such invalid, illegal or unenforceable provision, there shall be added automatically as a part of this Agreement a provision as similar in terms to such invalid, illegal or unenforceable provision as may be possible and be valid, legal and enforceable; each part of this Agreement is intended to be severable.

J.34 ANTI-DEFICIENCY ACT:

The Department's obligations and responsibilities under the terms of the Contract and the Contract Documents are and shall remain subject to the provisions of (i) the federal Anti-Deficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. §§1341, 1342, 1349, 1350, 1351, (ii) the D.C. Code 47-105, (iii) the District of Columbia Anti-Deficiency Act, D.C. Code §§ 47-355.01 - 355.08, as the foregoing statutes may be amended from time to time, and (iv) Section 446 of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act. Neither the Contract nor any of the Contract Documents shall constitute an indebtedness of the Department, nor shall it constitute an obligation for which the Department is obligated to levy or pledge any form of taxation, or for which the Department has levied or pledged any form of taxation. IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 446 OF THE HOME RULE ACT, D.C. CODE § 1-204.46, NO DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICIAL IS AUTHORIZED TO OBLIGATE OR

EXPEND ANY AMOUNT UNDER THE CONTRACT OR CONTRACT DOCUMENTS UNLESS SUCH AMOUNT HAS BEEN APPROVED, IS LAWFULLY AVAILABLE AND APPROPRIATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS.

J.35 INDEMNIFICATION:

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Contractor shall indemnify and hold harmless the Department and Department's consultants, agents, and employees from and against claims, damages, losses and expenses, including, but not limited to, attorneys' fees arising out of or resulting from performance of work, provided that such claim, damage, loss or expense is attributable to bodily injury, sickness, disease or death, or to injury to or destruction of tangible property (other than Work itself), but only to the extent caused by the negligent acts or omissions of the Contractor, a subcontractor, anyone directly or indirectly employed by them or anyone for whose acts they may be liable, regardless of whether or not such claim, damage, loss or expense is caused in part by a party indemnified hereunder.

J.36 CHANGES.

J.36.1 Changes Authorized. The Department may, without invalidating the contract, and without notice to or approval of any surety, order changes in the Work, including additions, deletions or modifications. Any such change must be conveyed by the Department to the Contractor via written Change Directive or Change Order.

J.36.1.1 The Contracting Officer is the only person authorized to approve changes in any of the requirements of this contract. The Contractor shall not comply with any order, directive or request that changes or modifies the requirements of this contract, unless issued in writing and signed by the Contracting Officer.

J.36.1.2 In the event the Contractor effects any change at the instruction or request of any person other than the Contracting Officer, the change will be considered to have been made without authority and no adjustment will be made in the contract price to cover any cost increase incurred as a result thereof.

J.36.2 Executed Change Directive/Order Required. Changes to the Agreement may be made only by a written Change Directive or Change Order executed by the Department.

J.36.3 Prompt Notice. In the event the Contractor encounters a situation which the Contractor believes to be a change to this Agreement, the Contractor shall provide the Department with prompt written notice of such event and the possible impact such event could have on cost and schedule. All such notices shall be given promptly, considering the then applicable situations, but in no event more than ten (10) calendar days after encountering the situation. The Contractor acknowledges that the failure to provide such notice in a timely manner could limit or eliminate the Department's ability to mitigate such events, and thus, the Contractor shall not be entitled to an adjustment in the event it

fails to provide prompt notice. The Contractor shall include provisions similar to this provision in all of its subcontracts.

J.36.4 Executed Change Orders Final. The Contractor agrees that any Change Order executed by the Department and the Contractor constitutes its full and final adjustment for all costs, delays, disruptions, inefficiencies, cumulative impact, accelerations, schedule impacts, or other consequences arising from the change in question, whether a Change Directive, or a Change Event, or from any claimed cumulative effect of changes made to the date of the Change Order, and that no further adjustments in compensation or time shall be sought or made with respect to the Change Directive or the Change Event giving rise to the Change Order.

J.36.5 Failure to Agree. If the Contractor claims entitlement to a change in the Agreement, and the Department does not agree that any action or event has occurred to justify any change in time or compensation, or if the parties fail to agree upon the appropriate amount of the adjustment in time or compensation, the Department will unilaterally make such changes, if any, to the Agreement, as it determines are appropriate pursuant to the terms of this Agreement. The Contractor shall proceed with the Work and the Department's directives, without interruption or delay, and may make a claim of this Agreement. Failure to proceed due to a dispute over a change request shall constitute a material breach of the Agreement and entitle the Department to all available remedies for such breach, including, without limitation, termination for default.

J.37 DISPUTES.

J.37.1 Informal Resolution.

It is the mutual desire of the parties to resolve any disputes arising under, or otherwise related to, this Agreement in an informal manner and by consensus. Toward this end, should any such dispute arise, the parties shall use their best efforts to resolve the dispute without the need for formal litigation or process of any kind. In the event that any such dispute cannot be resolved by the parties' representatives, the parties shall arrange for representatives of their senior management to meet and, if possible, discuss the issue. If this process cannot resolve the problem, then either party may initiate arbitration in accordance with Section J.37.2 of this Agreement, if resolution is not reached in such manner, the Program Manager shall make a claim in accordance with this Section.

J.37.2 Formal Dispute Resolution Procedure.

J.37.2.1 Notice of Claim. If the Contractor wishes to assert a claim over a contract dispute, the Contractor shall provide written notice of the claim to the Department pursuant to procedures set forth in Section 4732 of the Department's procurement rules and Section 1004 of the District's Procurement Practices Reform Act of 2010 (PPRA).

J.37.2.2 Contents of Notice of Claim. The notice of claim shall state the nature of the claim, the events or circumstances giving rise to the claim, the type of relief

requested, and the amount of time or additional compensation, or other damages sought. If the amount of time, compensation, or other damages sought is not reasonably ascertainable at the time such notice is provided, the Contractor shall so state, explain why, and provide whatever estimates it can reasonably provide. The notice shall state clearly that the Contractor intends to assert a claim against the Department.

J.37.2.3 Appeal Procedures. All claims arising under or in connection with the Agreement or its breach, or relating to the delivery of services, whether framed in contract, tort or otherwise, and which are not resolved via the claims process may be resolved by filing an appeal with the District of Columbia Board of Contract Appeals in accordance with Title X of the Procurement Practices Reform Act of 2010 (PPRA). However, if a third party brings any claim against the Department, including, without limitation, claims of infringement of patents, copyrights or other intellectual property rights, the Department may bring an action for defense or indemnification against the Contractor in the court in which such claim is being litigated.