

South Carolina



Procurement Review Panel

List of Key Officials Attending the Hearing

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SOUTH CAROLINA PROCUREMENT REVIEW PANEL ORGANIZATIONAL CHART AS OF December 17, 2020



House of Representatives - One Page Summary

The main objective of the Panel is established by Subarticle 3, section 11-35-4410 of the Consolidated Procurement Code. The Panel's primary function is to provide an administrative review of decisions by the Chief Procurement Officers relating to:

- (1) formal protests of the solicitation or award of State contracts;
- (2) suspension or debarment of individual vendors;
- (3) contract controversies; and
- (4) other written decisions, policies, or procedures affecting the state procurement system.

The Panel seeks to provide the best possible services to vendors and agencies of the State in keeping with the integrity of the Consolidated Procurement Code. The Panel is unique in its formation, being composed of five members drawn from the private sector and two State employees, all of whom are appointed by the Governor. Each Panel member brings his or her own experience to bear in independently reviewing how the State procures its goods and services, ensuring that the State's procurement process is transparent, fair, and effective. Moreover, the Panel's composition and specialized purpose allows it to schedule and conduct hearings in a very timely fashion, which is one of its continuing strategic goals. Timely hearings and written decisions from the Panel allow the State to conduct its business efficiently while also guaranteeing fairness to vendors.

The panel is not requesting any budget changes this year.

ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT FY 2021/2022

AGENCY'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

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The Panel received three requests for administrative review during fiscal year 2021-2022. Each appeal requested review of a CPO's written protest determination. On its website, the Panel provides a link to the Panel's decisions that are posted on the Procurement Services website at <https://prp.sc.gov/panel-orders>. There has been some delay in these Panel Orders being uploaded to the Procurement Services website, however the Panel has been in communication with Procurement Services and has asked that these most recent orders be added to the website. In addition, the Panel publishes its decisions on WestLaw, a legal research service.

Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies

The Panel's key customers are the vendors who participate in the State procurement process and the State agencies which are procuring needed goods and services. Both groups of customers expect the Panel to conduct timely hearings and to ensure that the State's procurement process is open and fair to all participants. Both groups also expect the Panel to apply the provisions of the Consolidated Procurement Code in an independent and impartial manner. The Panel's primary services are providing hearings to aggrieved vendors and resolving the procurement questions presented by the appeal issues. The Panel's product is reflected by its written decisions resolving protests and other procurement issues. The written decisions are available in hard copies and by

Internet access. Failure by the Panel to provide these services in a timely manner could result in delays in the awarding of contracts, which could ultimately impact the way other state agencies are able to perform. Depending on the using agency and the type of contract involved, delayed awards could negatively impact services to the public. In addition, failures or delays in providing these services could negatively affect the public's perception of the State's public procurement process.

The only circumstances under which the Panel would be unable to perform its function would be the loss of property or personnel. In the event of property loss, either temporarily or permanently, the Panel would rely on the assistance of the Facilities Management staff to assist us in relocating to other available state-owned facilities. The Panel would also rely on the Division of Technology Operations for any technology needs. During the period that alternative accommodations are being sought, Panel staff will maintain communication with one another, other agencies, and the public through remote access of e-mail and phone messages.

The Business Manager and the Attorney for the Panel are familiar with basic functions of each other's job duties. However, the Panel would rely on the Comptroller General's Office, Procurement Services, and Human Resources to assist in the performance of complex technical duties of the Business Manager in the event of a temporary absence lasting up to 30 days. In the event of an extended temporary absence of the staff Attorney, the Panel would temporarily hire an attorney approved by the Attorney General's Office to handle the technical complex aspects of this job. Additionally, the current Business Manager is a certified paralegal and can provide legal support to the attorney as needed.

SECTION 111 - S600 - PROCUREMENT REVIEW PANEL

111.1. (PRP: Filing Fee) Requests for administrative review before the South Carolina Procurement Review Panel shall be accompanied by a filing fee of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00), payable to the SC Procurement Review Panel. The panel is authorized to charge the party requesting an administrative review under the S.C. Code Sections 11-35-4210(6), 11-35-4220(5), 11-35-4230(6), 11-35-4330, and/or 11-35-4410. The funds generated by the filing fee shall be retained by the panel and carried forward to be used for the operation of the panel. Withdrawal of an appeal will result in the filing fee being forfeited to the panel. If a party desiring to file an appeal is unable to pay the filing fee because of financial hardship, the party shall submit a completed Request for Filing Fee Waiver form at the same time the request for review is filed. The panel shall make the Request for Filing Fee Waiver forms available to the chief procurement officers to provide to parties along with notice of right to appeal to the panel. If the filing fee is not waived, the party must pay the filing fee within fifteen days of the date of receipt of the order denying waiver of the filing fee. Requests for administrative review will not be accepted unless accompanied by the filing fee or a completed Request for Filing Fee Waiver form at the time of filing.

➤ **KEEP**

Carry Forward - \$18,296.70

➤ State FTEs – 2

➤ Federal FTEs – 0

➤ Other Funded FTEs – 0

➤ Total FTEs – 2

No Vacant FTEs per category.

No request for additional FTEs.