

## CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PARTIES (Form 1295)

In 2015, the Texas Legislature adopted [House Bill 1295](#). The Texas Government Code §2252.908, and the rules issued by the Texas Ethics Commission found in Title 1, Sections 46.1, 46.3 and 46.5 of the Texas Administrative Code, require a business entity to submit a completed Form 1295 to the City before the City may enter into a contract with that business entity. The law states that a governmental entity or state agency may not enter into certain contracts with a business entity unless the business entity submits a disclosure of interested parties to the governmental entity or state agency at the time the business entity submits the signed contract to the governmental entity or state agency. **The law applies only to a contract of a governmental entity or state agency that either (1) requires an action or vote by the governing body of the entity or agency before the contract may be signed or (2) has a value of at least \$1 million. The disclosure requirement applies to a contract entered into on or after January 1, 2016.**

Form 1295 must be completed online. The form is available from the Texas Ethics Commission by accessing the following web address:

<https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/filinginfo/1295/>

**Print the completed Form 1295 showing the Certification Number and Date Filed in the Certification of Filing box at the upper right corner. The person filing the 1295 needs to complete an “unsworn declaration”.**

The following definitions found in the statute and Texas Ethics Commission rules may be helpful in completing Form 1295.

“Business entity” includes an entity through which business is conducted with a governmental entity or state agency, regardless of whether the entity is a for-profit or nonprofit entity. The term does not include a governmental entity or state agency.

“Controlling interest” means: (1) an ownership interest or participating interest in a business entity by virtue of units, percentage, shares, stock, or otherwise that exceeds 10 percent; (2) membership on the board of directors or other governing body of a business entity of which the board or other governing body is composed of not more than 10 members; or (3) serves as an officer of a business entity that has four or fewer officers, or service as one of the four officers most highly compensated by a business entity that has more than four officers.

“Interested party” means: (1) a person who has a controlling interest in a business entity with whom a governmental entity or state agency contracts; or (2) a person who actively participates in facilitating a contract or negotiating the terms of a contract with a governmental entity or state agency, including a broker, intermediary, adviser, or attorney for the business entity. Subsection (c) of this section does not apply to an officer of a publicly held business entity or its wholly owned subsidiaries.

“Intermediary”, for purposes of this rule, means a person who actively participates in the facilitation of the contract or negotiating the contract, including a broker, adviser, attorney, or representative of or agent for the business entity who:

- (1) receives compensation from the business entity for the person’s participation;
- (2) communicates directly with the governmental entity or state agency on behalf of the business entity regarding the contract; and
- (3) is not an employee of the business entity.

The law has been amended beginning January 1, 2018. A completed Form 1295 is not required for:

- A sponsored research contract of an institution of higher education;
- An interagency contract of a state agency or an institution of higher education
- A contract related to health and human services if:
  - The value of the contract cannot be determined at the time the contract is executed; and
  - Any qualified vendor is eligible for the contract;
- A contract with a publicly traded business entity, including a wholly owned subsidiary of the business entity
- A contract with an electric utility, as that term is defined by Section 31.002, Utilities Code; or
- A contract with a gas utility, as that term is defined by Section 121.001, Utilities Code.