

ORDINANCE NO. 012-73

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING PUBLIC
BIDDING DISADVANTAGEOUS AND
AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH WEST
PUBLISHING CORPORATION FOR ONLINE
LEGAL RESEARCH SERVICES

WHEREAS, The Chicago Transit Authority (“Authority”) depends on its Law Department to research matters of labor and employment law, corporate law and litigation, tort law and litigation, appellate practice, subrogation, workers’ compensation, and public policy; and

WHEREAS, The Law Department relies increasingly heavily on online services to provide access to legal resources in order to maintain the Authority’s currency in all areas of its legal practice; and

WHEREAS, Such a reliance on online resources reflects an established and growing trend among law practitioners in both the public and private sectors, as technological advances and the desire for economic efficiency make online resources not only more attractive, but more vital; and

WHEREAS, West Publishing Corporation (“West”) is highly specialized in providing legal resources; and

WHEREAS, For more than a dozen years, the Authority, through its Law Department, has contracted with West for access to online services which supply the wide array of databases necessary for Law staff to meet the Authority’s day-to-day legal needs; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the required databases, West continues to provide direct access to its reference attorneys for research assistance at any time of the day or night, as well as numerous free, attorney-conducted web-based seminars each year, and a West account representative is available for training and additional assistance at no additional cost; and

WHEREAS, A change of vendor would entail for each of the Law Department’s sixty current West licensees a complicated and time-consuming recreation of personalized research preferences and histories and other files in a new service, with more time needed for training within the new service, resulting in potentially significant and detrimental losses of time; and

WHEREAS, Staff has identified West as the service provider that best meets its needs, due to West’s expertise in the nature of the professional services the Authority requires, whereby it is disadvantageous for the Authority to seek competitive bidding for these types of services; and

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WHEREAS, Section 1.4D of the Procurement Policy and Procedures provides for the award of contracts in those situations where the Chicago Transit Board determines that competitive bidding would be disadvantageous; now, therefore:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CHICAGO TRANSIT BOARD
OF THE CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY:

SECTION 1. The Chicago Transit Board hereby determines that competitive bidding for this service is disadvantageous.

SECTION 2. The Chairman of the Board, or his designee, is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with West Publishing Corporation for access to online legal research services for 36 months from date of contract in an amount not to exceed three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) under Requisition B11OP00760.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

APPROVED:

PASSED:

Chairman

Assistant Secretary

June 13, 2012

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