

## DENVER REVISED MUNICIPAL CODE

### Effective January 1, 2017

Sec. 20-77. - Debarment from city contracting due to certain violations of law.

- (a) *In general.* A contractor shall be subject to debarment and disqualification from the award of any contract upon a determination that grounds for debarment exist as provided in this section.
- (b) *Definitions.* As used in this section:
  - (1) *Contract* shall mean a contract or a purchase order authorization for construction, alteration, improvement, repair, maintenance or demolition of any city-owned or leased building or performed on city-owned land by or on behalf of the city, or for any agency of the city, or financed in whole or in part by the city or any agency of the city, and includes subcontracts.
  - (2) *Contractor* shall mean a contractor, subcontractor or supplier of any tier under a contract.
  - (3) *Debarment board or board* shall mean a board consisting of the manager of public works, the manager of aviation, the manager of general services, the director of the division of small business opportunities, and the auditor. In the event any member of the board has a conflict hearing a particular matter, the conflicted member will delegate his or her duties as a member of the debarment board to another individual within his or her department or division.
- (c) *Grounds for debarment.* As used in this section, "grounds for debarment" shall mean the occurrence within the three (3) years immediately preceding a report as provided in subsection (d) of:
  - (1) A willful failure or refusal of a contractor to pay prevailing wages in violation of section 20-76. In any proceeding arising under this section, a "willful failure or refusal" may be proven by evidence that the contractor has intentionally or repeatedly paid less than the required prevailing wage(s), either under the same contract or under two (2) or more contracts, including subcontracts.
  - (2) Intentional or repeated violations of the obligations imposed upon the contractor by contract provisions that substantially conform to the requirements of subsection 20-76(d).
  - (3) Any suspension or termination of a contract by the city or any agency thereof due to a violation of section 20-76.
  - (4) Any violation of any applicable city or state law establishing journeyman to apprentice ratios for the performance of work distinctive to a specific craft or trade or requiring licensing for the performance of any type of construction work, when such violation occurred in the course of a contract, and when such violation demonstrates an intent by a contractor to evade the requirements of section 20-76 for the payment of prevailing wages.
  - (5) Any violations described in D.R.M.C. section 28-77.
  - (6) The term "grounds for debarment" shall not include any isolated or insubstantial violation of law that is promptly corrected by a contractor in accordance with the requirements of the city.
- (d) *Reports to debarment board.* Any officer or employee of the city responsible for enforcing the laws set forth in paragraph (4) of subsection (c) of this section, or for the administration of the contracts of the city shall promptly report to the debarment board in writing any grounds for debarment coming to the attention of the officer or employee. Submittal of such a report to the board by an officer or employee who is on the board or who works under any member of the board shall not disqualify on its own that board member from serving his or her duties on the board with regard to the submitted report.
- (e) *Debarment investigation; notice to contractor.*
  - (1) Following the receipt of a report of grounds for debarment under subsection (d), the debarment board shall conduct an investigation. After the board has made an initial investigation of the facts and circumstances underlying the report, the board shall send a written notice of investigation to the contractor against whom the report was made. Such notice shall be sent by certified mail,

return receipt requested, and shall contain a concise statement of the report and the underlying facts and circumstances as they appear to the debarment board at the time of the notice. The notice shall inform the contractor that it has twenty (20) business days in which to respond to the board in writing.

- (2) The contractor's response shall include a statement of the following:
  - (i) Which, if any, of the facts cited in the notice the contractor does not contest;
  - (ii) Any facts not included in the notice which the contractor believes to be relevant to the investigation;
  - (iii) The contractor's statement of the facts and circumstances relevant to the report and investigation; and
  - (iv) Any mitigating factors related to the grounds for debarment.
- (3) After receipt of the contractor's written response, the debarment board shall meet with the contractor to discuss and review the facts and circumstances relevant to the report under investigation. The board may meet more than once with the contractor during the investigation. The contractor may be represented by counsel at such meeting(s), and may present documentation and exhibits to the board for the board's consideration.
- (4) It is not the intent of this subsection (e) that the debarment board shall conduct informal or formal hearings during the investigation, but rather that the contractor against whom the report is made shall have the opportunity to be notified of the investigation and to present information relevant to the report. If a contractor does not timely respond to a notice of investigation sent under this subsection (e), the board shall proceed with the investigation.
- (f) *Determination of debarment.* Following the investigation under subsection (e) of this section, and after consultation with the city attorney, the debarment board may determine that no further action is required, or may debar a contractor from consideration for any contract upon the affirmative vote of at least three (3) members of the board for a period of up to three (3) years. If the board determines to debar a contractor, then the board shall send a written notice of debarment by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the contractor, and the notice shall inform the debarred contractor of the right to appeal the decision administratively in accordance with subsection (h) of this section.
- (g) *Effect of debarment determination.* A debarment determination shall take effect thirty (30) days after the contractor receives notice of the determination unless an appeal is filed during that time in accordance with subsection (h) of this section. After the debarment decision takes effect, the contractor debarred shall remain debarred unless a court or the board orders otherwise or until the debarment period specified in the determination expires. A debarment shall disqualify the contractor from the award of any contract during the period of debarment, and shall be binding upon any and all city departments and agencies responsible for the award of contracts.
- (h) *Appeals.*
  - (1) Any contractor who disputes any determination of debarment made pursuant to this section may petition the debarment board for a hearing concerning such determination no later than thirty (30) days after having been notified of any such determination. Compliance with the provisions of this subsection shall be a jurisdictional prerequisite to any action brought under the provisions of this section, and failure of compliance shall forever bar any such action.
  - (2) The debarment board shall designate a hearing officer to hold such hearing, and shall be represented before the hearing officer by the city attorney.
  - (3) Such petition shall be filed in writing, and the facts and figures submitted shall be submitted under oath or affirmation either in writing or orally at a hearing scheduled by the hearing officer. The hearing, if any, shall take place in the city, and notice thereof and the proceedings shall otherwise be in accordance with rules and regulations issued by the board. The petitioner shall bear the risk of non-persuasion, and the standard of proof shall conform to that in civil, non-jury cases in state district court.

- (4) Thereupon, the hearing officer shall make a final determination. Such final determination shall be considered a final order of the hearing officer and may be reviewed under Rule 106(a)(4), C.R.C.P. by the petitioner or by the city.
- (5) The district court of the second judicial district of the state shall have original jurisdiction in proceedings to review all questions of law and fact determined by the hearing officer by order or writ under Rule 106(a)(4) C.R.C.P.
- (6) Any appeal of a debarment determination shall automatically stay the effect of the debarment until the appeal is finally resolved.
- (i) *Debarment list.* The debarment board shall maintain a list of any and all contractors debarred in accordance with this section and shall promptly notify the auditor, the mayor, the city council, the manager of public works, the manager of aviation, the manager of parks and recreation, the director of the division of small business opportunity, and the manager of general services of any additions or deletions to the debarment list.
- (j) *Mandatory contract provision.* Every contract shall contain a provision prohibiting the contractor from hiring any subcontractor that is currently debarred by the city in accordance with this section.
- (k) *Other remedies preserved.* The operation of the debarment process under this section 20-77 shall not preempt or supersede existing remedies or penalties for violation of prevailing wage, building code or other city laws and regulations, or other discretionary activities of appropriate city officials with respect to contract issues that may be provided by law.
- (l) *Guidelines; rules and regulations.* The debarment board is authorized to promulgate guidelines and rules and regulations as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this section 20-77.

(Ord. No. 581-03, § 1, 7-14-03; Ord. No. 985-16, § 2, 11-7-16)