



1000 WILLOWBROOK ROAD
NEW CASTLE, PENNSYLVANIA 16101

SHENANGO TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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June 6, 2017

Department of General Services
Bureau of Real Estate
401 North Street
Room 503 North Office Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17125

**RE: Bids for the Purchase of the New Castle Youth Development Center
Solicitation # 94882**

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are writing to you in our capacity as the Supervisors of Shenango Township, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania. Recently, the Department of General Services awarded a bid for the purchase of the former site of the New Castle Youth Development Center (YDC).

The Township would like to request additional information about the winning bidder, Hira Educational Services of North America, and its plans for the former YDC site. This matter is of great import to the Township. First, the Township is concerned about the potential tax revenue from the former YDC site. Dependent upon the nature of the use, local tax revenues could be significantly impacted. Secondly, the Township wishes to ensure that any proposed plans for the YDC site will be in conformance with the Shenango Township Zoning Ordinance.

Additionally, the Township is concerned with the potential for collusion amongst the bidders in violation of the Non-Collusion requirements outlined in Section 8 of the Invitation to Bid Instructions, and in the Non-Collusion Affidavit. It has come to the attention of the Township that one of the bidders, Mr. Muhammad Asif Kunwar, submitted an individual bid, while also being listed as the President and CEO of the winning bidder, Hira Educational Services. The Non-Collusion Affidavit specifically requires a sworn statement that the prices in the bid "were arrived at independently and without consultation, *communication or agreement* with any other contractor, bidder, or potential bidder." Additionally, the Affidavit requires a sworn statement that the price is offered "in good faith and not pursuant to any agreement or discussion with, or inducement from, any firm or person to submit a complementary or other noncompetitive bid or quote."

The Township would greatly appreciate being kept apprised of the details of the proposed sale. The Township is hopeful that the sale of this property will bring new development to the YDC site and new employment opportunities to the Township. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this situation.

Sincerely,

Shenango Township Board of Supervisors,

Frank Augustine, Chairman

Russell Riley, Supervisor

Albert Burick, III, Supervisor