



Department of Transformation and Shared Services

Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders

Secretary Joseph Wood

Director Edward Armstrong

June 9, 2023

The Honorable Scott Flippo, Co-Chairperson
The Honorable Les D. Eaves, Co-Chairperson
ALC Review
State Capitol Building, Room 315
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Senator Flippo and Representative Eaves,

Please allow this letter to supplement the one I wrote to you previously. Upon further review and inquiry, I have become aware of a contract between the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) and the Little Rock Marriott (Marriott) that appears to have been improperly procured.

The contract is for multiple conference rooms and catering services at a total cost of one hundred twenty thousand, three hundred forty two dollars and twenty two cents (\$120,342.22). Under Arkansas Procurement Law, unless an exemption or other procurement law applies, contracts for seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00) or more are required to be solicited using competitive sealed bids or requests for sealed proposals. See Ark. Code Ann. § 19-11-229 and Ark. Code Ann. § 19-11-230.

ADE has informed me and provided documentation that it obtained a competing bid, which was higher, but it was not sealed. Because there was a technical violation of Arkansas Procurement Law, I am presenting it to your review under Ark. Code Ann. § 19-11-247(d). This will allow the contract to be ratified so that the ADE can pay Marriott for the services it already provided.

Should you have any questions, we will do our best to see that they are answered.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "E. Armstrong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "g".

Edward R. Armstrong
Director, Office of State Procurement
Dept. of Transformation and Shared Services

Office of State Procurement

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