

File No. 12566.

Baltimore, April 22, 1911.

Hon. Edgar Allan Poe,
City Solicitor.

Dear Sir:

9929 I have considered the letter of the Superintendent of Lamps and Lighting, dated April 20, 1911, to you, in reference to the supplementary bid made by the McKay Engineering Company.

This supplementary bid is clearly irregular, and cannot be regarded. Indeed, I think that the course pursued by the Superintendent of Lamps and Lighting in this matter, in making oral additions to the specifications, is to be discouraged. Whilst this was done in the present instance, of course, only upon the most proper motives and to protect the interests of the City, it is so likely to cause a misunderstanding, and subsequent difficulties, that it should not be repeated. The specifications, as printed, should not be varied, except by new specifications duly advertised.

Inasmuch as the bids show that there was some misunderstanding, and that all did not bid for sixteen, it seems to me that the bids should all be rejected and new bids solicited.

The bid made by the McKay Engineering Company, which only bids for twelve, is not in conformity with the requirements of the specifications and cannot be accepted. The specifications call for "twelve or more", and any bid which is limited to twelve would not be in conformity with the specifications.

Owing to the great discrepancy between the bids, and the misunderstanding which may have been created, it seems to be desirable that all the bids should be rejected.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Sylvan Hayes Lauchheimer,
Deputy City Solicitor.

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