

## MEMORANDUM

TO: BOWIE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: DAVID J. DEUTSCH, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION R-29-10 – WAIVING THE COMPETITIVE BIDDING REQUIREMENT OF SECTION 61 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BOWIE TO PERMIT THE PURCHASE OF FURNITURE FOR THE BELAIR MANSION

DATE: June 4, 2010

Since 1983, the Friends of Belair Estate (the “Friends”) have raised funds for the acquisition of objects at the Belair Mansion and Stable Museum. The funds acquired by the Friends are maintained and administered by the City. In cooperation with the Friends, the City makes purchases as needed to further the interpretation of the Belair Mansion and Stable Museum’s history.

The Friends have voted to purchase a pair of circa 1770 cherry side chairs and a circa 1770 walnut desk and bookcase. Similar items are listed in 18<sup>th</sup> century probate inventories of the Belair Mansion. Purchase of these items will further assist with furnishing and interpreting the Mansion.

The Chairperson of the Friends of Belair Estate has consulted with Staff, and all agree unanimously that these objects are suitable and correct for the museum. The Friends have given their consent for its purchase.

Staff recommends the approval of Resolution R-29-10 for this purchase in the amount of \$16,700.00.

DJD/plw  
Attachments

**RESOLUTION**  
**OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOWIE, MARYLAND**  
**WAIVING THE COMPETITIVE BIDDING REQUIREMENT**  
**OF SECTION 61 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BOWIE**  
**TO PERMIT THE PURCHASE OF TWO ANTIQUE CHAIRS AND A**  
**DESK AND BOOKCASE FOR THE BELAIR MANSION**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bowie has taken great pride and care in the ownership of the historic house of Governor Samuel Ogle, known as the Belair Mansion; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council empowered the Friends of Belair Estate to raise funds for the acquisition of museum collection items; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ogle family is documented to have owned a 1770's desk and bookcase and 1770's side chairs; and

**WHEREAS**, Christopher H. Jones Early American Antiques, Inc. of Alexandria, is a recognized and respected dealer in American and English antiques; and

**WHEREAS**, Christopher H. Jones Early American Antiques Inc. is offering a pair of 18<sup>th</sup> century side chairs and an 18<sup>th</sup> century walnut desk and bookcase; and

**WHEREAS**, the Friends of Belair Estate desire to purchase the side chairs and desk and bookcase for the Belair Mansion, and have formally approved the purchase thereof; and

**WHEREAS**, the Friends of Belair Estate have consulted with City staff, and staff supports the purchase; and

**WHEREAS**, City Charter, Sec. 61(b)(1) requires that all expenditures for supplies, materials, equipment, construction of public improvements or contractual services involving more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) be made by written contract, and the City Manager advertise for sealed bids, in the manner prescribed by ordinance, for all such written contracts; and

**WHEREAS**, City Charter, Sec. 61(b)(3) further provides that the City Council by a two-thirds vote may waive bidding requirements for good cause shown; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council hereby finds that the furniture to be purchased is not something that lends itself to a competitive bidding process, that

there is no real advantage to be gained from such a process in this situation, and that the purchase of the furniture requested is in the best interest of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council deems it to be in the best interest of the City to purchase the furniture and to waive the competitive bidding requirements of Section 61 of the City Charter to make such purchase.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland, by at least a two-thirds vote, that the requirement contained in Section 61 of the City Charter for competitive bidding be, and is hereby waived, for good cause shown.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Manager is authorized to contract for the purchase of two 18<sup>th</sup> century cherry side chairs and an 18<sup>th</sup> century walnut desk and bookcase in the amount of \$16,700 with Christopher H. Jones early American Antiques Inc. of Alexandria, Virginia.

**INTRODUCED AND PASSED** by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland, at a Regular Meeting on June 7, 2010.

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G. Frederick Robinson,  
Mayor

Attest:

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Pamela A. Fleming, City Clerk