



Homeland  
Security

April 22, 2020

LEOS-PBA  
Attn: Mr. Steve Maritas  
1155 F St NW #1050  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Maritas:

Thank you for your letter dated April 16, 2020 regarding the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Section 3610 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). I understand your organization's urgent interest in this topic and appreciate the valiant work of the security professionals that you represent. The Federal Protective Service's (FPS) contractors and their cadre of Protective Security Officers (PSOs) are integral to FPS's security mission.

I am aware of the impacts that COVID-19 and the associated service reductions at federal buildings protected by FPS may have on PSO contractors, to include the challenge of keeping a healthy and ready workforce under these unprecedented circumstances.

I'd like to provide you with some transparency into the steps the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and FPS have already taken to address these challenges. First, my office has proactively communicated with Department contracting professionals and industry. Guidance was issued to the Component Heads of Contracting Activities on March 5, 2020 and April 11, 2020, which highlighted available contract administration mechanisms and flexibilities that exist to address performance affected by COVID-19 and addressed implementation of Section 3610 of the CARES Act, respectively. Both stressed the need for DHS contracting officer communication and cooperation with industry to help manage COVID-19 issues as they arise. My messages to industry explaining the DHS guidance were issued on March 5, 2020 (Attachment 1) and April 16, 2020 (Attachment 2) and are provided here for your reference. Second, the FPS Acquisitions Division (FPSAD) gathered data from all its PSO contractors regarding the impact of COVID-19 to their operations. On April 3, 2020, FPSAD released correspondence requesting that each of its contractors provide specific data to include reductions in service, impacts to PSO workforce, including readiness, and any requests made for assistance via Tax Credits or SBA Loans, etc. Third, FPSAD analyzed the data submitted by the contractors and reported those results to FPS leadership. This enabled FPS as an agency to make an informed decision regarding the path forward, to include identifying funding to modify contracts for PSO services to provide relief through the CARES Act.

Mr. Steve Maritas

Page 2

I am pleased to inform you that on April 16, 2020, FPSAD notified its PSO contractors that Section 3610 of the CARES Act applies to PSO Service contracts and they may submit a request for relief in accordance with Section 3610 of the CARES Act for appropriate review and consideration by FPS.

Additionally, FPS Director Patterson and I will host a web-based discussion on April 28, 2020, with representatives from the prime contract holders of our PSO Service contracts to discuss COVID-19 impacts, to include DHS's implementation of Section 3610 of the CARES Act. I would also like to personally invite you, as the Executive Director of the Law Enforcement Officers Security and Police Benevolent Association, to join me and my leadership team on a weekly call with industry association leaders to discuss COVID-19 matters. Our weekly calls take place on Thursdays at 9 am EST, and an invitation from my team will be forthcoming.

I hope this letter addresses your concerns and assures you of DHS's commitment to work with its industry partners to remain healthy for the duration of this national emergency, recover from this pandemic, and maintain DHS mission readiness.

Sincerely,

Soraya Correa  
Chief Procurement Officer

Attachments:

- (1) Chief Procurement Officer Message on Health and Safety Precautions for COVID-19 dated March 5, 2020
- (2) Chief Procurement Officer Message for the DHS Contractor Workforce for Implementing CARES Act Section 3610 dated April 16, 2020
- (3) FPSAD Director Letter to PSO Vendors on Section 3610 of the CARES Act dated April 16, 2020

cc:

L. Eric Patterson  
Director, Federal Protective Service

Dan O'Sullivan  
Director, Federal Protective Service Acquisitions Division

Hon. Bennie Thompson  
Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security