



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Sheriff's Office



Date: May 28, 2014
Board Meeting Date: July 1, 2014
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Greg Munks, Sheriff

Subject: Auctioneers' License

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution granting an Auctioneers' License to John Sulman of Auctions America by RM, Inc. for an auction to occur July 9, 2014 through July 12, 2014, at 499 Old Spanish Trail, Portola Valley, CA 94028

BACKGROUND:

The County Ordinance Code, Chapter 5.56, requires an auctioneer to obtain a license before conducting a public auction. Pursuant to Chapter 5.56, the application is filed with the County Tax Collector and transmitted to the Sheriff, who is tasked with investigating whether the application should be granted and transmitting the application to the Board of Supervisors with his recommendation.

The Board of Supervisors is required to review the application and recommendations of the Sheriff and, if the application has been approved by the Sheriff, grant the license unless "the applicant does not have a sufficiently good character and reputation to render it in the interests of the public that a license be granted." The Board may not deny a license unless it has first notified the applicant in writing of its intention to deny the license.

If the license is granted, the Board shall transmit the application to the Tax Collector and the Tax Collector shall issue the license.

DISCUSSION:

On or about May 6, 2014, John Sulman, an agent of Auctions America by RM, Inc., submitted to the Tax Collector an application for an Auctioneers' License, which was forwarded to the Sheriff's Office for investigation. Mr. Sulman proposes to auction a number of military vehicles and parts known as the Littlefield Collection.

Mr. Sulman proposes to conduct the auction at the Military Vehicle Technology Foundation at 499 Old Spanish Trail in an unincorporated area of Portola Valley, with auction previews on July 9th and 10th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and the auction taking place on July 11th and 12th from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The auction is proposed to be conducted under an 80 by 120 foot free span canopy that includes a 40 by 8 foot auction stage that accommodates up to 300 chairs for seating, a small sound system, and two video screens. Onsite parking will be handled by a local valet service and an agreement for offsite parking has been arranged with Portola Valley Garage located at 4170 Alpine Road with shuttle service and valet parking handled by a professional service. The applicant proposes to provide portable restrooms and food and beverages (via food trucks) and expects about 250 attendees.

The Sheriff's Office has completed its investigation, which included an internet search of the company and an inquiry to the Better Business Bureau: no complaints were on file. Having completed the investigation, it is the recommendation of the Sheriff that a license be granted.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Resolution as to form.

This application contributes to the 2025 Shared Vision outcome of a Safe Community by ensuring a thorough investigation is conducted and that applicants that possess good character and reputation are rendered a license in the interests of the public.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None