

STAR FARMS

VILLAGE AT

NORTH PORT

STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

September 10, 2024

ORGANIZATIONAL

MEETING AGENDA

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

**AGENDA
LETTER**

Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W • Boca Raton, Florida 33431

Phone: (561) 571-0010 • Toll-free: (877) 276-0889 • Fax: (561) 571-0013

September 3, 2024

ATTENDEES:

Please identify yourself each time you speak to facilitate accurate transcription of meeting minutes.

Board of Supervisors

Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District

Dear Board Members:

An Organizational Meeting of the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District will be held on September 10, 2024, immediately following the Landowners' Meeting, scheduled to commence at 11:30 a.m., at Forestar, 551 N. Cattlemen Rd., Suite 304, Sarasota, Florida 34232. The agenda is as follows:

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comments

GENERAL DISTRICT ITEMS

3. Administration of Oath of Office to Elected Board of Supervisors *(the following will also be provided in a separate package)*
 - A. Update: Required Ethics Training and Form 1 Disclosure Filing
 - B. Membership, Obligations and Responsibilities
 - C. Guide to the Sunshine Amendment and Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees 2023
 - D. Review of Special Act: Chapter 2024-292 Laws of Florida
 - E. Form 8B: Memorandum of Voting Conflict
4. Consideration of Resolution 2024-01, Ratifying the Actions of the District Manager and District Staff in Noticing the Landowners' Meeting; Providing a Severability Clause; and Providing an Effective Date
5. Consideration of Resolution 2024-02, Canvassing and Certifying the Results of the Landowners' Election of Supervisors Held Pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, and Providing an Effective Date
6. Consideration of Resolution 2024-03, Electing Certain Officers of the District, and Providing for an Effective Date

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

7. Consideration of the Following Organizational Matters:

- A. Resolution 2024-04, Appointing and Fixing the Compensation of the District Manager; Appointing a Methodology Consultant; and Providing an Effective Date
 - Agreement for District Management Services: *Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC*
- B. Resolution 2024-05, Appointing District Counsel for the District, and Authorizing Compensation; and Providing for an Effective Date
 - Fee Agreement: *Kutak Rock LLP*
- C. Resolution 2024-06, Designating a Registered Agent and Registered Office of the District, and Providing for an Effective Date
- D. Resolution 2024-07, Appointing an Interim District Engineer for the Star Farms at North Port Stewardship District, Authorizing Its Compensation and Providing for an Effective Date
 - Interim Engineering Services Agreement: *Atwell, LLC*
- E. Authorization of Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Engineering Services
- F. Board Member Compensation: Ch. 2024-292, Laws of Florida (190.006 (8), F.S.)
- G. Resolution 2024-08, Designating the Primary Administrative Office and Principal Headquarters of the District; and Providing an Effective Date
- H. Resolution 2024-09, Designating the Location of the Local District Records Office and Providing an Effective Date
- I. Resolution 2024-10, Setting Forth the Policy of Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District Board of Supervisors with Regard to the Support and Legal Defense of the Board of Supervisors and District Officers, and Providing for an Effective Date
 - Authorization to Obtain General Liability and Public Officers' Insurance
- J. Resolution 2024-11, Providing for the Public's Opportunity to Be Heard; Designating Public Comment Periods; Designating a Procedure to Identify Individuals Seeking to Be Heard; Addressing Public Decorum; Addressing Exceptions; and Providing for Severability and an Effective Date
- K. Resolution 2024-12, Providing for the Appointment of a Records Management Liaison Officer; Providing the Duties of the Records Management Liaison Officer; Adopting a Records Retention Policy; and Providing for Severability and Effective Date

- L. Resolution 2024-13, Granting the Chair and Vice Chair the Authority to Execute Real and Personal Property Conveyance and Dedication Documents, Plats and Other Documents Related to the Development of the District's Improvements; Approving the Scope and Terms of Such Authorization; Providing a Severability Clause; and Providing an Effective Date
- M. Resolution 2024-14, Ratifying, Confirming and Approving the Recording of the Notice of Creation and Establishment of the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District, and Providing for an Effective Date
- N. Authorization of Request for Proposals (RFP) for Annual Audit Services
 - Designation of Board of Supervisors as Audit Committee
- O. Strange Zone, Inc. Quotation #M24-1032 for District Website Design, Maintenance and Domain Web-Site Design Agreement
- P. ADA Site Compliance Proposal for Website Compliance Shield, Accessibility Policy and One (1) Annual Technological Audit
- Q. Resolution 2024-15, To Designate Date, Time and Place of Public Hearing and Authorization to Publish Notice of Such Hearing for the Purpose of Adopting Rules of Procedure; and Providing an Effective Date
 - I. Rules of Procedure
 - II. Notices [Rule Development and Rulemaking]
- R. Resolution 2024-16, Adopting the Annual Meeting Schedule for Fiscal Year 2024/2025; and Providing for an Effective Date
- S. Resolution 2024-17, Approving the Florida Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement; Providing for Severability; and Providing for an Effective Date
- T. Goals and Objectives Reporting [HB7013 - Special Districts Performance Measures and Standards Reporting]

BANKING MATTERS

- 8. Consideration of the Following Banking Matters:
 - A. Resolution 2024-18, Designating a Public Depository for Funds of the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship and Providing an Effective Date
 - B. Resolution 2024-19, Directing the District Manager to Appoint Signors on the Local Bank Account; and Providing an Effective Date

BUDGETARY MATTERS

9. Consideration of the Following Budgetary Matters:
 - A. Resolution 2024-20, Approving the Proposed Budgets for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 and Fiscal Year 2024/2025 and Setting Public Hearings Thereon Pursuant to Florida Law and Providing for an Effective Date
 - B. Budget Funding Agreements
 - I. Fiscal Year 2023/2024
 - II. Fiscal Year 2024/2025
 - C. Resolution 2024-21, Adopting Investment Guidelines for Investing Public Funds in Excess of Amounts Needed to Meet Current Operating Expenses, in Accordance with Section 218.415(17), Florida Statutes; Providing for an Effective Date
 - D. Resolution 2024-22, Authorizing the Disbursement of Funds for Payment of Certain Continuing Expenses Without Prior Approval of the Board of Supervisors; Authorizing the Disbursement of Funds for Payment of Certain Non-Continuing Expenses Without Prior Approval of the Board of Supervisors; Providing for a Monetary Threshold; and Providing for an Effective Date
 - E. Resolution 2024-23, Adopting a Policy for Reimbursement of District Travel Expenses; and Providing for Severability and an Effective Date
 - F. Resolution 2024-24, Adopting Prompt Payment Policies and Procedures Pursuant to Chapter 218, Florida Statutes; Providing a Severability Clause; and Providing an Effective Date
 - G. Resolution 2024-25, Adopting an Internal Controls Policy Consistent with Section 218.33, Florida Statutes; Providing an Effective Date
 - H. E-Verify Memo with MOU
 - I. Resolution 2024-26, Authorizing an Individual Designated by the Board of Supervisors to Act as the District's Purchasing Agent for the Purpose of Procuring, Accepting, and Maintaining Any and All Construction Materials Necessary for the Construction, Installation, Maintenance or Completion of the District's Infrastructure Improvements as Provided in the District's Adopted Improvement Plan; Providing for the Approval of a Work Authorization; Providing for Procedural Requirements for the Purchase of Materials; Approving the Form of a Purchase Requisition Request; Approving the Form of a Purchase Order; Approving the Form of a Certificate of Entitlement; Authorizing the Purchase of Insurance; Providing a Severability Clause; and Providing an Effective Date

BOND FINANCING ITEMS

10. Consideration of the Following Bond Financing Related Items:

- A. Bond Financing Team Funding Agreement
- B. Engagement of Bond Financing Professionals
 - I. Underwriter/Investment Banker: *MBS Capital Markets, LLC*
 - II. Bond Counsel: *Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, P.A.* **[deferred]**
 - III. Trustee, Paying Agent and Registrar: *US Bank Trust Company, N.A.*
- C. Resolution 2024-27, Designating a Date, Time, and Location of a Public Hearing Regarding the District's Intent to Use the Uniform Method for the Levy, Collection, and Enforcement of Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessments as Authorized by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes; Authorizing the Publication of the Notice of Such Hearing; and Providing an Effective Date **[deferred]**
- D. Presentation of Master Engineer's Report **[deferred]**
- E. Presentation of Master Special Assessment Methodology Report **[deferred]**
- F. Resolution 2024-28, Declaring Special Assessments; Indicating the Location, Nature and Cost of those Improvements Which Cost is Being Financed and Such Financing is to be Defrayed by the Special Assessments; Providing the Portion of the Cost of the Improvements to be Defrayed by the Special Assessments; Providing the Manner in Which Such Special Assessments Shall be Made; Providing When Such Special Assessments Shall be Paid; Designating Lands Upon Which the Special Assessments Shall be Levied; Providing for an Assessment Plat; Adopting a Preliminary Assessment Roll; Providing for Publication of this Resolution **[deferred]**
- G. Resolution 2024-29, Setting a Public Hearing for the Purpose of Hearing Public Comment on Imposing Special Assessments on Certain Property Within the District Generally Described as the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District in Accordance with Chapters 170 and 197, Florida Statutes **[deferred]**
- H. Resolution 2024-30, Authorizing the Issuance of Not to Exceed **[deferred]**

11. Staff Reports

- A. District Counsel: *Kutak Rock LLP*
- B. District Engineer (Interim): *Atwell, LLC*
- C. District Manager: *Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC*

12. Board Members' Comments/Requests

13. Public Comments

14. Adjournment

The third order of business is general in nature; you will subscribe to an Oath of Office. As a Supervisor, you are a local public official and, as such, subject to financial disclosure requirements, Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, and the Sunshine Law. The enclosed, Form 1 – Statement of Financial Interests, must be completed and mailed to the Supervisor of Elections, in the county in which you permanently reside, within 30 days of appointment to office.

The fourth order of business canvasses and certifies the results of the landowners' election of Supervisors, which will be evidenced by the adoption of Resolution 2024-01.

The fifth order of business deals with the designation and appointment of officers, which will be evidenced by the adoption of Resolution 2024-02. The following guidelines are recommended for consideration by the Board:

Chair	Elected by the Board members and must be a member of the Board. He/She is responsible for conducting the meetings of the Board and for signing required documents of the District.
Vice Chair	Elected by the Board members and must be a member of the Board. He/She acts in the position of Chair in the absence of the Chair.
Secretary	Elected by the Board members and can be either a member of the Board or a member of the District's Staff. The Secretary of the Board is responsible for keeping all of the District's public records, including minutes, agendas, etc., along with attesting to the Chair's signature on documents. Generally, the District Manager serves as the Secretary.
Treasurer	Elected by the Board members and either a member of the Board or a member of the District's Staff. The Treasurer of the Board is responsible for maintaining the District's accounting records, including coordination with the Trustee, the Auditor, Accounts Payable, and Payroll Staff, etc. Generally, the District Manager serves as the Treasurer.
Assistant Treasurer	Elected by the Board members and either a member of the Board or a member of the District's Staff. The Assistant Treasurer of the Board is responsible for supporting the Treasurer in maintaining the District's

accounting records, including coordination with the Trustee, the Auditor, Accounts Payable, and Payroll Staff, etc.

Assistant Secretary Elected by the Board members and recommended to be all other members of the Board who do not hold either the Chair's or the Vice Chair's position.

The sixth order of business relates to organizational matters, including the appointment of the District Manager, General Counsel, Interim Engineer, designation of Registered Agent, Primary Administrative Office, as well as website related items. In addition, the Board will address the selection of dates and a location for the District's regular meeting schedule for Fiscal Year 2023/2024. Generally, the Board meets on a monthly basis throughout the year, and the establishment of a regular meeting date, time and location is recommended.

The seventh order of business deals with banking matters including designation of a Qualified Public Depository, establishment of a District checking account and designation of signatories.

The eighth order of business deals with budgetary matters, including consideration of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 and adoption of the resolution approving the proposed budget for the purpose of setting public hearings to adopt the final budget. The Board will also be considering Funding Agreement for Fiscal Year 2023/2024, Alternative Investment Guidelines for the District, as well as Prompt Payment Policies.

If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (239) 464-7114.

Sincerely,



Chesley (Chuck) E. Adams, Jr.
District Manager

FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF TO ATTEND BY TELEPHONE

CALL-IN NUMBER: 1-888-354-0094

PARTICIPANT PASSCODE: 229 774 8903

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

3

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OATH OF OFFICE**

I, _____, A CITIZEN OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND BEING EMPLOYED BY OR AN OFFICER OF STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT AND A RECIPIENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS AS SUCH EMPLOYEE OR OFFICER, DO HEREBY SOLEMNLY SWEAR OR AFFIRM THAT I WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

Board Supervisor

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF OATH BEING TAKEN

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF _____

The foregoing oath was administered before me before me by means of ☐ physical presence or ☐ online notarization on this ____ day of _____, 202__, by _____, who personally appeared before me, and is personally known to me or has produced _____ as identification, and is the person described in and who took the aforementioned oath as a Member of the Board of Supervisors of Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District and acknowledged to and before me that he/she took said oath for the purposes therein expressed.

(NOTARY SEAL)

Notary Public, State of Florida

Print Name: _____

Commission No.: _____ Expires: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: ☐ Home ☐ Office County of Residence _____

Street Phone Fax

City, State, Zip Email Address

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

3A

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Supervisors
From: District Counsel
Date: January 1, 2024
Subject: Ethics Training Requirements

Beginning January 1, 2024, all Board Supervisors of Florida Community Development Districts will be required to complete four (4) hours of Ethics training each year. The four (4) hours must be allocated to the following categories: two (2) hours of Ethics Law, one (1) hour of Sunshine Law, and one (1) hour of Public Records law.

This training may be completed online, and the four (4) hours do not have to be completed all at once. The Florida Commission on Ethics (“COE”) has compiled a list of resources for this training. An overview of the resources are described below, and links to the resources are included in this memo.

Each year when Supervisors complete the required financial disclosure form (Form 1 Statement of Financial Interests), Supervisors must mark a box confirming that he or she has completed the Ethics training requirements. At this time, there is no requirement to submit a certificate; however, the COE advises that Supervisors keep a record of all trainings completed (including date and time of completion), in the event Supervisors are ever asked to provide proof of completion. The training is a calendar year requirement and corresponds to the form year. So, Supervisors will not report their 2024 training until they fill out their Form 1 for the 2025 year.

Free Training Options

The Florida Commission on Ethics’ (“COE”) website has several free online resources and links to resources that Supervisors can access to complete the training requirements. Navigate to that page here: [Florida Commission on Ethics Training](https://ethics.state.fl.us/Training/Training.aspx).¹ Please note that the COE only provides free training for the two (2) hour Ethics portion of the annual training. However, the COE does provide links to free outside resources to complete the Sunshine and Public Records portion of the training. These links are included in this memorandum below for your ease of reference.

¹ <https://ethics.state.fl.us/Training/Training.aspx>

Free Ethics Law Training

The COE provides several videos for Ethics training, none of which are exactly two (2) hours in length. Please ensure you complete 120 minutes of Ethics training when choosing a combination of the below.

State Ethics Laws for Constitutional Officers & Elected Municipal Officers (100 minutes)

Click here: [Kinetic Ethics](#)

Business and Employment Conflicts and Post-Public-Service (56 minutes) Restriction

Click here: [Business and Employment Conflicts](#)

Gifts (50 minutes)

Click here: [Ethics Laws Governing Acceptance of Gifts](#)

Voting Conflicts - Local Officers (58 minutes)¹

Click here: [Voting Vertigo](#)

Free Sunshine/Public Records Law Training

The Office of the Attorney General provides a two (2) hour online training course (audio only) that meets the requirements of the Sunshine Law and Public Records Law portion of Supervisors' annual training.

Click here to access: [Public Meeting and Public Records Law](#)

Other Training Options

4- Hour Course

Some courses will provide a certificate upon completion (not required), like the one found from the Florida State University, Florida Institute of Government, linked here: [4-Hour Ethics Course](#). This course meets all the ethics training requirements for the year, including Sunshine Law and Public Records training. This course is currently \$79.00

CLE Course

The COE's website includes a link to the Florida Bar's Continuing Legal Education online tutorial which also meets all the Ethics training requirements. However, this is a CLE course designed more specifically for attorneys. The 5 hours 18 minutes' long course exceeds the 4-hour requirement and its cost is significantly higher than the 4-Hour Ethics course provided by the Florida State University. The course is currently \$325.00. To access this course, click here: [Sunshine Law, Public Records and Ethics for Public Officers and Public Employees](#).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

2023 Form 1 - Statement of Financial Interests

General Information

Name: DISCLOSURE FILER

Address: SAMPLE ADDRESS

County: SAMPLE COUNTY

PID SAMPLE

AGENCY INFORMATION

Organization	Suborganization	Title
SAMPLE	SAMPLE	SAMPLE

Disclosure Period

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS YOUR FINANCIAL INTERESTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023 .

Primary Sources of Income

PRIMARY SOURCE OF INCOME (Over \$2,500) (Major sources of income to the reporting person)
(If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

Name of Source of Income	Source's Address	Description of the Source's Principal Business Activity

Secondary Sources of Income

SECONDARY SOURCES OF INCOME (Major customers, clients, and other sources of income to businesses owned by the reporting person) (If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

Name of Business Entity	Name of Major Sources of Business' Income	Address of Source	Principal Business Activity of Source

Real Property

REAL PROPERTY (Land, buildings owned by the reporting person)
(If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

Location/Description

Intangible Personal Property

INTANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY (Stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, etc. over \$10,000)
(If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

Type of Intangible	Business Entity to Which the Property Relates

Liabilities

LIABILITIES (Major debts valued over \$10,000):
(If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

Name of Creditor	Address of Creditor

Interests in Specified Businesses

INTERESTS IN SPECIFIED BUSINESSES (Ownership or positions in certain types of businesses)
(If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

Business Entity # 1

Training

Based on the office or position you hold, the certification of training required under Section 112.3142, F.S., is not applicable to you for this form year.

Signature of Filer

Digitally signed:

Filed with COE:

E-FILING SAMPLE

2023 Form 1 Instructions

Statement of Financial Interests

Notice

The annual Statement of Financial Interest is due July 1, 2024. If the annual form is not submitted via the electronic filing system created and maintained by the Commission September 3, 2024, an automatic fine of \$25 for each day late will be imposed, up to a maximum penalty of \$1,500. Failure to file also can result in removal from public office or employment. [s. 112.3145, F.S.]

In addition, failure to make any required disclosure constitutes grounds for and may be punished by one or more of the following: disqualification from being on the ballot, impeachment, removal or suspension from office or employment, demotion, reduction in salary, reprimand, or a civil penalty not exceeding \$10,000. [s. 112.317, F.S.]

When To File:

Initially, each local officer/employee, state officer, and specified state employee must file **within 30 days** of the date of his or her appointment or of the beginning of employment. Appointees who must be confirmed by the Senate must file prior to confirmation, even if that is less than 30 days from the date of their appointment.

Candidates must file at the same time they file their qualifying papers.

Thereafter, file by July 1 following each calendar year in which they hold their positions.

Finally, file a final disclosure form (Form 1F) within 60 days of leaving office or employment. Filing a CE Form 1F (Final Statement of Financial Interests) does not relieve the filer of filing a CE Form 1 if the filer was in his or her position on December 31, 2023.

Who Must File Form 1

1. Elected public officials not serving in a political subdivision of the state and any person appointed to fill a vacancy in such office, unless required to file full disclosure on Form 6.
2. Appointed members of each board, commission, authority, or council having statewide jurisdiction, excluding those required to file full disclosure on Form 6 as well as members of solely advisory bodies, but including judicial nominating commission members; Directors of Enterprise Florida, Scripps Florida Funding Corporation, and Career Source Florida; and members of the Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys; the Executive Director, Governors, and senior managers of Citizens Property Insurance Corporation; Governors and senior managers of Florida Workers' Compensation Joint Underwriting Association; board members of the Northeast Fla. Regional Transportation Commission; board members of Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc; board members of Florida Is For Veterans, Inc.; and members of the Technology Advisory Council within the Agency for State Technology.
3. The Commissioner of Education, members of the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors, the local Boards of Trustees and Presidents of state universities, and the Florida Prepaid College Board.
4. Persons elected to office in any political subdivision (such as municipalities, counties, and special districts) and any person appointed to fill a vacancy in such office, unless required to file Form 6.
5. Appointed members of the following boards, councils, commissions, authorities, or other bodies of county, municipality, school district, independent special district, or other political subdivision: the governing body of the subdivision; community college or junior college district boards of trustees; boards having the power to enforce local code provisions; boards of adjustment; community redevelopment agencies; planning or zoning boards having the power to recommend, create, or modify land planning or zoning within a political subdivision, except for citizen advisory committees, technical coordinating committees, and similar groups who only have the power to make recommendations to planning or zoning boards, and except for representatives of a military installation acting on behalf of all military installations within that jurisdiction; pension or retirement boards empowered to invest pension or retirement funds or determine entitlement to or amount of pensions or other retirement benefits, and the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board.
6. Any appointed member of a local government board who is required to file a statement of financial interests by the appointing authority or the enabling legislation, ordinance, or resolution creating the board.
7. Persons holding any of these positions in local government: county or city manager; chief administrative employee or finance director of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision; county or municipal attorney; chief county or municipal building inspector; county or municipal water resources coordinator; county or municipal pollution control director; county or municipal environmental control director; county or municipal administrator with power to grant or deny a land development permit; chief of police; fire chief; municipal clerk; appointed district school superintendent; community college president; district medical examiner; purchasing agent (regardless of title) having the authority to make any purchase exceeding \$35,000 for the local governmental unit.

8. Officers and employees of entities serving as chief administrative officer of a political subdivision.
9. Members of governing boards of charter schools operated by a city or other public entity.
10. Employees in the office of the Governor or of a Cabinet member who are exempt from the Career Service System, excluding secretarial, clerical, and similar positions.
11. The following positions in each state department, commission, board, or council: Secretary, Assistant or Deputy Secretary, Executive Director, Assistant or Deputy Executive Director, and anyone having the power normally conferred upon such persons, regardless of title.
12. The following positions in each state department or division: Director, Assistant or Deputy Director, Bureau Chief, and any person having the power normally conferred upon such persons, regardless of title.
13. Assistant State Attorneys, Assistant Public Defenders, criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, and assistant criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, Public Counsel, full-time state employees serving as counsel or assistant counsel to a state agency, administrative law judges, and hearing officers.
14. The Superintendent or Director of a state mental health institute established for training and research in the mental health field, or any major state institution or facility established for corrections, training, treatment, or rehabilitation.
15. State agency Business Managers, Finance and Accounting Directors, Personnel Officers, Grant Coordinators, and purchasing agents (regardless of title) with power to make a purchase exceeding \$35,000.
16. The following positions in legislative branch agencies: each employee (other than those employed in maintenance, clerical, secretarial, or similar positions and legislative assistants exempted by the presiding officer of their house); and each employee of the Commission on Ethics.
17. Each member of the governing body of a "large-hub commercial service airport," as defined in Section 112.3144(1)(c), Florida Statutes, except for members required to comply with the financial disclosure requirements of s. 8, Article II of the State Constitution.

ATTACHMENTS: A filer may include and submit attachments or other supporting documentation when filing disclosure.

PUBLIC RECORD: The disclosure form is a public record and is required by law to be posted to the Commission's website. Your Social Security number, bank account, debit, charge, and credit card numbers, mortgage or brokerage account numbers, personal identification numbers, or taxpayer identification numbers are not required and should not be included. If such information is included in the filing, it may be made available for public inspection and copying unless redaction is required by the filer, without any liability to the Commission. If you are an active or former officer or employee listed in Section 119.071, F.S., whose home address or other information is exempt from disclosure, the Commission will maintain that confidentiality *if you submit a written and notarized request.*

QUESTIONS about this form or the ethics laws may be addressed to the Commission on Ethics, Post Office Drawer 15709, Tallahassee, Florida 32317-5709; physical address: 325 John Knox Road, Building E, Suite 200, Tallahassee, FL 32303; telephone (850) 488-7864.

Instructions for Completing Form 1

Primary Sources of Income

[Required by s. 112.3145(3)(b)1, F.S.]

This section is intended to require the disclosure of your principal sources of income during the disclosure period. You do not have to disclose any public salary or public position(s). The income of your spouse need not be disclosed; however, if there is joint income to you and your spouse from property you own jointly (such as interest or dividends from a bank account or stocks), you should disclose the source of that income if it exceeded the threshold.

Please list in this part of the form the name, address, and principal business activity of each source of your income which exceeded \$2,500 of gross income received by you in your own name or by any other person for your use or benefit.

"Gross income" means the same as it does for income tax purposes, even if the income is not actually taxable, such as interest on tax-free bonds. Examples include: compensation for services, income from business, gains from property dealings, interest, rents, dividends, pensions, IRA distributions, social security, distributive share of partnership gross income, and alimony if considered gross income under federal law, but not child support.

Examples:

- If you were employed by a company that manufactures computers and received more than \$2,500, list the name of the company, its address, and its principal business activity (computer manufacturing).
- If you were a partner in a law firm and your distributive share of partnership gross income exceeded \$2,500, list the name of the firm, its address, and its principal business activity (practice of law).
- If you were the sole proprietor of a retail gift business and your gross income from the business exceeded \$2,500, list the name of the business, its address, and its principal business activity (retail gift sales).
- If you received income from investments in stocks and bonds, list each individual company from which you derived more than \$2,500. Do not aggregate all of your investment income.

- If more than \$2,500 of your gross income was gain from the sale of property (not just the selling price), list as a source of income the purchaser's name, address and principal business activity. If the purchaser's identity is unknown, such as where securities listed on an exchange are sold through a brokerage firm, the source of income should be listed as "sale of (name of company) stock," for example.
- If more than \$2,500 of your gross income was in the form of interest from one particular financial institution (aggregating interest from all CD's, accounts, etc., at that institution), list the name of the institution, its address, and its principal business activity.

Secondary Sources of Income

[Required by s. 112.3145(3)(b)2, F.S.]

This part is intended to require the disclosure of major customers, clients, and other sources of income to businesses in which you own an interest. It is not for reporting income from second jobs. That kind of income should be reported in "Primary Sources of Income," if it meets the reporting threshold. You will not have anything to report unless, during the disclosure period:

1. You owned (either directly or indirectly in the form of an equitable or beneficial interest) more than 5% of the total assets or capital stock of a business entity (a corporation, partnership, LLC, limited partnership, proprietorship, joint venture, trust, firm, etc., doing business in Florida); **and,**
2. You received more than \$5,000 of your gross income during the disclosure period from that business entity.

If your interests and gross income exceeded these thresholds, then for that business entity you must list every source of income to the business entity which exceeded 10% of the business entity's gross income (computed on the basis of the business entity's most recently completed fiscal year), the source's address, and the source's principal business activity.

Examples:

- You are the sole proprietor of a dry cleaning business, from which you received more than \$5,000. If only one customer, a uniform rental company, provided more than 10% of your dry cleaning business, you must list the name of the uniform rental company, its address, and its principal business activity (uniform rentals).
- You are a 20% partner in a partnership that owns a shopping mall and your partnership income exceeded the above thresholds. List each tenant of the mall that provided more than 10% of the partnership's gross income and the tenant's address and principal business activity.

Real Property

[Required by s. 112.3145(3)(b)3, F.S.]

In this part, list the location or description of all real property in Florida in which you owned directly or indirectly at any time during the disclosure period in excess of 5% of the property's value. You are not required to list your residences. You should list any vacation homes if you derive income from them.

Indirect ownership includes situations where you are a beneficiary of a trust that owns the property, as well as situations where you own more than 5% of a partnership or corporation that owns the property. The value of the property may be determined by the most recently assessed value for tax purposes, in the absence of a more accurate fair market value.

The location or description of the property should be sufficient to enable anyone who looks at the form to identify the property. A street address should be used, if one exists.

Intangible Personal Property

[Required by s. 112.3145(3)(b)3, F.S.]

Describe any intangible personal property that, at any time during the disclosure period, was worth more than \$10,000 and state the business entity to which the property related. Intangible personal property includes things such as cash on hand, stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, vehicle leases, interests in businesses, beneficial interests in trusts, money owed you (including, but not limited to, loans made as a candidate to your own campaign), Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) accounts, the Florida Prepaid College Plan, and bank accounts in which you have an ownership interest. Intangible personal property also includes investment products held in IRAs, brokerage accounts, and the Florida College Investment Plan. Note that the product contained in a brokerage account, IRA, or the Florida College Investment Plan is your asset—not the account or plan itself. Things like automobiles and houses you own, jewelry, and paintings are not intangible property. Intangibles relating to the same business entity may be aggregated; for example, CDs and savings accounts with the same bank. Property owned as tenants by the entirety or as joint tenants with right of survivorship, including bank accounts owned in such a manner, should be valued at 100%. The value of a leased vehicle is the vehicle's present value minus the lease residual (a number found on the lease document).

Liabilities

[Required by s. 112.3145(3)(b)4, F.S.]

List the name and address of each creditor to whom you owed more than \$10,000 at any time during the disclosure period. The amount of the liability of a vehicle lease is the sum of any past-due payments and all unpaid prospective lease payments. You are not required to list the amount of any debt. You do not have to disclose credit card and retail installment accounts, taxes owed (unless reduced to a judgment), indebtedness on a life insurance policy owed to the company of issuance, or contingent liabilities. A "contingent liability" is one that will become an actual liability only when one or more future events occur or fail to occur, such as where you are liable only as a guarantor, surety, or endorser on a promissory note. If you are a "co-maker" and are jointly liable or jointly and severally liable, then it is not a contingent liability.

Interests in Specified Businesses

[Required by s. 112.3145(7), F.S.]

The types of businesses covered in this disclosure include: state and federally chartered banks; state and federal savings and loan associations; cemetery companies; insurance companies; mortgage companies; credit unions; small loan companies; alcoholic beverage licensees; pari-mutuel wagering companies, utility companies, entities controlled by the Public Service Commission; and entities granted a franchise to operate by either a city or a county government.

Disclose in this part the fact that you owned during the disclosure period an interest in, or held any of certain positions with the types of businesses listed above. You must make this disclosure if you own or owned (either directly or indirectly in the form of an equitable or beneficial interest) at any time during the disclosure period more than 5% of the total assets or capital stock of one of the types of business entities listed above. You also must complete this part of the form for each of these types of businesses for which you are, or were at any time during the disclosure period, an officer, director, partner, proprietor, or agent (other than a resident agent solely for service of process).

If you have or held such a position or ownership interest in one of these types of businesses, list the name of the business, its address and principal business activity, and the position held with the business (if any). If you own(ed) more than a 5% interest in the business, indicate that fact and describe the nature of your interest.

Training Certification

[Required by s. 112.3142, F.S.]

If you are a Constitutional or elected municipal officer appointed school superintendent, a commissioner of a community redevelopment agency created under Part III, Chapter 163, or an elected local officers of independent special districts, including any person appointed to fill a vacancy on an elected special district board, whose service began on or before March 31 of the year for which you are filing, you are required to complete four hours of ethics training which addresses Article II, Section 8 of the Florida Constitution, the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, and the public records and open meetings laws of the state. You are required to certify on this form that you have taken such training.

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

3B

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MEMBERSHIP, OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A Community Development District ("District") is a special-purpose unit of local government which is established pursuant to and governed by Chapter 190, Florida Statutes.

The Board

The Community Development District ("District") is governed by a five (5)-member Board of Supervisors ("Board"). Member of the Board "Supervisor(s)" are elected in accordance with Section 190.006, F.S., either upon a one (1)-vote per one (1)-acre basis ("landowner voting") or through traditional elections ("resident voting"), depending upon the number of registered voters in the District and the length of time which has passed since the establishment of the District.

A CDD Board typically meets once per month, but may meet more often if necessary. Board meetings typically last from one (1) to three (3) hours, depending upon the business to be conducted by the Board. Prior to the meeting, each Supervisor is supplied with an agenda package which will contain the documents pertaining to the business to be considered by the Board at a particular meeting. A Supervisor should be willing to spend time reviewing these packages prior to each meeting, and may consult with District Staff (General Counsel, Management, Engineering, etc.) concerning the business to be addressed.

Qualifications of Supervisors

Each Supervisor must be a resident of the state of Florida and a citizen of the United States. Once a District has transitioned to resident voting, Supervisors must also be residents of the District.

Compensation

By statute, Board Members are entitled to be paid \$200 per meeting for their service, up to an annual cap of \$4,800 per year. To achieve the statutory cap, the District would have to meet twice each month, which is rare.

Sometimes Supervisors who are employees of the primary landowner waive their right to compensation, although this is not always the case.

Responsibilities of Supervisors

The position of Supervisor is that of an elected local public official. It is important to always remember that serving as an elected public official of a District carries with it certain restrictions and obligations. Each Supervisor, upon taking office, must subscribe to an oath of office acknowledging that he/she is a public officer, and as a recipient of public funds, a supporter of the constitutions of the State of Florida and of the United States of America.

Each Supervisor is subject to the same financial disclosure requirements as any other local elected official and must file a Statement of Financial Interests disclosing

sources of income, assets, debts, and other financial data, with the Supervisor of Elections in the County where he/she resides.

A Supervisor must act in accordance with the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, codified at Part III, Chapter 112, F.S., which addresses acceptance of gifts, conflicts of interest, etc. By law, it is not a conflict of interest for an employee of the developer to serve on a CDD Board of Supervisors.

Since a District is a unit of local government, the Sunshine Law (Chapter 286, F.S.) applies to Districts and to the Supervisors who govern them. In brief, the Sunshine Law states that two(2) or more Supervisors may never meet outside of a publicly noticed meeting of the Board and/to discuss District business.

Florida's Public Records Law (Chapter 119, F.S.) also applies to Districts and Supervisors. All records of the District, and the records of each individual Supervisor relating to the District, are public records. As such, any member of the public may inspect them upon request. Supervisors are therefore urged to keep any District records or documents in a separate file to allow ease of access by the public or press.

Conclusion

The position of Supervisor of a Community Development District is an important one, requiring both the time and the dedication to fulfill the responsibilities of a position of public trust. It should not be undertaken lightly. Each new Supervisor should enter office fully cognizant of the ethical, legal, and time requirements which are incumbent upon those who serve as Supervisors.

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

3C

FLORIDA COMMISSION ON ETHICS



GUIDE to the SUNSHINE AMENDMENT and CODE of ETHICS for Public Officers and Employees

2024

State of Florida

COMMISSION ON ETHICS

Ashley Lukis, *Chair*
Tallahassee

Michelle Anchors, *Vice Chair*
Fort Walton Beach

William P. Cervone
Gainesville

Tina Descovich
Indianapolis

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. HISTORY OF FLORIDA'S ETHICS LAWS.....	1
II. ROLE OF THE COMMISSION ON ETHICS.....	2
III. THE ETHICS LAWS.....	2
A. PROHIBITED ACTIONS OR CONDUCT	3
1. Solicitation or Acceptance of Gifts	3
2. Unauthorized Compensation	4
3. Misuse of Public Position	4
4. Abuse of Public Position	4
5. Disclosure or Use of Certain Information.....	4
6. Solicitation or Acceptance of Honoraria	5
B. PROHIBITED EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS	5
1. Doing Business With One's Agency	5
2. Conflicting Employment or Contractual Relationship.....	6
3. Exemptions	6
4. Additional Exemption	8
5. Lobbying State Agencies by Legislators.....	8
6. Additional Lobbying Restrictions for Certain Public Officers and Employees	8
7. Employees Holding Office	8
8. Professional & Occupational Licensing Board Members	9
9. Contractual Services: Prohibited Employment	9
10. Local Government Attorneys	9
11. Dual Public Employment	9
C. RESTRICTIONS ON APPOINTING, EMPLOYING, AND CONTRACTING WITH RELATIVES.....	10
1. Anti-Nepotism Law	10
2. Additional Restrictions	10
D. POST OFFICEHOLDING & EMPLOYMENT (REVOLVING DOOR) RESTRICTIONS	10
1. Lobbying By Former Legislators, Statewide Elected Officers, and Appointed State Officers	10
2. Lobbying By Former State Employees.....	11
3. 6-Year Lobbying Ban	12
4. Additional Restrictions on Former State Employees	12
5. Lobbying By Former Local Government Officers and Employees.....	13

E. VOTING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	13
F. DISCLOSURES	14
1. Form 1 - Limited Financial Disclosure	15
2. Form 1F - Final Form 1.....	19
3. Form 2 - Quarterly Client Disclosure	19
4. Form 6 - Full and Public Disclosure	20
5. Form 6F - Final Form 6.....	21
6. Form 9 - Quarterly Gift Disclosure	21
7. Form 10 - Annual Disclosure of Gifts from Governmental Entities and Direct Support Organizations and Honorarium Event-Related Expenses	22
8. Form 30 - Donor's Quarterly Gift Disclosure.....	23
9. Forms 1X and 6X – Amendments	24
IV. AVAILABILITY OF FORMS	24
V. PENALTIES	25
A. For Violations of the Code of Ethics	25
B. For Violations by Candidates	25
C. For Violations by Former Officers and Employees	25
D. For Lobbyists and Others.....	26
E. Felony Convictions: Forfeiture of Retirement Benefits	26
F. Automatic Penalties for Failure to File Annual Disclosure.....	26
VI. ADVISORY OPINIONS	27
A. Who Can Request an Opinion.....	27
B. How to Request an Opinion.....	27
C. How to Obtain Published Opinions.....	27
VII. COMPLAINTS.....	28
A. Citizen Involvement	28
B. Referrals.....	28
C. Confidentiality.....	28
D. How the Complaint Process Works	29
E. Dismissal of Complaint at Any Stage of Disposition	30
F. Statute of Limitations.....	30
VIII. EXECUTIVE BRANCH LOBBYING	30
IX. WHISTLE-BLOWER'S ACT	31
X. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	32
XI. TRAINING	32

I. HISTORY OF FLORIDA'S ETHICS LAWS

Florida has been a leader among the states in establishing ethics standards for public officials and recognizing the right of citizens to protect the public trust against abuse. Our state Constitution was revised in 1968 to require a code of ethics, prescribed by law, for all state employees and non-judicial officers prohibiting conflict between public duty and private interests.

Florida's first successful constitutional initiative resulted in the adoption of the Sunshine Amendment in 1976, providing additional constitutional guarantees concerning ethics in government. In the area of enforcement, the Sunshine Amendment requires that there be an independent commission (the Commission on Ethics) to investigate complaints concerning breaches of public trust by public officers and employees other than judges.

The Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees is found in Chapter 112 (Part III) of the Florida Statutes. Foremost among the goals of the Code is to promote the public interest and maintain the respect of the people for their government. The Code is also intended to ensure that public officials conduct themselves independently and impartially, not using their offices for private gain other than compensation provided by law. While seeking to protect the integrity of government, the Code also seeks to avoid the creation of unnecessary barriers to public service.

Criminal penalties, which initially applied to violations of the Code, were eliminated in 1974 in favor of administrative enforcement. The Legislature created the Commission on Ethics that year "to serve as guardian of the standards of conduct" for public officials, state and local. Five of the Commission's nine members are appointed by the Governor, and two each are appointed by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives. No more than five Commission members may be members of the same political party, and none may be lobbyists, or hold any public employment during their two-year terms of office. A chair is selected from among the members to serve a one-year term and may not succeed himself or herself.

II. ROLE OF THE COMMISSION ON ETHICS

In addition to its constitutional duties regarding the investigation of complaints, the Commission:

- Renders advisory opinions to public officials;
- Prescribes forms for public disclosure;
- Prepares mailing lists of public officials subject to financial disclosure for use by Supervisors of Elections and the Commission in distributing forms and notifying delinquent filers;
- Makes recommendations to disciplinary officials when appropriate for violations of ethics and disclosure laws, since it does not impose penalties;
- Administers the Executive Branch Lobbyist Registration and Reporting Law;
- Maintains financial disclosure filings of constitutional officers and state officers and employees; and,
- Administers automatic fines for public officers and employees who fail to timely file required annual financial disclosure.

III. THE ETHICS LAWS

The ethics laws generally consist of two types of provisions, those prohibiting certain actions or conduct and those requiring that certain disclosures be made to the public. The following descriptions of these laws have been simplified in an effort to provide notice of their requirements. Therefore, we suggest that you also review the wording of the actual law. Citations to the appropriate laws are in brackets.

The laws summarized below apply generally to all public officers and employees, state and local, including members of advisory bodies. The principal exception to this broad coverage is the exclusion of judges, as they fall within the jurisdiction of the Judicial Qualifications Commission.

Public Service Commission (PSC) members and employees, as well as members of the PSC Nominating Council, are subject to additional ethics standards that are enforced by the Commission on Ethics under Chapter 350, Florida Statutes. Further, members of the governing boards of charter schools are subject to some of the provisions of the Code of Ethics [Sec. 1002.33(26), Fla. Stat.], as are the officers, directors, chief executive officers and some employees of business entities that serve as the chief administrative or executive officer or employee of a political subdivision. [Sec. 112.3136, Fla. Stat.].

A. PROHIBITED ACTIONS OR CONDUCT

1. Solicitation and Acceptance of Gifts

Public officers, employees, local government attorneys, and candidates are prohibited from soliciting or accepting anything of value, such as a gift, loan, reward, promise of future employment, favor, or service, that is based on an understanding that their vote, official action, or judgment would be influenced by such gift. [Sec. 112.313(2), Fla. Stat.]

Persons required to file financial disclosure FORM 1 or FORM 6 (see Part III F of this brochure), and state procurement employees, are prohibited from **soliciting** any gift from a political committee, lobbyist who has lobbied the official or his or her agency within the past 12 months, or the partner, firm, employer, or principal of such a lobbyist or from a vendor doing business with the official's agency. [Sec. 112.3148, Fla. Stat.]

Persons required to file FORM 1 or FORM 6, and state procurement employees are prohibited from directly or indirectly **accepting** a gift worth more than \$100 from such a lobbyist, from a partner, firm, employer, or principal of the lobbyist, or from a political committee or vendor doing business with their agency. [Sec. 112.3148, Fla. Stat.]

However, notwithstanding Sec. 112.3148, Fla. Stat., no Executive Branch lobbyist or principal shall make, directly or indirectly, and no Executive Branch agency official who files FORM 1 or FORM 6 shall knowingly accept, directly or indirectly, **any expenditure** made for the purpose of lobbying. [Sec. 112.3215, Fla. Stat.] Typically, this would include gifts valued at less than \$100 that formerly

were permitted under Section 112.3148, Fla. Stat. Similar rules apply to members and employees of the Legislature. However, these laws are not administered by the Commission on Ethics. [Sec. 11.045, Fla. Stat.]

Also, persons required to file Form 1 or Form 6, and state procurement employees and members of their immediate families, are prohibited from accepting any gift from a political committee. [Sec. 112.31485, Fla. Stat.]

2. Unauthorized Compensation

Public officers or employees, local government attorneys, and their spouses and minor children are prohibited from accepting any compensation, payment, or thing of value when they know, or with the exercise of reasonable care should know, that it is given to influence a vote or other official action. [Sec. 112.313(4), Fla. Stat.]

3. Misuse of Public Position

Public officers and employees, and local government attorneys are prohibited from corruptly using or attempting to use their official positions or the resources thereof to obtain a special privilege or benefit for themselves or others. [Sec. 112.313(6), Fla. Stat.]

4. Abuse of Public Position

Public officers and employees are prohibited from abusing their public positions in order to obtain a disproportionate benefit for themselves or certain others. [Article II, Section 8(h), Florida Constitution.]

5. Disclosure or Use of Certain Information

Public officers and employees and local government attorneys are prohibited from disclosing or using information not available to the public and obtained by reason of their public position, for the personal benefit of themselves or others. [Sec. 112.313(8), Fla. Stat.]

6. *Solicitation or Acceptance of Honoraria*

Persons required to file financial disclosure FORM 1 or FORM 6 (see Part III F of this brochure), and state procurement employees, are prohibited from **soliciting** honoraria related to their public offices or duties. [Sec. 112.3149, Fla. Stat.]

Persons required to file FORM 1 or FORM 6, and state procurement employees, are prohibited from knowingly **accepting** an honorarium from a political committee, lobbyist who has lobbied the person's agency within the past 12 months, or the partner, firm, employer, or principal of such a lobbyist, or from a vendor doing business with the official's agency. However, they may accept the payment of expenses related to an honorarium event from such individuals or entities, provided that the expenses are disclosed. See Part III F of this brochure. [Sec. 112.3149, Fla. Stat.]

Lobbyists and their partners, firms, employers, and principals, as well as political committees and vendors, are prohibited from **giving** an honorarium to persons required to file FORM 1 or FORM 6 and to state procurement employees. Violations of this law may result in fines of up to \$5,000 and prohibitions against lobbying for up to two years. [Sec. 112.3149, Fla. Stat.]

However, notwithstanding Sec. 112.3149, Fla. Stat., no Executive Branch or legislative lobbyist or principal shall make, directly or indirectly, and no Executive Branch agency official who files FORM 1 or FORM 6 shall knowingly accept, directly or indirectly, **any expenditure** made for the purpose of lobbying. [Sec. 112.3215, Fla. Stat.] This may include honorarium event related expenses that formerly were permitted under Sec. 112.3149, Fla. Stat. Similar rules apply to members and employees of the Legislature. However, these laws are not administered by the Commission on Ethics. [Sec. 11.045, Fla. Stat.]

B. **PROHIBITED EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS**

1. *Doing Business With One's Agency*

- a) A public employee acting as a purchasing agent, or public officer acting in an official capacity, is prohibited from purchasing, renting, or leasing any realty, goods, or

services for his or her agency from a business entity in which the officer or employee or his or her spouse or child owns more than a 5% interest. [Sec. 112.313(3), Fla. Stat.]

- b) A public officer or employee, acting in a private capacity, also is prohibited from renting, leasing, or selling any realty, goods, or services to his or her own agency if the officer or employee is a state officer or employee, or, if he or she is an officer or employee of a political subdivision, to that subdivision or any of its agencies. [Sec. 112.313(3), Fla. Stat.]

2. *Conflicting Employment or Contractual Relationship*

- a) A public officer or employee is prohibited from holding any employment or contract with any business entity or agency regulated by or doing business with his or her public agency. [Sec. 112.313(7), Fla. Stat.]
- b) A public officer or employee also is prohibited from holding any employment or having a contractual relationship which will pose a frequently recurring conflict between the official's private interests and public duties or which will impede the full and faithful discharge of the official's public duties. [Sec. 112.313(7), Fla. Stat.]
- c) Limited exceptions to this prohibition have been created in the law for legislative bodies, certain special tax districts, drainage districts, and persons whose professions or occupations qualify them to hold their public positions. [Sec. 112.313(7)(a) and (b), Fla. Stat.]

3. *Exemptions*—Pursuant to Sec. 112.313(12), Fla. Stat., the prohibitions against doing business with one's agency and having conflicting employment may not apply:

- a) When the business is rotated among all qualified suppliers in a city or county.
- b) When the business is awarded by sealed, competitive bidding and neither the official nor his or her spouse or child have attempted to persuade agency personnel to enter

the contract. NOTE: Disclosure of the interest of the official, spouse, or child and the nature of the business must be filed prior to or at the time of submission of the bid on Commission FORM 3A with the Commission on Ethics or Supervisor of Elections, depending on whether the official serves at the state or local level.

- c) When the purchase or sale is for legal advertising, utilities service, or for passage on a common carrier.
- d) When an emergency purchase must be made to protect the public health, safety, or welfare.
- e) When the business entity is the only source of supply within the political subdivision and there is full disclosure of the official's interest to the governing body on Commission FORM 4A.
- f) When the aggregate of any such transactions does not exceed \$500 in a calendar year.
- g) When the business transacted is the deposit of agency funds in a bank of which a county, city, or district official is an officer, director, or stockholder, so long as agency records show that the governing body has determined that the member did not favor his or her bank over other qualified banks.
- h) When the prohibitions are waived in the case of ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS by the appointing person or by a two-thirds vote of the appointing body (after disclosure on Commission FORM 4A).
- i) When the public officer or employee purchases in a private capacity goods or services, at a price and upon terms available to similarly situated members of the general public, from a business entity which is doing business with his or her agency.
- j) When the public officer or employee in a private capacity purchases goods or services from a business entity which is subject to the regulation of his or her agency where the price and terms of the transaction are available to similarly situated members of

the general public and the officer or employee makes full disclosure of the relationship to the agency head or governing body prior to the transaction.

4. *Additional Exemptions*

No elected public officer is in violation of the conflicting employment prohibition when employed by a tax exempt organization contracting with his or her agency so long as the officer is not directly or indirectly compensated as a result of the contract, does not participate in any way in the decision to enter into the contract, abstains from voting on any matter involving the employer, and makes certain disclosures. [Sec. 112.313(15), Fla. Stat.]

5. *Legislators Lobbying State Agencies*

A member of the Legislature is prohibited from representing another person or entity for compensation during his or her term of office before any state agency other than judicial tribunals. [Art. II, Sec. 8(e), Fla. Const., and Sec. 112.313(9), Fla. Stat.]

6. *Additional Lobbying Restrictions for Certain Public Officers and Employees*

A statewide elected officer; a member of the legislature; a county commissioner; a county officer pursuant to Article VIII or county charter; a school board member; a superintendent of schools; an elected municipal officer; an elected special district officer in a special district with ad valorem taxing authority; or a person serving as a secretary, an executive director, or other agency head of a department of the executive branch of state government shall not lobby for compensation on issues of policy, appropriations, or procurement before the federal government, the legislature, any state government body or agency, or any political subdivision of this state, during his or her term of office. [Art. II Sec 8(f)(2), Fla. Const. and Sec. 112.3121, Fla. Stat.]

7. *Employees Holding Office*

A public employee is prohibited from being a member of the governing body which serves as his or her employer. [Sec. 112.313(10), Fla. Stat.]

8. *Professional and Occupational Licensing Board Members*

An officer, director, or administrator of a state, county, or regional professional or occupational organization or association, while holding such position, may not serve as a member of a state examining or licensing board for the profession or occupation. [Sec. 112.313(11), Fla. Stat.]

9. *Contractual Services: Prohibited Employment*

A state employee of the executive or judicial branch who participates in the decision-making process involving a purchase request, who influences the content of any specification or procurement standard, or who renders advice, investigation, or auditing, regarding his or her agency's contract for services, is prohibited from being employed with a person holding such a contract with his or her agency. [Sec. 112.3185(2), Fla. Stat.]

10. *Local Government Attorneys*

Local government attorneys, such as the city attorney or county attorney, and their law firms are prohibited from representing private individuals and entities before the unit of local government which they serve. A local government attorney cannot recommend or otherwise refer to his or her firm legal work involving the local government unit unless the attorney's contract authorizes or mandates the use of that firm. [Sec. 112.313(16), Fla. Stat.]

11. *Dual Public Employment*

Candidates and elected officers are prohibited from accepting public employment if they know or should know it is being offered for the purpose of influence. Further, public employment may not be accepted unless the position was already in existence or was created without the anticipation of the official's interest, was publicly advertised, and the officer had to meet the same qualifications and go through the same hiring process as other applicants. For elected public officers already holding public employment, no promotion given for the purpose of influence may be accepted, nor may promotions that are inconsistent with those given other similarly situated employees. [Sec. 112.3125, Fla. Stat.]

C. RESTRICTIONS ON APPOINTING, EMPLOYING, AND CONTRACTING WITH RELATIVES

1. *Anti-Nepotism Law*

A public official is prohibited from seeking for a relative any appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement in the agency in which he or she is serving or over which the official exercises jurisdiction or control. No person may be appointed, employed, promoted, or advanced in or to a position in an agency if such action has been advocated by a related public official who is serving in or exercising jurisdiction or control over the agency; this includes relatives of members of collegial government bodies. NOTE: This prohibition does not apply to school districts (except as provided in Sec. 1012.23, Fla. Stat.), community colleges and state universities, or to appointments of boards, other than those with land-planning or zoning responsibilities, in municipalities of fewer than 35,000 residents. Also, the approval of budgets does not constitute “jurisdiction or control” for the purposes of this prohibition. This provision does not apply to volunteer emergency medical, firefighting, or police service providers. [Sec. 112.3135, Fla. Stat.]

2. *Additional Restrictions*

A state employee of the executive or judicial branch or the PSC is prohibited from directly or indirectly procuring contractual services for his or her agency from a business entity of which a relative is an officer, partner, director, or proprietor, or in which the employee, or his or her spouse, or children own more than a 5% interest. [Sec. 112.3185(6), Fla. Stat.]

D. POST OFFICE HOLDING AND EMPLOYMENT (REVOLVING DOOR) RESTRICTIONS

1. *Lobbying by Former Legislators, Statewide Elected Officers, and Appointed State Officers*

A member of the Legislature or a statewide elected or appointed state official is prohibited for two years following vacation of office from representing another person or entity for compensation before the government body or agency of which the individual was an officer or member. Former members of the Legislature are also prohibited for two years from lobbying the executive branch. [Art. II, Sec. 8(e), Fla. Const. and Sec. 112.313(9), Fla. Stat.]

2. *Lobbying by Former State Employees*

Certain employees of the executive and legislative branches of state government are prohibited from personally representing another person or entity for compensation before the agency with which they were employed for a period of two years after leaving their positions, unless employed by another agency of state government. [Sec. 112.313(9), Fla. Stat.] These employees include the following:

- a) Executive and legislative branch employees serving in the Senior Management Service and Selected Exempt Service, as well as any person employed by the Department of the Lottery having authority over policy or procurement.
- b) serving in the following position classifications: the Auditor General; the director of the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA); the Sergeant at Arms and Secretary of the Senate; the Sergeant at Arms and Clerk of the House of Representatives; the executive director and deputy executive director of the Commission on Ethics; an executive director, staff director, or deputy staff director of each joint committee, standing committee, or select committee of the Legislature; an executive director, staff director, executive assistant, legislative analyst, or attorney serving in the Office of the President of the Senate, the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Senate Majority Party Office, the Senate Minority Party Office, the House Majority Party Office, or the House Minority Party Office; the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellors of the State University System; the general counsel to the Board of Regents; the president, vice presidents, and deans of each state university; any person hired on a contractual basis and having the power normally conferred upon such persons, by whatever title; and any person having the power normally conferred upon the above positions.

This prohibition does not apply to a person who was employed by the Legislature or other agency prior to July 1, 1989; who was a defined employee of the State University System or the Public Service Commission who held such employment on December 31, 1994; or who reached normal retirement age and retired by July 1, 1991. It does apply to OPS employees.

PENALTIES: Persons found in violation of this section are subject to the penalties contained in the Code (see PENALTIES, Part V) as well as a civil penalty in an amount equal to the compensation which the person received for the prohibited conduct. [Sec. 112.313(9)(a)5, Fla. Stat.]

3. *6-Year Lobbying Ban*

For a period of six years after vacation of public position occurring on or after December 31, 2022, a statewide elected officer or member of the legislature shall not lobby for compensation on issues of policy, appropriations, or procurement before the legislature or any state government body or agency. [Art. II Sec 8(f)(3)a., Fla. Const. and Sec. 112.3121, Fla. Stat.]

For a period of six years after vacation of public position occurring on or after December 31, 2022, a person serving as a secretary, an executive director, or other agency head of a department of the executive branch of state government shall not lobby for compensation on issues of policy, appropriations, or procurement before the legislature, the governor, the executive office of the governor, members of the cabinet, a department that is headed by a member of the cabinet, or his or her former department. [Art. II Sec 8(f)(3)b., Fla. Const. and Sec. 112.3121, Fla. Stat.]

For a period of six years after vacation of public position occurring on or after December 31, 2022, a county commissioner, a county officer pursuant to Article VIII or county charter, a school board member, a superintendent of schools, an elected municipal officer, or an elected special district officer in a special district with ad valorem taxing authority shall not lobby for compensation on issues of policy, appropriations, or procurement before his or her former agency or governing body. [Art. II Sec 8(f)(3)c., Fla. Const. and Sec. 112.3121, Fla. Stat.]

4. *Additional Restrictions on Former State Employees*

A former executive or judicial branch employee or PSC employee is prohibited from having employment or a contractual relationship, at any time after retirement or termination of employment, with any business entity (other than a public agency) in connection with a contract in which the employee participated personally and substantially by recommendation or decision while a public employee. [Sec. 112.3185(3), Fla. Stat.]

A former executive or judicial branch employee or PSC employee who has retired or terminated employment is prohibited from having any employment or contractual relationship for two years with any business entity (other than a public agency) in connection with a contract for services which was within his or her responsibility while serving as a state employee. [Sec.112.3185(4), Fla. Stat.]

Unless waived by the agency head, a former executive or judicial branch employee or PSC employee may not be paid more for contractual services provided by him or her to the former agency during the first year after leaving the agency than his or her annual salary before leaving. [Sec. 112.3185(5), Fla. Stat.]

These prohibitions do not apply to PSC employees who were so employed on or before Dec. 31, 1994.

5. *Lobbying by Former Local Government Officers and Employees*

A person elected to county, municipal, school district, or special district office is prohibited from representing another person or entity for compensation before the government body or agency of which he or she was an officer for two years after leaving office. Appointed officers and employees of counties, municipalities, school districts, and special districts may be subject to a similar restriction by local ordinance or resolution. [Sec. 112.313(13) and (14), Fla. Stat.]

E. VOTING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

State public officers are prohibited from voting in an official capacity on any measure which they know would inure to their own special private gain or loss. A state public officer who abstains, or who votes on a measure which the officer knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of any principal by whom he or she is retained, of the parent organization or subsidiary or sibling of a corporate principal by which he or she is retained, of a relative, or of a business associate, must make every reasonable effort to file a memorandum of voting conflict with the recording secretary in advance of the vote. If that is not possible, it must be filed within 15 days after the vote occurs. The memorandum must disclose the nature of the officer's interest in the matter.

No county, municipal, or other local public officer shall vote in an official capacity upon any measure which would inure to his or her special private gain or loss, or which the officer knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of any principal by whom he or she is retained, of the parent organization or subsidiary or sibling of a corporate principal by which he or she is retained, of a relative, or of a business associate. The officer must publicly announce the nature of his or her interest before the vote and must file a memorandum of voting conflict on Commission Form 8B with the meeting's recording officer within 15 days after the vote occurs disclosing the nature of his or her interest in the matter. However, members of community redevelopment agencies and district officers elected on a one-acre, one-vote basis are not required to abstain when voting in that capacity.

No appointed state or local officer shall participate in any matter which would inure to the officer's special private gain or loss, the special private gain or loss of any principal by whom he or she is retained, of the parent organization or subsidiary or sibling of a corporate principal by which he or she is retained, of a relative, or of a business associate, without first disclosing the nature of his or her interest in the matter. The memorandum of voting conflict (Commission Form 8A or 8B) must be filed with the meeting's recording officer, be provided to the other members of the agency, and be read publicly at the next meeting.

If the conflict is unknown or not disclosed prior to the meeting, the appointed official must orally disclose the conflict at the meeting when the conflict becomes known. Also, a written memorandum of voting conflict must be filed with the meeting's recording officer within 15 days of the disclosure being made and must be provided to the other members of the agency, with the disclosure being read publicly at the next scheduled meeting. [Sec. 112.3143, Fla. Stat.]

F. DISCLOSURES

Conflicts of interest may occur when public officials are in a position to make decisions that affect their personal financial interests. This is why public officers and employees, as well as candidates who run for public office, are required to publicly disclose their financial interests. The disclosure process serves to remind officials of their obligation to put the public interest above personal considerations. It also helps citizens to monitor the considerations of those who spend their tax dollars and participate in public policy decisions or administration.

All public officials and candidates do not file the same degree of disclosure; nor do they all file at the same time or place. Thus, care must be taken to determine which disclosure forms a particular official or candidate is required to file.

The following forms are described below to set forth the requirements of the various disclosures and the steps for correctly providing the information in a timely manner.

1. *FORM 1 - Limited Financial Disclosure*

Who Must File:

Persons required to file FORM 1 include all state officers, local officers, candidates for local elective office, and specified state employees as defined below (other than those officers who are required by law to file FORM 6).

STATE OFFICERS include:

- 1) Elected public officials not serving in a political subdivision of the state and any person appointed to fill a vacancy in such office, unless required to file full disclosure on Form 6.
- 2) Appointed members of each board, commission, authority, or council having statewide jurisdiction, excluding members of solely advisory bodies; but including judicial nominating commission members; directors of Enterprise Florida, Scripps Florida Funding Corporation, and CareerSource Florida, and members of the Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys; the Executive Director, governors, and senior managers of Citizens Property Insurance Corporation; governors and senior managers of Florida Workers' Compensation Joint Underwriting Association, board members of the Northeast Florida Regional Transportation Commission, and members of the board of Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.; members of the board of Florida is

for Veterans, Inc.; and members of the Technology Advisory Council within the Agency for State Technology.

- 3) The Commissioner of Education, members of the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors, local boards of trustees and presidents of state universities, and members of the Florida Prepaid College Board.

LOCAL OFFICERS include:

- 1) Persons elected to office in any political subdivision (such as municipalities, counties, and special districts) and any person appointed to fill a vacancy in such office, unless required to file full disclosure on Form 6.
- 2) Appointed members of the following boards, councils, commissions, authorities, or other bodies of any county, municipality, school district, independent special district, or other political subdivision: the governing body of the subdivision; a community college or junior college district board of trustees; a board having the power to enforce local code provisions; a planning or zoning board, board of adjustments or appeals, community redevelopment agency board, or other board having the power to recommend, create, or modify land planning or zoning within the political subdivision, except for citizen advisory committees, technical coordinating committees, and similar groups who only have the power to make recommendations to planning or zoning boards, except for representatives of a military installation acting on behalf of all military installations within that jurisdiction; a pension board or retirement board empowered to invest pension or retirement funds or to determine entitlement to or amount of a pension or other retirement benefit.
- 3) Any other appointed member of a local government board who is required to file a statement of financial interests by the appointing authority or the enabling legislation, ordinance, or resolution creating the board.
- 4) Persons holding any of these positions in local government: county or city manager; chief administrative employee or finance director of a county, municipality, or other

political subdivision; county or municipal attorney; chief county or municipal building inspector; county or municipal water resources coordinator; county or municipal pollution control director; county or municipal environmental control director; county or municipal administrator with power to grant or deny a land development permit; chief of police; fire chief; municipal clerk; appointed district school superintendent; community college president; district medical examiner; purchasing agent (regardless of title) having the authority to make any purchase exceeding \$35,000 for the local governmental unit.

- 5) Members of governing boards of charter schools operated by a city or other public entity.
- 6) The officers, directors, and chief executive officer of a corporation, partnership, or other business entity that is serving as the chief administrative or executive officer or employee of a political subdivision, and any business entity employee who is acting as the chief administrative or executive officer or employee of the political subdivision. [Sec. 112.3136, Fla. Stat.]

SPECIFIED STATE EMPLOYEE includes:

- 1) Employees in the Office of the Governor or of a Cabinet member who are exempt from the Career Service System, excluding secretarial, clerical, and similar positions.
- 2) The following positions in each state department, commission, board, or council: secretary or state surgeon general, assistant or deputy secretary, executive director, assistant or deputy executive director, and anyone having the power normally conferred upon such persons, regardless of title.
- 3) The following positions in each state department or division: director, assistant or deputy director, bureau chief, assistant bureau chief, and any person having the power normally conferred upon such persons, regardless of title.

- 4) Assistant state attorneys, assistant public defenders, criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, assistant criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, public counsel, full-time state employees serving as counsel or assistant counsel to a state agency, judges of compensation claims, administrative law judges, and hearing officers.
- 5) The superintendent or director of a state mental health institute established for training and research in the mental health field, or any major state institution or facility established for corrections, training, treatment, or rehabilitation.
- 6) State agency business managers, finance and accounting directors, personnel officers, grant coordinators, and purchasing agents (regardless of title) with power to make a purchase exceeding \$35,000.
- 7) The following positions in legislative branch agencies: each employee (other than those employed in maintenance, clerical, secretarial, or similar positions and legislative assistants exempted by the presiding officer of their house); and each employee of the Commission on Ethics.

What Must Be Disclosed:

FORM 1 requirements are set forth fully on the form. In general, this includes the reporting person's sources and types of financial interests, such as the names of employers and addresses of real property holdings. NO DOLLAR VALUES ARE REQUIRED TO BE LISTED. In addition, the form requires the disclosure of certain relationships with, and ownership interests in, specified types of businesses such as banks, savings and loans, insurance companies, and utility companies.

When to File:

CANDIDATES who do not currently hold a position requiring the filing of a Form 1 or Form 6 must register and use the electronic filing system to complete the Form 6, then print and file the disclosure with the officer before whom they qualify at the time of qualifying. [Art. II, Sec. 8(a) and (i), Fla. Const., and Sec. 112.3144, Fla. Stat.]

STATE and LOCAL OFFICERS and SPECIFIED STATE EMPLOYEES are required to file disclosure by July 1 of each year. They also must file within thirty days from the date of appointment or the beginning of employment. Those appointees requiring Senate confirmation must file prior to confirmation.

Where to File:

File with the Commission on Ethics. [Sec. 112.3145, Fla. Stat.]

Beginning January 1, 2024, all Form 1 disclosures must be filed electronically through the Commission's electronic filing system. These disclosures will be published and searchable by name or organization on the Commission's website.

2. *FORM 1F - Final Form 1 Limited Financial Disclosure*

FORM 1F is the disclosure form required to be filed within 60 days after a public officer or employee required to file FORM 1 leaves his or her public position. The form covers the disclosure period between January 1 and the last day of office or employment within that year.

3. *FORM 2 - Quarterly Client Disclosure*

The state officers, local officers, and specified state employees listed above, as well as elected constitutional officers, must file a FORM 2 if they or a partner or associate of their professional firm represent a client for compensation before an agency at their level of government.

A FORM 2 disclosure includes the names of clients represented by the reporting person or by any partner or associate of his or her professional firm for a fee or commission before agencies at the reporting person's level of government. Such representations do not include appearances in ministerial matters, appearances before judges of compensation claims, or representations on behalf of one's agency in one's official capacity. Nor does the term include the preparation and filing of forms and applications merely for the purpose of obtaining or transferring a license, so long as the

issuance of the license does not require a variance, special consideration, or a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

When to File:

This disclosure should be filed quarterly, by the end of the calendar quarter following the calendar quarter during which a reportable representation was made. FORM 2 need not be filed merely to indicate that no reportable representations occurred during the preceding quarter; it should be filed ONLY when reportable representations were made during the quarter.

Where To File:

File with the Commission on Ethics. [Sec. 112.3145(4), Fla. Stat.]

Beginning January 1, 2024, all Form 2 disclosures must be filed electronically through the Commission's electronic filing system. These disclosures will be published and searchable on the Commission's website.

4. *FORM 6 - Full and Public Disclosure*

Who Must File:

Persons required by law to file FORM 6 include all elected constitutional officers and candidates for such office; the mayor and members of a city council and candidates for these offices; the Duval County Superintendent of Schools; judges of compensation claims (pursuant to Sec. 440.442, Fla. Stat.); members of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation Board and members of expressway authorities, transportation authorities (except the Jacksonville Transportation Authority), bridge authority, or toll authorities created pursuant to Ch. 348 or 343, or 349, or other general law.

What Must be Disclosed:

FORM 6 is a detailed disclosure of assets, liabilities, and sources of income over \$1,000 and their values, as well as net worth. Officials may opt to file their most recent income tax return in lieu of listing sources of income but still must disclose their assets, liabilities, and net worth. In addition, the form requires the disclosure of certain relationships with, and ownership interests in, specified types of businesses such as banks, savings and loans, insurance companies, and utility companies.

When and Where To File:

Officials must file FORM 6 annually by July 1 with the Commission on Ethics.

Beginning January 1, 2023, all Form 6 disclosures must be filed electronically through the Commission's electronic filing system. These disclosures will be published and searchable by name and organization on the Commission's website.

CANDIDATES who do not currently hold a position requiring the filing of a Form 1 or Form 6 must register and use the electronic filing system to complete the Form 6, then print and file the disclosure with the officer before whom they qualify at the time of qualifying. [Art. II, Sec. 8(a) and (i), Fla. Const., and Sec. 112.3144, Fla. Stat.]

5. *FORM 6F - Final Form 6 Full and Public Disclosure*

This is the disclosure form required to be filed within 60 days after a public officer or employee required to file FORM 6 leaves his or her public position. The form covers the disclosure period between January 1 and the last day of office or employment within that year.

6. *FORM 9 - Quarterly Gift Disclosure*

Each person required to file FORM 1 or FORM 6, and each state procurement employee, must file a FORM 9, Quarterly Gift Disclosure, with the Commission on Ethics on the last day of any calendar quarter following the calendar quarter in which he or she received a gift worth more than \$100, other

than gifts from relatives, gifts prohibited from being accepted, gifts primarily associated with his or her business or employment, and gifts otherwise required to be disclosed. FORM 9 NEED NOT BE FILED if no such gift was received during the calendar quarter.

Information to be disclosed includes a description of the gift and its value, the name and address of the donor, the date of the gift, and a copy of any receipt for the gift provided by the donor. [Sec. 112.3148, Fla. Stat.]

7. FORM 10 - Annual Disclosure of Gifts from Government Agencies and Direct-Support Organizations and Honorarium Event Related Expenses

State government entities, airport authorities, counties, municipalities, school boards, water management districts, and the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, may give a gift worth more than \$100 to a person required to file FORM 1 or FORM 6, and to state procurement employees, if a public purpose can be shown for the gift. Also, a direct-support organization for a governmental entity may give such a gift to a person who is an officer or employee of that entity. These gifts are to be reported on FORM 10, to be filed by July 1.

The governmental entity or direct-support organization giving the gift must provide the officer or employee with a statement about the gift no later than March 1 of the following year. The officer or employee then must disclose this information by filing a statement by July 1 with his or her annual financial disclosure that describes the gift and lists the donor, the date of the gift, and the value of the total gifts provided during the calendar year. State procurement employees file their statements with the Commission on Ethics. [Sec. 112.3148, Fla. Stat.]

In addition, a person required to file FORM 1 or FORM 6, or a state procurement employee, who receives expenses or payment of expenses related to an honorarium event from someone who is prohibited from giving him or her an honorarium, must disclose annually the name, address, and affiliation of the donor, the amount of the expenses, the date of the event, a description of the expenses paid or provided, and the total value of the expenses on FORM 10. The donor paying the expenses must provide the officer or employee with a statement about the expenses within 60 days of the honorarium event.

The disclosure must be filed by July 1, for expenses received during the previous calendar year, with the officer's or employee's FORM 1 or FORM 6. State procurement employees file their statements with the Commission on Ethics. [Sec. 112.3149, Fla. Stat.]

However, notwithstanding Sec. 112.3149, Fla. Stat., no executive branch or legislative lobbyist or principal shall make, directly or indirectly, and no executive branch agency official or employee who files FORM 1 or FORM 6 shall knowingly accept, directly or indirectly, any expenditure made for the purpose of lobbying. This may include gifts or honorarium event related expenses that formerly were permitted under Sections 112.3148 and 112.3149. [Sec. 112.3215, Fla. Stat.] Similar prohibitions apply to legislative officials and employees. However, these laws are not administered by the Commission on Ethics. [Sec. 11.045, Fla. Stat.] In addition, gifts, which include anything not primarily related to political activities authorized under ch. 106, are prohibited from political committees. [Sec. 112.31485 Fla. Stat.]

8. FORM 30 - Donor's Quarterly Gift Disclosure

As mentioned above, the following persons and entities generally are prohibited from giving a gift worth more than \$100 to a reporting individual (a person required to file FORM 1 or FORM 6) or to a state procurement employee: a political committee; a lobbyist who lobbies the reporting individual's or procurement employee's agency, and the partner, firm, employer, or principal of such a lobbyist; and vendors. If such person or entity makes a gift worth between \$25 and \$100 to a reporting individual or state procurement employee (that is not accepted in behalf of a governmental entity or charitable organization), the gift should be reported on FORM 30. The donor also must notify the recipient at the time the gift is made that it will be reported.

The FORM 30 should be filed by the last day of the calendar quarter following the calendar quarter in which the gift was made. If the gift was made to an individual in the legislative branch, FORM 30 should be filed with the Lobbyist Registrar. [See page 35 for address.] If the gift was to any other reporting individual or state procurement employee, FORM 30 should be filed with the Commission on Ethics.

However, notwithstanding Section 112.3148, Fla. Stat., no executive branch lobbyist or principal shall make, directly or indirectly, and no executive branch agency official or employee who files FORM 1 or FORM 6 shall knowingly accept, directly or indirectly, any expenditure made for the purpose of lobbying. This may include gifts that formerly were permitted under Section 112.3148. [Sec. 112.3215, Fla. Stat.] Similar prohibitions apply to legislative officials and employees. However, these laws are not administered by the Commission on Ethics. [Sec. 11.045, Fla. Stat.] In addition, gifts from political committees are prohibited. [Sec. 112.31485, Fla. Stat.]

9. *FORM 1X AND FORM 6X - Amendments to Form 1 and Form 6*

These forms are provided for officers or employees to amend their previously filed Form 1 or Form 6.

IV. AVAILABILITY OF FORMS

Beginning January 1, 2024, LOCAL OFFICERS and EMPLOYEES, and OTHER STATE OFFICERS, and SPECIFIED STATE EMPLOYEES who must file FORM 1 annually must file electronically via the Commission's Electronic Financial Disclosure Management System (EFDMS). Paper forms will not be promulgated. Communications regarding the annual filing requirement will be sent via email to filers no later than June 1. Filers must maintain an updated email address in their User Profile in EFDMS.

ELECTED CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS and other officials who must file Form 6 annually, including City Commissioners and Mayors, must file electronically via the Commission's Electronic Financial Disclosure Management System (EFDMS). Paper forms will not be promulgated. Communications regarding the annual filing requirement will be sent via email to filers no later than June 1. Filers must maintain an updated email address in their User Profile in EFDMS.

V. PENALTIES

A. Non-criminal Penalties for Violation of the Sunshine Amendment and the Code of Ethics

There are no criminal penalties for violation of the Sunshine Amendment and the Code of Ethics. Penalties for violation of these laws may include: impeachment, removal from office or employment, suspension, public censure, reprimand, demotion, reduction in salary level, forfeiture of no more than one-third salary per month for no more than twelve months, a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000*, and restitution of any pecuniary benefits received, and triple the value of a gift from a political committee.

B. Penalties for Candidates

CANDIDATES for public office who are found in violation of the Sunshine Amendment or the Code of Ethics may be subject to one or more of the following penalties: disqualification from being on the ballot, public censure, reprimand, or a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000*, and triple the value of a gift received from a political committee.

C. Penalties for Former Officers and Employees

FORMER PUBLIC OFFICERS or EMPLOYEES who are found in violation of a provision applicable to former officers or employees or whose violation occurred prior to such officer's or employee's leaving public office or employment may be subject to one or more of the following penalties: public censure and reprimand, a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000*, and restitution of any pecuniary benefits received, and triple the value of a gift received from a political committee.

*Conduct occurring after May 11, 2023, will be subject to a recommended civil penalty of up to \$20,000. [Ch. 2023-49, Laws of Florida.]

D. Penalties for Lobbyists and Others

An executive branch lobbyist who has failed to comply with the Executive Branch Lobbying Registration law (see Part VIII) may be fined up to \$5,000, reprimanded, censured, or prohibited from lobbying executive branch agencies for up to two years. Lobbyists, their employers, principals, partners, and firms, and political committees and committees of continuous existence who give a prohibited gift or honorarium or fail to comply with the gift reporting requirements for gifts worth between \$25 and \$100, may be penalized by a fine of not more than \$5,000 and a prohibition on lobbying, or employing a lobbyist to lobby, before the agency of the public officer or employee to whom the gift was given for up to two years. Any agent or person acting on behalf of a political committee giving a prohibited gift is personally liable for a civil penalty of up to triple the value of the gift.

Executive Branch lobbying firms that fail to timely file their quarterly compensation reports may be fined \$50 per day per report for each day the report is late, up to a maximum fine of \$5,000 per report.

E. Felony Convictions: Forfeiture of Retirement Benefits

Public officers and employees are subject to forfeiture of all rights and benefits under the retirement system to which they belong if convicted of certain offenses. The offenses include embezzlement or theft of public funds; bribery; felonies specified in Chapter 838, Florida Statutes; impeachable offenses; and felonies committed with intent to defraud the public or their public agency. [Sec. 112.3173, Fla. Stat.]

F. Automatic Penalties for Failure to File Annual Disclosure

Public officers and employees required to file either Form 1 or Form 6 annual financial disclosure are subject to automatic fines of \$25 for each day late the form is filed after September 1, up to a maximum penalty of \$1,500. [Sec. 112.3144 and 112.3145, Fla. Stat.]

VI. ADVISORY OPINIONS

Conflicts of interest may be avoided by greater awareness of the ethics laws on the part of public officials and employees through advisory assistance from the Commission on Ethics.

A. Who Can Request an Opinion

Any public officer, candidate for public office, or public employee in Florida who is in doubt about the applicability of the standards of conduct or disclosure laws to himself or herself, or anyone who has the power to hire or terminate another public employee, may seek an advisory opinion from the Commission about himself or herself or that employee.

B. How to Request an Opinion

Opinions may be requested by letter presenting a question based on a real situation and including a detailed description of the situation. Opinions are issued by the Commission and are binding on the conduct of the person who is the subject of the opinion, unless material facts were omitted or misstated in the request for the opinion. Published opinions will not bear the name of the persons involved unless they consent to the use of their names; however, the request and all information pertaining to it is a public record, made available to the Commission and to members of the public in advance of the Commission's consideration of the question.

C. How to Obtain Published Opinions

All of the Commission's opinions are available for viewing or download at its website:
www.ethics.state.fl.us.

VII. COMPLAINTS

A. Citizen Involvement

The Commission on Ethics cannot conduct investigations of alleged violations of the Sunshine Amendment or the Code of Ethics unless a person files a sworn complaint with the Commission alleging such violation has occurred, or a referral is received, as discussed below.

If you have knowledge that a person in government has violated the standards of conduct or disclosure laws described above, you may report these violations to the Commission by filing a sworn complaint on the form prescribed by the Commission and available for download at www.ethics.state.fl.us. The Commission is unable to take action based on learning of such misdeeds through newspaper reports, telephone calls, or letters.

You can download a complaint form (FORM 50) from the Commission's website: www.ethics.state.fl.us, or contact the Commission office at the address or phone number shown on the inside front cover of this booklet.

B. Referrals

The Commission may accept referrals from: the Governor, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, a State Attorney, or a U.S. Attorney. A vote of six of the Commission's nine members is required to proceed on such a referral.

C. Confidentiality

The complaint or referral, as well as all proceedings and records relating thereto, is confidential until the accused requests that such records be made public or until the matter reaches a stage in the Commission's proceedings where it becomes public. This means that unless the Commission receives a written waiver of confidentiality from the accused, the Commission is not free to release any documents or to comment on a complaint or referral to members of the public or press, so long as the complaint or referral remains in a confidential stage.

A COMPLAINT OR REFERRAL MAY NOT BE FILED WITH RESPECT TO A CANDIDATE ON THE DAY OF THE ELECTION, OR WITHIN THE 30 CALENDAR DAYS PRECEDING THE ELECTION DATE, UNLESS IT IS BASED ON PERSONAL INFORMATION OR INFORMATION OTHER THAN HEARSAY.

D. How the Complaint Process Works

Complaints which allege a matter within the Commission's jurisdiction are assigned a tracking number and Commission staff forwards a copy of the original sworn complaint to the accused within five working days of its receipt. Any subsequent sworn amendments to the complaint also are transmitted within five working days of their receipt.

Once a complaint is filed, it goes through three procedural stages under the Commission's rules. The first stage is a determination of whether the allegations of the complaint are legally sufficient: that is, whether they indicate a possible violation of any law over which the Commission has jurisdiction. If the complaint is found not to be legally sufficient, the Commission will order that the complaint be dismissed without investigation, and all records relating to the complaint will become public at that time.

In cases of very minor financial disclosure violations, the official will be allowed an opportunity to correct or amend his or her disclosure form. Otherwise, if the complaint is found to be legally sufficient, a preliminary investigation will be undertaken by the investigative staff of the Commission. The second stage of the Commission's proceedings involves this preliminary investigation and a decision by the Commission as to whether there is probable cause to believe that there has been a violation of any of the ethics laws. If the Commission finds no probable cause to believe there has been a violation of the ethics laws, the complaint will be dismissed and will become a matter of public record. If the Commission finds probable cause to believe there has been a violation of the ethics laws, the complaint becomes public and usually enters the third stage of proceedings. This stage requires the Commission to decide whether the law was actually violated and, if so, whether a penalty should be recommended. At this stage, the accused has the right to request a public hearing (trial) at which evidence is presented, or the Commission may order that such a hearing be held. Public hearings usually are held in or near the area where the alleged violation occurred.

When the Commission concludes that a violation has been committed, it issues a public report of its findings and may recommend one or more penalties to the appropriate disciplinary body or official.

When the Commission determines that a person has filed a complaint with knowledge that the complaint contains one or more false allegations or with reckless disregard for whether the complaint contains false allegations, the complainant will be liable for costs plus reasonable attorney's fees incurred by the person complained against. The Department of Legal Affairs may bring a civil action to recover such fees and costs, if they are not paid voluntarily within 30 days.

E. Dismissal of Complaints At Any Stage of Disposition

The Commission may, at its discretion, dismiss any complaint at any stage of disposition should it determine that the public interest would not be served by proceeding further, in which case the Commission will issue a public report stating with particularity its reasons for the dismissal. [Sec. 112.324(12), Fla. Stat.]

F. Statute of Limitations

All sworn complaints alleging a violation of the Sunshine Amendment or the Code of Ethics must be filed with the Commission within five years of the alleged violation or other breach of the public trust. Time starts to run on the day AFTER the violation or breach of public trust is committed. The statute of limitations is tolled on the day a sworn complaint is filed with the Commission. If a complaint is filed and the statute of limitations has run, the complaint will be dismissed. [Sec. 112.3231, Fla. Stat.]

VIII. EXECUTIVE BRANCH LOBBYING

Any person who, for compensation and on behalf of another, lobbies an agency of the executive branch of state government with respect to a decision in the area of policy or procurement may be required to register as an executive branch lobbyist. Registration is required before lobbying an agency and is renewable annually. In addition, each lobbying firm must file a compensation report

with the Commission for each calendar quarter during any portion of which one or more of the firm's lobbyists were registered to represent a principal. As noted above, no executive branch lobbyist or principal can make, directly or indirectly, and no executive branch agency official or employee who files FORM 1 or FORM 6 can knowingly accept, directly or indirectly, **any expenditure** made for the purpose of lobbying. [Sec. 112.3215, Fla. Stat.]

Paying an executive branch lobbyist a contingency fee based upon the outcome of any specific executive branch action, and receiving such a fee, is prohibited. A violation of this prohibition is a first degree misdemeanor, and the amount received is subject to forfeiture. This does not prohibit sales people from receiving a commission. [Sec. 112.3217, Fla. Stat.]

Executive branch departments, state universities, community colleges, and water management districts are prohibited from using public funds to retain an executive branch (or legislative branch) lobbyist, although these agencies may use full-time employees as lobbyists. [Sec. 11.062, Fla. Stat.]

Online registration and filing is available at www.floridalobbyist.gov. Additional information about the executive branch lobbyist registration system may be obtained by contacting the Lobbyist Registrar at the following address:

Executive Branch Lobbyist Registration
Room G-68, Claude Pepper Building
111 W. Madison Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1425
Phone: 850/922-4990

IX. WHISTLE-BLOWER'S ACT

In 1986, the Legislature enacted a "Whistle-blower's Act" to protect employees of agencies and government contractors from adverse personnel actions in retaliation for disclosing information in a sworn complaint alleging certain types of improper activities. Since then, the Legislature has revised this law to afford greater protection to these employees.

While this language is contained within the Code of Ethics, the Commission has no jurisdiction or authority to proceed against persons who violate this Act. Therefore, a person who has disclosed information alleging improper conduct governed by this law and who may suffer adverse consequences as a result should contact one or more of the following: the Office of the Chief Inspector General in the Executive Office of the Governor; the Department of Legal Affairs; the Florida Commission on Human Relations; or a private attorney. [Sec. 112.3187 - 112.31895, Fla. Stat.]

X. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

As mentioned above, we suggest that you review the language used in each law for a more detailed understanding of Florida's ethics laws. The "Sunshine Amendment" is Article II, Section 8, of the Florida Constitution. The Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees is contained in Part III of Chapter 112, Florida Statutes.

Additional information about the Commission's functions and interpretations of these laws may be found in Chapter 34 of the Florida Administrative Code, where the Commission's rules are published, and in The Florida Administrative Law Reports, which until 2005 published many of the Commission's final orders. The Commission's rules, orders, and opinions also are available at www.ethics.state.fl.us.

If you are a public officer or employee concerned about your obligations under these laws, the staff of the Commission will be happy to respond to oral and written inquiries by providing information about the law, the Commission's interpretations of the law, and the Commission's procedures.

XI. TRAINING

Constitutional officers, elected municipal officers, commissioners of community redevelopment agencies (CRAs), and commissioners of community development districts are required to receive a total of four hours training, per calendar year, in the area of ethics, public

records, and open meetings. The Commission on Ethics does not track compliance or certify providers. Officials indicate their compliance with the training requirement when they file their annual Form 1 or Form 6.

Visit the training page on the Commission's website for up-to-date rules, opinions, audio/video training, and opportunities for live training conducted by Commission staff.

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

3D

CHAPTER 2024-292

House Bill No. 1117

An act relating to the City of North Port, Sarasota County; creating the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District; providing a short title; providing legislative findings and intent; providing definitions; stating legislative policy regarding creation of the district; establishing compliance with minimum requirements for creation of an independent special district; providing for creation and establishment of the district; establishing the legal boundaries of the district; providing for the jurisdiction and charter of the district; providing for a board of supervisors; providing for election, membership, terms, meetings, and duties of board members; providing a method for transition of the board from landowner control to control by the resident electors of the district; providing for a district manager and district personnel; providing for a district treasurer, selection of a public depository, and district budgets and financial reports; providing the general and special powers of the district; providing for bonds; providing for borrowing; providing for future ad valorem taxation; providing for special assessments; providing for issuance of certificates of indebtedness; providing for tax liens; providing for competitive procurement; providing for fees and charges; providing for termination, contraction, expansion, or merger of the district; providing for required notices to purchasers of residential units within the district; specifying district public property; providing severability; providing for a referendum; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. This act may be cited as the “Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District Act.”

Section 2. Legislative findings and intent; definitions; policy.—

(1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT AND PURPOSE OF THE DISTRICT.—

(a) The extensive lands located wholly within the City of North Port and covered by this act contain many opportunities for thoughtful, comprehensive, responsible, and consistent development over a long period.

(b) There is a need to use a single special and limited purpose independent special district unit of local government for the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District lands located within the City of North Port and covered by this act to provide for a more comprehensive community development approach, which will facilitate an integral relationship between regional transportation, land use, and urban design to provide for a diverse mix of housing and regional employment and economic development opportunities, rather than fragmented development with underutilized infrastructure generally associated with urban sprawl.

(c) There is a considerably long period of time during which there is a significant burden on the initial landowners of the district lands to provide various systems, facilities, and services, such that there is a need for flexible management, sequencing, timing, and financing of the various systems, facilities, and services to be provided to these lands, taking into consideration absorption rates, commercial viability, and related factors.

(d) While chapter 190, Florida Statutes, provides an opportunity for previous community development services and facilities to be provided by the continued use of community development districts in a manner that furthers the public interest, given the size of the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District lands and the duration of development, continuing to utilize multiple community development districts over these lands would result in an inefficient, duplicative, and needless proliferation of local special purpose governments, contrary to the public interest and the Legislature's findings in chapter 190, Florida Statutes. Instead, it is in the public interest that the long-range provision for, and management, financing, and long-term maintenance, upkeep, and operation of, services and facilities to be provided for ultimate development and conservation of the lands covered by this act be under one coordinated entity. The creation of a single district will assist in integrating the management of state resources and allow for greater and more coordinated stewardship of natural resources.

(e) Longer involvement of the initial landowner with regard to the provision of systems, facilities, and services for the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District lands, coupled with the special and limited purpose of the district, is in the public interest.

(f) The existence and use of such a special and limited purpose local government for the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District lands, subject to the City of North Port comprehensive plan, will provide for a comprehensive and complete community development approach to promote a sustainable and efficient land use pattern for the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District lands with long-term planning for conservation and development; provide opportunities for the mitigation of impacts and development of infrastructure in an orderly and timely manner; prevent the overburdening of the local general purpose government and the taxpayers; and provide an enhanced tax base and regional employment and economic development opportunities.

(g) The creation and establishment of the special district will encourage local government financial self-sufficiency in providing public facilities and in identifying and implementing physically sound, innovative, and cost-effective techniques to provide and finance public facilities while encouraging development, use, and coordination of capital improvement plans by all levels of government, in accordance with the goals of chapter 187, Florida Statutes.

(h) The creation and establishment of the special district is a legitimate supplemental and alternative method available to manage, own, operate, construct, and finance capital infrastructure systems, facilities, and services.

(i) In order to be responsive to the critical timing required through the exercise of its special management functions, an independent special district requires financing of those functions, including bondable lienable and nonlienable revenue, with full and continuing public disclosure and accountability, funded by landowners, both present and future, and funded also by users of the systems, facilities, and services provided to the land area by the special district, without unduly burdening the taxpayers, citizens, and ratepayers of the state or the City of North Port.

(j) The special district created and established by this act shall not have or exercise any comprehensive planning, zoning, or development permitting power; the establishment of the special district shall not be considered a development order within the meaning of chapter 380, Florida Statutes; and all applicable planning and permitting laws, rules, regulations, and policies of the City of North Port control the development of the land to be serviced by the special district.

(k) The creation by this act of the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District is not inconsistent with the City of North Port comprehensive plan.

(l) It is the legislative intent and purpose that no debt or obligation of the special district constitute a burden on the City of North Port.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this act:

(a) “Ad valorem bonds” means bonds that are payable from the proceeds of ad valorem taxes levied on real and tangible personal property and that are generally referred to as general obligation bonds.

(b) “Assessable improvements” means, without limitation, any and all public improvements and community facilities that the district is empowered to provide in accordance with this act that provide a special benefit to property within the district.

(c) “Assessment bonds” means special obligations of the district which are payable solely from proceeds of the special assessments or benefit special assessments levied for assessable improvements, provided that, in lieu of issuing assessment bonds to fund the costs of assessable improvements, the district may issue revenue bonds for such purposes payable from assessments.

(d) “Assessments” means those nonmillage district assessments which include special assessments, benefit special assessments, and maintenance special assessments and a nonmillage, non-ad valorem maintenance tax if authorized by general law.

(e) “Benefit special assessments” means district assessments imposed, levied, and collected pursuant to section 6(12)(b).

(f) “Board of supervisors” or “board” means the governing body of the district or, if such board has been abolished, the board, body, or commission assuming the principal functions thereof or to whom the powers given to the board by this act have been given by law.

(g) “Bond” includes “certificate,” and the provisions that are applicable to bonds are equally applicable to certificates. The term also includes any general obligation bond, assessment bond, refunding bond, revenue bond, bond anticipation note, and other such obligation in the nature of a bond as is provided for in this act.

(h) “Cost” or “costs,” when used in reference to any project, includes, but is not limited to:

1. The expenses of determining the feasibility or practicability of acquisition, construction, or reconstruction.

2. The cost of surveys, estimates, plans, and specifications.

3. The cost of improvements.

4. Engineering, architectural, fiscal, and legal expenses and charges.

5. The cost of all labor, materials, machinery, and equipment.

6. The cost of all lands, properties, rights, easements, and franchises acquired.

7. Financing charges.

8. The creation of initial reserve and debt service funds.

9. Working capital.

10. Interest charges incurred or estimated to be incurred on money borrowed prior to and during construction and acquisition and for such reasonable period of time after completion of construction or acquisition as the board may determine.

11. The cost of issuance of bonds pursuant to this act, including advertisements and printing.

12. The cost of any bond or tax referendum held pursuant to this act and all other expenses of issuance of bonds.

13. The discount, if any, on the sale or exchange of bonds.

14. Administrative expenses.

15. Such other expenses as may be necessary or incidental to the acquisition, construction, or reconstruction of any project, or to the financing thereof, or to the development of any lands within the district.

16. Payments, contributions, dedications, and any other exactions required as a condition of receiving any governmental approval or permit necessary to accomplish any district purpose.

17. Any other expense or payment permitted by this act or allowable by law.

(i) “District” means the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District.

(j) “District manager” means the manager of the district.

(k) “District roads” means highways, streets, roads, alleys, intersection improvements, sidewalks, crossings, landscaping, irrigation, signage, signalization, storm drains, bridges, multiuse trails, lighting, and thoroughfares of all kinds.

(l) “General obligation bonds” means bonds which are secured by, or provide for their payment by, the pledge of the full faith and credit and taxing power of the district.

(m) “General-purpose local government” means a city, municipality, or consolidated city-county government.

(n) “Governing board member” means any member of the board of supervisors.

(o) “Land development regulations” means those regulations of the general-purpose local government, adopted under the Community Planning Act, codified as part II of chapter 163, Florida Statutes, to which the district is subject and as to which the district may not do anything that is inconsistent therewith. The term “land development regulations” does not include specific management, engineering, operations, or capital improvement planning needed in the daily management, implementation, and supplying by the district of systems, facilities, services, works, improvements, projects, or infrastructure, so long as they remain subject to and are not inconsistent with the applicable city codes.

(p) “Landowner” means the owner of a freehold estate as it appears on the deed record, including a trustee, a private corporation, and an owner of a condominium unit. The term “landowner” does not include a reversioner, remainderman, mortgagee, or any governmental entity which shall not be counted and need not be notified of proceedings under this act. The term “landowner” also means the owner of a ground lease from a governmental entity, which leasehold interest has a remaining term, excluding all renewal options, in excess of 50 years.

(q) “Maintenance special assessments” means assessments imposed, levied, and collected pursuant to section 6(12)(d).

(r) “Non-ad valorem assessment” means only those assessments which are not based upon millage and which can become a lien against a homestead as permitted in s. 4, Article X of the State Constitution.

(s) “Powers” means powers used and exercised by the board of supervisors to accomplish the special and limited purpose of the district, including:

1. “General powers,” which means those organizational and administrative powers of the district as provided in its charter in order to carry out its special and limited purposes as a local government public corporate body politic.

2. “Special powers,” which means those powers enumerated by the district charter to implement its specialized systems, facilities, services, projects, improvements, and infrastructure and related functions in order to carry out its special and limited purposes.

3. Any other powers, authority, or functions set forth in this act.

(t) “Project” means any development, improvement, property, power, utility, facility, enterprise, service, system, works, or infrastructure now existing or hereafter undertaken or established under this act.

(u) “Qualified elector” means any person at least 18 years of age who is a citizen of the United States and a legal resident of the state and of the district, who registers to vote with the Supervisor of Elections of Sarasota County, and who resides in the City of North Port.

(v) “Reclaimed water” means water, including from wells or stormwater management facilities, that has received at least secondary treatment and basic disinfection and is reused after flowing out of a domestic wastewater treatment facility, or otherwise as an approved use of surface water or groundwater by the water management district.

(w) “Reclaimed water system” means any plant, well, system, facility, or property, and any addition, extension, or improvement thereto at any future time constructed or acquired as part thereof, useful, necessary, or having the present capacity for future use in connection with the development of sources, treatment, purification, or distribution of reclaimed water. The term includes franchises of any nature relating to any such system and necessary or convenient for the operation thereof including for the district’s own use or resale.

(x) “Refunding bonds” means bonds issued to refinance outstanding bonds of any type and the interest and redemption premium thereon. Refunding bonds may be issuable and payable in the same manner as

refinanced bonds, except that no approval by the electorate shall be required unless required by the State Constitution.

(y) “Revenue bonds” means obligations of the district that are payable from revenues, including, but not limited to, special assessments and benefit special assessments, derived from sources other than ad valorem taxes on real or tangible personal property and that do not pledge the property, credit, or general tax revenue of the district.

(z) “Sewer system” means any plant, system, facility, or property, and additions, extensions, and improvements thereto at any future time constructed or acquired as part thereof, useful or necessary or having the present capacity for future use in connection with the collection, treatment, purification, or disposal of sewage, including, but not limited to, industrial wastes resulting from any process of industry, manufacture, trade, or business or from the development of any natural resource. The term also includes treatment plants, pumping stations, lift stations, valves, force mains, intercepting sewers, laterals, pressure lines, mains, and all necessary appurtenances and equipment; all sewer mains, laterals, and other devices for the reception and collection of sewage from premises connected therewith; all real and personal property and any interest therein; and rights, easements, and franchises of any nature relating to any such system and necessary or convenient for operation thereof.

(aa) “Special assessments” means assessments as imposed, levied, and collected by the district for the costs of assessable improvements pursuant to this act; chapter 170, Florida Statutes; and the additional authority under s. 197.3631, Florida Statutes, or other provisions of general law, now or hereinafter enacted, which provide or authorize a supplemental means to impose, levy, or collect special assessments.

(bb) “Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District” means the unit of special and limited purpose local government and political subdivision created and chartered by this act, and limited to the performance of those general and special powers authorized by its charter under this act, the boundaries of which are set forth by the act, the governing board of which is created and authorized to operate with legal existence by this act, and the purpose of which is as set forth in this act.

(cc) “Tax” or “taxes” means those levies and impositions of the board of supervisors that support and pay for government and the administration of law and that may be:

1. Ad valorem or property taxes based upon both the appraised value of property and millage, at a rate uniform within the jurisdiction; or

2. If and when authorized by general law, non-ad valorem maintenance taxes not based on millage that are used to maintain district systems, facilities, and services.

(dd) “Water system” means any plant, system, facility, or property, and any addition, extension, or improvement thereto at any future time constructed or acquired as a part thereof, useful, necessary, or having the present capacity for future use in connection with the development of sources, treatment, purification, or distribution of water. The term also includes dams, reservoirs, storage tanks, mains, lines, valves, pumping stations, laterals, and pipes for the purpose of carrying water to the premises connected with such system, and all rights, easements, and franchises of any nature relating to any such system and necessary or convenient for the operation thereof.

(3) POLICY.—Based upon its findings, ascertainments, determinations, intent, purpose, and definitions, the Legislature states its policy expressly:

(a) The district and the district charter, with its general and special powers, as created in this act, are essential and the best alternative for the residential, commercial, industrial, office, hotel, health care, and other similar community uses, projects, or functions in the included portion of the City of North Port consistent with the effective comprehensive plan, and designed to serve a lawful public purpose.

(b) The district, which is a local government and a political subdivision, is limited to its special purpose as expressed in this act, with the power to provide, plan, implement, construct, maintain, and finance as a local government management entity systems, facilities, services, improvements, infrastructure, and projects, and possessing financing powers to fund its management power over the long term and with sustained levels of high quality.

(c) The creation of the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District by and pursuant to this act, and its exercise of its management and related financing powers to implement its limited, single, and special purpose, is not a development order and does not trigger or invoke any provision within the meaning of chapter 380, Florida Statutes, and all applicable governmental planning, environmental, and land development laws, regulations, rules, policies, and ordinances apply to all development of the land within the jurisdiction of the district as created by this act.

(d) The district shall operate and function subject to, and not inconsistent with, the applicable comprehensive plan of the City of North Port and any applicable development orders (e.g., detailed site plan development orders), zoning regulations, and other land development regulations.

(e) The special and single purpose Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District shall not have the power of a general-purpose local government to adopt a comprehensive plan or related land development regulation as those terms are defined in the Community Planning Act.

(f) This act may be amended, in whole or in part, only by special act of the Legislature. The board of supervisors of the district shall not ask the

Legislature to amend this act without first obtaining a resolution or official statement from the district and the City of North Port as may be required by s. 189.031(2)(e)4., Florida Statutes, for creation of an independent special district.

Section 3. Minimum charter requirements; creation and establishment; jurisdiction; construction; charter.—

(1) Pursuant to s. 189.031(3), Florida Statutes, the Legislature sets forth that the minimum requirements in paragraphs (a) through (n) have been met in the identified provisions of this act as follows:

(a) The purpose of the district is stated in the act in section 2 and subsection (4) of this section.

(b) The powers, functions, and duties of the district regarding ad valorem taxation, bond issuance, other revenue-raising capabilities, budget preparation and approval, liens and foreclosure of liens, use of tax deeds and tax certificates as appropriate for non-ad valorem assessments, and contractual agreements are set forth in section 6.

(c) The provisions for methods for establishing the district are set forth in this section.

(d) The methods for amending the charter of the district are set forth in section 2.

(e) The provisions for the membership and organization of the governing body and the establishment of a quorum are set forth in section 5.

(f) The provisions regarding the administrative duties of the governing body are set forth in sections 5 and 6.

(g) The provisions applicable to financial disclosure, noticing, and reporting requirements generally are set forth in sections 5 and 6.

(h) The provisions regarding procedures and requirements for issuing bonds are set forth in section 6.

(i) The provisions regarding elections or referenda and the qualifications of an elector of the district are set forth in sections 2 and 5.

(j) The provisions regarding methods for financing the district generally are set forth in section 6.

(k) Other than taxes levied for the payment of bonds and taxes levied for periods not longer than 2 years when authorized by vote of the electors of the district, the provisions for the authority to levy ad valorem tax and the authorized millage rate are set forth in section 6.

(l) The provisions for the method or methods of collecting non-ad valorem assessments, fees, or service charges are set forth in section 6.

(m) The provisions for planning requirements are set forth in this section and section 6.

(n) The provisions for geographic boundary limitations of the district are set forth in sections 4 and 6.

(2) The Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District is created and incorporated as a public body corporate and politic, an independent special and limited purpose local government, an independent special district, under s. 189.031, Florida Statutes, as amended from time to time, and as defined in this act and in s. 189.012(3), Florida Statutes, as amended from time to time, in and for portions of the City of North Port. Any amendments to chapter 190, Florida Statutes, after January 1, 2024, granting additional general powers, special powers, authorities, or projects to a community development district by amendment to its uniform charter, ss. 190.006-190.041, Florida Statutes, which are not inconsistent with this act, shall constitute a general power, special power, authority, or function of the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District. All notices for the enactment by the Legislature of this special act have been provided pursuant to the State Constitution, the Laws of Florida, and the Rules of the Florida House of Representatives and of the Florida Senate. No referendum subsequent to the effective date of this act is required as a condition of establishing the district. Therefore, the district, as created by this act, is established on the property described in this act.

(3) The territorial boundary of the district shall embrace and include all of that certain real property described in section 4.

(4) The jurisdiction of the district, in the exercise of its general and special powers, and in the carrying out of its special and limited purposes, is both within the external boundaries of the legal description of this district and extraterritorially when limited to, and as authorized expressly elsewhere in, the charter of the district as created in this act or applicable general law. This special and limited purpose district is created as a public body corporate and politic, and local government authority and power is limited by its charter, this act, and subject to other general laws, including chapter 189, Florida Statutes, except that an inconsistent provision in this act shall control and the district has jurisdiction to perform such acts and exercise such authorities, functions, and powers as shall be necessary, convenient, incidental, proper, or reasonable for the implementation of its special and limited purpose regarding the sound planning, provision, acquisition, development, operation, maintenance, and related financing of those public systems, facilities, services, improvements, projects, and infrastructure works as authorized herein, including those necessary and incidental thereto. The district shall only exercise any of its powers extraterritorially within the City of North Port after execution of an interlocal agreement between the district and the City of North Port consenting to the district's exercise of any of such powers within the City of North Port or an applicable development order or as part of other land development regulations issued by the City of North Port.

(5) The exclusive charter of the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District is this act and, except as otherwise provided in subsection (2), may be amended only by special act of the Legislature.

Section 4. Legal description of the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District.—The metes and bounds legal description of the district, within which there are no parcels of property owned by those who do not wish their property to be included within the district, is as follows:

TRACT 1 (FROM O.R.I. 2002036237)

A PORTION OF THE NORTH HALF OF SECTION 5, TOWNSHIP 39 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 5; THENCE N.89°37'34"W., ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTHEAST QUARTER, A DISTANCE OF 2652.93 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 5; THENCE N.89°37'34"W., ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER, A DISTANCE OF 2652.93 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 5; THENCE N.00°44'41"E., ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER, A DISTANCE OF 1761.54 FEET TO A POINT ON THE CENTER LINE OF A 100 FOOT WIDE, NON-EXCLUSIVE INGRESS, EGRESS AND UTILITY EASEMENT RUNNING THROUGH SECTIONS 4, 5 AND 6 AS DESCRIBED IN O.R.I. 2001131259, PUBLIC RECORDS OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND TO A POINT ON A CURVE TO THE RIGHT, HAVING A RADIUS OF 2000.00 FEET, A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 00°51'35", A CHORD BEARING OF S.80°38'17"E., AND A CHORD LENGTH OF 30.01 FEET; THENCE ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, AN ARC LENGTH OF 30.01 FEET TO THE POINT OF TANGENCY OF SAID CURVE; THENCE S.80°12'29"E., CONTINUING ALONG SAID CENTER LINE, A DISTANCE OF 2116.26 FEET TO THE POINT OF CURVATURE OF A CURVE TO THE LEFT, HAVING A RADIUS OF 1000.00 FEET, A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 25°59'19", A CHORD BEARING OF N.86°47'52"E. AND A CHORD LENGTH OF 449.71 FEET; THENCE ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, AN ARC LENGTH OF 453.59 FEET TO THE POINT OF TANGENCY OF SAID CURVE; THENCE N.73°48'12"E., ALONG SAID CENTER LINE, A DISTANCE OF 348.80 FEET TO THE POINT OF CURVATURE OF A CURVE TO THE RIGHT, HAVING A RADIUS OF 1000.00 FEET, A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 71°05'17", A CHORD BEARING OF S.70°39'09"E., AND A CHORD LENGTH OF 1162.66 FEET; THENCE ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, AN ARC LENGTH OF 1240.72 FEET TO THE POINT OF TANGENCY OF SAID CURVE; THENCE S.35°06'31"E., ALONG SAID CENTER LINE, A DISTANCE OF 852.30 FEET TO THE POINT OF CURVATURE OF

A CURVE TO THE LEFT, HAVING A RADIUS OF 900.00 FEET, A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 54°12'00", A CHORD BEARING OF S.62°12'31" E. AND A CHORD LENGTH OF 819.98 FEET; THENCE ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, AN ARC LENGTH OF 851.37 FEET TO THE POINT OF TANGENCY OF SAID CURVE; THENCE S.89°18'31"E., ALONG SAID CENTER LINE, A DISTANCE OF 72.56 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 5; THENCE S.00°50'30"W., ALONG SAID EAST LINE, A DISTANCE OF 88.02 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

TOGETHER WITH THE INGRESS/EGRESS AND UTILITY EASEMENT GRANTED IN O.R. INSTRUMENT NO. 2002036237 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

TRACT 2

A PORTION OF SECTIONS 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 15 AND 16, TOWNSHIP 39 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 39 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, ALSO BEING THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SECOND ADDITION TO NORTH PORT CHARLOTTE ESTATES, PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 19, PAGES 44 AND 44A THROUGH 44-0, PUBLIC RECORDS OF SAID SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE S.00°30'07"W. (GRID BEARING, FLORIDA TRANSVERSE MERCATOR, WEST ZONE), ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 6, A DISTANCE OF 2548.44 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 6; THENCE S.00°30'07"W., CONTINUING ALONG SAID WEST LINE OF SECTION 6, A DISTANCE OF 100.02 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE S.88°26'46"E., PARALLEL WITH AND 100.00 FEET SOUTH OF THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 6, A DISTANCE OF 5299.57 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 5, BEARING S.00°44'41"W., A DISTANCE OF 100.01 FEET FROM THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 5; THENCE S.89°37'34"E., PARALLEL WITH AND 100.00 FEET SOUTH OF THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 5, A DISTANCE OF 5305.69 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 4, BEARING S.00°50'30"W., A DISTANCE OF 100.01 FEET FROM THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 4; THENCE S.89°49'42"E., PARALLEL WITH AND 100.00 FEET SOUTH OF THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 4, A DISTANCE OF 4877.78 FEET; THENCE S.16°26'43"E., A DISTANCE OF 960.52 FEET; THENCE S.00°47'59"W., PARALLEL WITH AND 150.00 FEET WEST OF THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 4, A DISTANCE OF 513.02 FEET; THENCE S.18°20'50"W., A DISTANCE OF 1189.95 FEET TO A POINT ON THE NORTH LINE OF

SECTION 9, BEARING N.89°56'00"W., A DISTANCE OF 508.81 FEET FROM THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 9; THENCE N.89°56'00"W., ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 9, A DISTANCE OF 2148.47 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE EAST HALF OF SAID SECTION 9; THENCE S.01°01'52"W., ALONG THE WEST LINE OF THE EAST HALF OF SAID SECTION 9, A DISTANCE OF 5312.87 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE EAST HALF OF SAID SECTION 9; THENCE S.89°47'00"E., ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SECTION 9, ALSO THE NORTH LINE OF SECTION 16, A DISTANCE OF 2662.92 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 15; THENCE S.89°40'03"E., ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 15, A DISTANCE OF 536.06 FEET TO A POINT IN THE ALDERMAN SLOUGH; THENCE FOLLOWING SAID ALDERMAN SLOUGH IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION, THE FOLLOWING COURSES THROUGH SECTION 15: THENCE S.12°02'12"E., A DISTANCE OF 127.44 FEET; THENCE S.09°19'36"E., A DISTANCE OF 688.88 FEET; THENCE S.04°17'39"E., A DISTANCE OF 145.23 FEET; THENCE S.11°04'54"E., A DISTANCE OF 278.80 FEET; THENCE S.18°24'37"W., A DISTANCE OF 118.03 FEET; THENCE S.27°30'33"W., A DISTANCE OF 170.26 FEET; THENCE S.05°11'15"E., A DISTANCE OF 86.33 FEET; THENCE S.07°05'59"W., A DISTANCE OF 206.26 FEET; THENCE S.03°47'11"E., A DISTANCE OF 108.15 FEET; THENCE S.15°38'29"W., A DISTANCE OF 229.08 FEET; THENCE S.11°11'29"W., A DISTANCE OF 651.33 FEET; THENCE S.04°17'53"W., A DISTANCE OF 74.25 FEET; THENCE S.16°13'07"W., A DISTANCE OF 79.94 FEET; THENCE S.06°56'07"W., A DISTANCE OF 292.06 FEET; THENCE S.19°33'24"W., A DISTANCE OF 62.42 FEET; THENCE S.51°48'15"W., A DISTANCE OF 177.50 FEET; THENCE S.35°17'02"W., A DISTANCE OF 182.82 FEET; THENCE S.51°44'00"W., A DISTANCE OF 129.18 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF SECTION 16, BEARING N.00°16'13"E., A DISTANCE OF 1734.15 FEET FROM THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 16; THENCE S.51°44'00"W., THROUGH SECTION 16, A DISTANCE OF 18.84 FEET; THENCE S.35°17'35"W., A DISTANCE OF 203.28 FEET TO A POINT ON THE NORTHERLY LIMITED ACCESS RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR INTERSTATE HIGHWAY #75; THENCE N.44°57'25"W., ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 7168.47 FEET TO THE POINT OF CURVATURE OF A CURVE TO THE LEFT, HAVING A RADIUS OF 5846.49 FEET, A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 44°14'48", A CHORD BEARING OF N.67°04'49"W., AND A CHORD LENGTH OF 4403.59 FEET; THENCE ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, AN ARC LENGTH OF 4514.95 FEET TO THE POINT OF TANGENCY OF SAID CURVE; THENCE N.89°12'13"W., ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 1309.66 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 8; THENCE N.01°04'23"E., ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 8, A DISTANCE OF 2325.50 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 6; THENCE N.87°10'58"W., ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 6,

ALSO THE NORTH LINE OF SECTION 7, A DISTANCE OF 5292.12 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 6; THENCE N.00°30'07"E., ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 6, A DISTANCE OF 2448.42 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

LESS AND EXCEPT:

A PORTION OF THE SOUTH HALF OF SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 39 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 6, N.= 1007797.74, E.= 605625.27, FLORIDA STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, WEST ZONE; THENCE N.00°30'07"E., 'GRID BEARING' ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 6, A DISTANCE OF 56.50 FEET; THENCE N.42°23'13"E., A DISTANCE OF 2975.77 FEET; THENCE S.88°26'46"E., A DISTANCE OF 2676.20 FEET TO A POINT ON THE NORTHEASTERLY LINE OF THAT CERTAIN 50 FOOT WIDE WATER PIPE LINE EASEMENT AS DESCRIBED IN O.R.I. # 1999158305, PUBLIC RECORDS OF SAID SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE S.44°53'43"E., ALONG SAID NORTHEASTERLY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 889.05 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 6; THENCE S.00°44'41"W., ALONG SAID EAST LINE, A DISTANCE OF 1812.32 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 6; THENCE N.87°10'58"W., ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 6, A DISTANCE OF 5292.12 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

AND LESS THE PORTION THEREOF CONVEYED IN O.R. INSTRUMENT NO. 2002056489, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

TOGETHER WITH AN EASEMENT FOR INGRESS/EGRESS & UTILITIES OVER, ACROSS AND THROUGH SAID LANDS DESCRIBED IN O.R. INSTRUMENT NO. 2002056489

TRACT 3 (FROM O.R.I. 2000076817)

A PORTION OF SECTIONS 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 AND 10, TOWNSHIP 39 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 39 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, ALSO BEING THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SECOND ADDITION TO NORTH PORT CHARLOTTE ESTATES, PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 19, PAGES 44 AND 44A THROUGH 44-0, PUBLIC RECORDS OF SAID SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE S.00°30'07"W. (GRID BEARING, FLORIDA TRANSVERSE MERCATOR, WEST ZONE), ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 6, A DISTANCE OF 2548.44 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF

THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 6 AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE S.88°26'46"E., ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTH HALF A DISTANCE OF 5299.99 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTH HALF OF SECTION 5; THENCE S.89°37'34"E., ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTH HALF, A DISTANCE OF 5305.86 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTH HALF OF SECTION 4; THENCE S.89°49'42"E., ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTH HALF, A DISTANCE OF 5280.31 FEET TO A POINT IN THE ALDERMAN SLOUGH BEARING N.89°49'42"W., A DISTANCE OF 32.18 FEET FROM THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 4; THENCE FOLLOWING SAID ALDERMAN SLOUGH IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION, THE FOLLOWING COURSES: S.19°46'12"W., A DISTANCE OF 384.63 FEET; THENCE S.06°17'38"E., A DISTANCE OF 74.84 FEET; THENCE S.16°26'43"E., A DISTANCE OF 499.12 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 3, BEARING N.00°47'59"E., A DISTANCE OF 1748.16 FEET FROM THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 3; THENCE S.16°26'43"E., THROUGH SECTION 3, A DISTANCE OF 211.62 FEET; THENCE S.03°07'54"W., A DISTANCE OF 225.97 FEET; THENCE S.07°53'10"W., A DISTANCE OF 216.17 FEET; THENCE S.18°35'25"W., A DISTANCE OF 87.96 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF SECTION 4, BEARING N.00°47'59"E., A DISTANCE OF 1022.00 FEET FROM THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 4; THENCE S.18°20'50"W., A DISTANCE OF 1076.23 FEET TO A POINT ON THE NORTH LINE OF SECTION 9, BEARING N.89°56'00"W., A DISTANCE OF 324.51 FEET FROM THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 9; THENCE S.18°25'53"W., THROUGH SECTION 9, A DISTANCE OF 85.39 FEET; THENCE S.27°12'16"E., A DISTANCE OF 517.18 FEET; THENCE S.57°39'41"E., A DISTANCE OF 124.04 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 10, BEARING S.00°58'09"W., A DISTANCE OF 607.04 FEET FROM THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 10; THENCE S.57°39'41"E., THROUGH SECTION 10, A DISTANCE OF 63.21 FEET; THENCE S.10°12'48"E., A DISTANCE OF 555.38 FEET; THENCE S.07°21'16"E., A DISTANCE OF 672.34 FEET; THENCE S.10°44'03"E., A DISTANCE OF 651.24 FEET; THENCE S.10°36'13"W., A DISTANCE OF 530.75 FEET; THENCE S.01°14'47"W., A DISTANCE OF 820.24 FEET; THENCE S.03°22'21"E., A DISTANCE OF 253.99 FEET; THENCE S.08°05'01"E., A DISTANCE OF 925.01 FEET; THENCE S.12°02'12"E., A DISTANCE OF 324.13 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 10; THENCE N.89°40'03"W., ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 10 AND LEAVING SAID ALDERMAN SLOUGH, A DISTANCE OF 536.06 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 9; THENCE N.89°47'00"W., ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 9, A DISTANCE OF 2662.92 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE EAST HALF OF SAID SECTION 9; THENCE N.01°01'52"E., ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID EAST HALF, A

DISTANCE OF 5312.87 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE EAST HALF OF SAID SECTION 9; THENCE S89°56'00"E., ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SECTION 9, ALSO THE SOUTH LINE OF SECTION 4, A DISTANCE OF 2148.47 FEET TO A POINT BEARING N.89°56'00"W., A DISTANCE OF 508.81 FEET FROM THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 4; THENCE N.18°20'50"E., THROUGH SECTION 4, A DISTANCE OF 1189.95 FEET; THENCE N.00°47'59"E., PARALLEL WITH AND 150.00 FEET WEST OF THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 4, A DISTANCE OF 513.02 FEET; THENCE N.16°26'43"W., A DISTANCE OF 960.52 FEET; THENCE N.89°49'42"W., PARALLEL WITH AND 100.00 FEET SOUTH OF THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 4, A DISTANCE OF 4877.78 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF SECTION 5; THENCE N.89°37'34"W., PARALLEL WITH AND 100.00 FEET SOUTH OF THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 5, A DISTANCE OF 5305.69 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF SECTION 6; THENCE N.88°26'46"W., PARALLEL WITH AND 100.00 FEET SOUTH OF THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 6, A DISTANCE OF 5299.57 FEET TO THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 6; THENCE N.00°30'07"E., ALONG SAID WEST LINE, A DISTANCE OF 100.02 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 6 AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

AND LESS THE PORTION THEREOF CONVEYED IN O.R. INSTRUMENT NO. 2002056489, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

TOGETHER WITH AN EASEMENT FOR INGRESS/EGRESS & UTILITIES OVER, ACROSS AND THROUGH SAID LANDS DESCRIBED IN O.R. INSTRUMENT NO. 2002056489.

CONTAINING A TOTAL AREA OF 2,086 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

Being subject to any rights-of-way, restrictions and easements of record.

Section 5. Board of supervisors; members and meetings; organization; powers; duties; terms of office; related election requirements.—

(1) The board of the district shall exercise the powers granted to the district pursuant to this act. The board shall consist of five members, each of whom shall hold office for a term of 4 years, as provided in this section, except as otherwise provided herein for initial board members, and until a successor is chosen and qualified. The members of the board must be residents of the state and citizens of the United States.

(2)(a) Within 90 days after the effective date of this act, there shall be held a meeting of the landowners of the district for the purpose of electing five supervisors for the district. Notice of the landowners' meeting shall be

published once a week for 2 consecutive weeks in a newspaper that is in general circulation in the area of the district, the last day of such publication to be not less than 14 days or more than 28 days before the date of the election. The landowners, when assembled at such meeting, shall organize by electing a chair, who shall conduct the meeting. The chair may be any person present at the meeting. If the chair is a landowner or proxy holder of a landowner, he or she may nominate candidates and make and second motions. The landowners present at the meeting, in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum. At any landowners' meeting, 50 percent of the district acreage shall not be required to constitute a quorum, and each governing board member elected by landowners shall be elected by a majority of the acreage represented either by owner or proxy present and voting at said meeting.

(b) At such meeting, each landowner shall be entitled to cast one vote per acre of land owned by him or her and located within the district for each person to be elected. A landowner may vote in person or by proxy in writing. Each proxy must be signed by one of the legal owners of the property for which the vote is cast and must contain the typed or printed name of the individual who signed the proxy; the street address, legal description of the property, or tax parcel identification number; and the number of authorized votes. If the proxy authorizes more than one vote, each property must be listed and the number of acres of each property must be included. The signature on a proxy need not be notarized. A fraction of an acre shall be treated as 1 acre, entitling the landowner to one vote with respect thereto. The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall each be elected for terms expiring November 28, 2028, and the two candidates receiving the next highest number of votes shall each be elected for terms expiring November 24, 2026, with the term of office for each successful candidate commencing upon election. The members of the first board elected by landowners shall serve their respective terms; however, the next election of board members shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November 2026. Thereafter, there shall be an election by landowners for the district every 2 years on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, which shall be noticed pursuant to paragraph (a). The second and subsequent landowners' election shall be announced at a public meeting of the board at least 90 days before the date of the landowners' meeting and shall also be noticed pursuant to paragraph (a). Instructions on how all landowners may participate in the election, along with sample proxies, shall be provided during the board meeting that announces the landowners' meeting. Each supervisor elected in or after November 2026 shall serve a 4-year term.

(3)(a)1. The board may not exercise the ad valorem taxing power authorized by this act until such time as all members of the board are qualified electors who are elected by qualified electors of the district.

2.a. Regardless of whether the district has proposed to levy ad valorem taxes, board members shall begin being elected by qualified electors of the district as the district becomes populated with qualified electors. The

transition shall occur such that the composition of the board, after the first general election following a trigger of the qualified elector population thresholds set forth below, shall be as follows:

(I) Once 1,300 qualified electors reside within the district, one governing board member shall be a person who is a qualified elector of the district and who was elected by the qualified electors, and four governing board members shall be persons who were elected by the landowners.

(II) Once 2,500 qualified electors reside within the district, two governing board members shall be persons who are qualified electors of the district and who were elected by the qualified electors, and three governing board members shall be persons who were elected by the landowners.

(III) Once 3,700 qualified electors reside within the district, three governing board members shall be persons who are qualified electors of the district and who were elected by the qualified electors, and two governing board members shall be persons who were elected by the landowners.

(IV) Once 4,900 qualified electors reside within the district, four governing board members shall be persons who are qualified electors of the district and who were elected by the qualified electors, and one governing board member shall be a person who was elected by the landowners.

(V) Once 6,100 qualified electors reside within the district, all five governing board members shall be persons who are qualified electors of the district and who were elected by the qualified electors.

Nothing in this sub-subparagraph is intended to require an election prior to the expiration of an existing board member's term.

b. On or before June 1 of each election year, the board shall determine the number of qualified electors in the district as of the immediately preceding April 15. The board shall use and rely upon the official records maintained by the supervisor of elections and property appraiser or tax collector in Sarasota County in making this determination. Such determination shall be made at a properly noticed meeting of the board and shall become a part of the official minutes of the district.

c. All governing board members elected by qualified electors shall be elected at large at an election occurring as provided in subsection (2) and this subsection.

d. All governing board members elected by qualified electors shall reside in the district.

e. Once the district qualifies to have any of its board members elected by the qualified electors of the district, the initial and all subsequent elections by the qualified electors of the district shall be held at the general election in November. The board shall adopt a resolution, if necessary, to implement

this requirement. The transition process described herein is intended to be in lieu of the process set forth in s. 189.041, Florida Statutes.

(b) Elections of board members by qualified electors held pursuant to this subsection shall be nonpartisan and shall be conducted in the manner prescribed by law for holding general elections. Board members shall assume the office on the second Tuesday following their election.

(c) Candidates seeking election to office by qualified electors under this subsection shall conduct their campaigns in accordance with chapter 106, Florida Statutes, and shall file qualifying papers and qualify for individual seats in accordance with s. 99.061, Florida Statutes.

(d) The supervisor of elections shall appoint the inspectors and clerks of elections, prepare and furnish the ballots, designate polling places, and canvass the returns of the election of board members by qualified electors. The county canvassing board shall declare and certify the results of the election.

(4) Members of the board, regardless of how elected, shall be public officers, shall be known as supervisors, and, upon entering into office, shall take and subscribe to the oath of office as prescribed by s. 876.05, Florida Statutes. Members of the board shall be subject to ethics and conflict of interest laws of the state that apply to all local public officers. They shall hold office for the terms for which they were elected or appointed and until their successors are chosen and qualified. If, during the term of office, a vacancy occurs, the remaining members of the board shall fill each vacancy by an appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(5) Any elected member of the board of supervisors may be removed by the Governor for malfeasance, misfeasance, dishonesty, incompetency, or failure to perform the duties imposed upon him or her by this act, and any vacancies that may occur in such office for such reasons shall be filled by the Governor as soon as practicable.

(6) A majority of the members of the board constitutes a quorum for the purposes of conducting its business and exercising its powers and for all other purposes. Action taken by the district shall be upon a vote of a majority of the members present unless general law or a rule of the district requires a greater number.

(7) As soon as practicable after each election or appointment, the board shall organize by electing one of its members as chair and by electing a secretary, who need not be a member of the board, and such other officers as the board may deem necessary.

(8) The board shall keep a permanent record book entitled "Record of Proceedings of Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District," in which shall be recorded minutes of all meetings, resolutions, proceedings, certificates, bonds given by all employees, and any and all corporate acts.

The record book and all other district records shall at reasonable times be opened to inspection in the same manner as state, county, and municipal records pursuant to chapter 119, Florida Statutes. The record book shall be kept at the office or other regular place of business maintained by the board in a designated location in Sarasota County.

(9) No supervisor shall be entitled to receive compensation for his or her services in excess of the limits established in s. 190.006(8), Florida Statutes, or any successor statute thereto; however, each supervisor shall receive travel and per diem expenses as set forth in s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.

(10) All meetings of the board shall be open to the public and governed by chapter 286, Florida Statutes.

Section 6. Board of supervisors; general duties.—

(1) DISTRICT MANAGER AND EMPLOYEES.—The board shall employ and fix the compensation of a district manager, who shall have charge and supervision of the works of the district and shall be responsible for preserving and maintaining any improvement or facility constructed or erected pursuant to this act, for maintaining and operating the equipment owned by the district, and for performing such other duties as may be prescribed by the board. It shall not be a conflict of interest or constitute an abuse of public position under chapter 112, Florida Statutes, for a board member, the district manager, or another employee of the district to be a stockholder, officer, or employee of a landowner or an affiliate of a landowner. The district manager may hire or otherwise employ and terminate the employment of such other persons, including, without limitation, professional, supervisory, and clerical employees, as may be necessary and authorized by the board. The compensation and other conditions of employment of the officers and employees of the district shall be as provided by the board.

(2) TREASURER.—The board shall designate a person who is a resident of the state as treasurer of the district, who shall have charge of the funds of the district. Such funds shall be disbursed only upon the order of or pursuant to a resolution of the board by warrant or check countersigned by the treasurer and by such other person as may be authorized by the board. The board may give the treasurer such other or additional powers and duties as the board may deem appropriate and may fix his or her compensation. The board may require the treasurer to give a bond in such amount, on such terms, and with such sureties as may be deemed satisfactory to the board to secure the performance by the treasurer of his or her powers and duties. The financial records of the board shall be audited by an independent certified public accountant in accordance with the requirements of general law.

(3) PUBLIC DEPOSITORY.—The board is authorized to select as a depository for its funds any qualified public depository as defined in s. 280.02, Florida Statutes, which meets all the requirements of chapter 280, Florida Statutes, and has been designated by the treasurer as a qualified

public depository upon such terms and conditions as to the payment of interest by such depository upon the funds so deposited as the board may deem just and reasonable.

(4) BUDGET; REPORTS AND REVIEWS.—

(a) The district shall provide financial reports in such form and such manner as prescribed pursuant to this act and chapter 218, Florida Statutes, as amended from time to time.

(b) On or before July 15 of each year, the district manager shall prepare a proposed budget for the ensuing fiscal year to be submitted to the board for board approval. The proposed budget shall include at the direction of the board an estimate of all necessary expenditures of the district for the ensuing fiscal year and an estimate of income to the district from the taxes and assessments provided in this act. The board shall consider the proposed budget item by item and may either approve the budget as proposed by the district manager or modify the same in part or in whole. The board shall indicate its approval of the budget by resolution, which resolution shall provide for a hearing on the budget as approved. Notice of the hearing on the budget shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the area of the district once a week for 2 consecutive weeks, except that the first publication shall be no less than 15 days prior to the date of the hearing. The notice shall further contain a designation of the day, time, and place of the public hearing. At the time and place designated in the notice, the board shall hear all objections to the budget as proposed and may make such changes as the board deems necessary. At the conclusion of the budget hearing, the board shall, by resolution, adopt the budget as finally approved by the board. The budget shall be adopted prior to October 1 of each year.

(c) At least 60 days prior to adoption, the board of supervisors of the district shall submit to the City Commission of the City of North Port, for purposes of disclosure and information only, the proposed annual budget for the ensuing fiscal year, and the commission may submit written comments to the board of supervisors solely for the assistance and information of the board of supervisors of the district in adopting its annual district budget.

(d) The board of supervisors of the district shall submit annually a public facilities report to the City Commission of the City of North Port pursuant to Florida Statutes. The commission may use and rely on the district's public facilities report in the preparation or revision of the City of North Port comprehensive plan.

(5) DISCLOSURE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION; WEB-BASED PUBLIC ACCESS.—The district shall take affirmative steps to provide for the full disclosure of information relating to the public financing and maintenance of improvements to real property undertaken by the district. Such information shall be made available to all existing residents and all prospective residents of the district. The district shall furnish each developer of a residential development within the district with sufficient copies of that

information to provide each prospective initial purchaser of property in that development with a copy; and any developer of a residential development within the district, when required by law to provide a public offering statement, shall include a copy of such information relating to the public financing and maintenance of improvements in the public offering statement. The district shall file the disclosure documents required by this subsection and any amendments thereto in the property records of each county in which the district is located. By the end of the first full fiscal year of the district's creation, the district shall maintain an official Internet website in accordance with s. 189.069, Florida Statutes.

(6) GENERAL POWERS.—The district shall have, and the board may exercise, the following general powers:

(a) To sue and be sued in the name of the district; to adopt and use a seal and authorize the use of a facsimile thereof; to acquire, by purchase, gift, devise, or otherwise, and to dispose of, real and personal property, or any estate therein; and to make and execute contracts and other instruments necessary or convenient to the exercise of its powers.

(b) To apply for coverage of its employees under the Florida Retirement System in the same manner as if such employees were state employees.

(c) To contract for the services of consultants to perform planning, engineering, legal, or other appropriate services of a professional nature. Such contracts shall be subject to public bidding or competitive negotiation requirements as set forth in general law applicable to independent special districts.

(d) To borrow money and accept gifts; to apply for and use grants or loans of money or other property from the United States, the state, a unit of local government, or any person for any district purposes and enter into agreements required in connection therewith; and to hold, use, and dispose of such moneys or property for any district purposes in accordance with the terms of the gift, grant, loan, or agreement relating thereto.

(e) To adopt and enforce rules and orders pursuant to chapter 120, Florida Statutes, prescribing the powers, duties, and functions of the officers of the district; the conduct of the business of the district; the maintenance of records; and the form of certificates evidencing tax liens and all other documents and records of the district. The board may also adopt and enforce administrative rules with respect to any of the projects of the district and define the area to be included therein. The board may also adopt resolutions which may be necessary for the conduct of district business.

(f) To maintain an office at such place or places as the board of supervisors designates in Sarasota County and within the district when facilities are available.

(g) To hold, control, and acquire by donation, purchase, or condemnation, or dispose of, any public easements, dedications to public use, platted reservations for public purposes, or any reservations for those purposes authorized by this act and to make use of such easements, dedications, or reservations for the purposes authorized by this act.

(h) To lease as lessor or lessee to or from any person, firm, corporation, association, or body, public or private, any projects of the type that the district is authorized to undertake and facilities or property of any nature for the use of the district to carry out the purposes authorized by this act.

(i) To borrow money and issue bonds, certificates, warrants, notes, or other evidence of indebtedness as provided herein; to levy such taxes and assessments as may be authorized; and to charge, collect, and enforce fees and other user charges.

(j) To raise, by user charges or fees authorized by resolution of the board, amounts of money which are necessary for the conduct of district activities and services and to enforce their receipt and collection in the manner prescribed by resolution not inconsistent with law.

(k) To exercise all powers of eminent domain now or hereafter conferred on counties in this state, provided, however, that such power of eminent domain may not be exercised outside the territorial limits of the district unless the district receives prior approval by vote of a resolution of the governing body of the county if the taking will occur in an unincorporated area in that county, or the governing body of the city if the taking will occur in an incorporated area. The district shall not have the power to exercise eminent domain over municipal, county, state, or federal property. The powers hereinabove granted to the district shall be so construed to enable the district to fulfill the objects and purposes of the district as set forth in this act.

(l) To cooperate with, or contract with, other governmental agencies as may be necessary, convenient, incidental, or proper in connection with any of the powers, duties, or purposes authorized by this act.

(m) To assess and to impose upon lands in the district ad valorem taxes as provided by this act.

(n) If and when authorized by general law, to determine, order, levy, impose, collect, and enforce maintenance taxes.

(o) To determine, order, levy, impose, collect, and enforce assessments pursuant to this act and chapter 170, Florida Statutes, as amended from time to time, pursuant to authority granted in s. 197.3631, Florida Statutes, or pursuant to other provisions of general law now or hereinafter enacted which provide or authorize a supplemental means to order, levy, impose, or collect special assessments. Such special assessments, in the discretion of the district, may be collected and enforced pursuant to ss. 197.3632 and

197.3635, Florida Statutes, and chapters 170 and 173, Florida Statutes, as they may be amended from time to time, or as provided by this act, or by other means authorized by general law now or hereinafter enacted. The district may levy such special assessments for the purposes enumerated in this act and to pay special assessments imposed by the City of North Port on lands within the district.

(p) To exercise such special powers and other express powers as may be authorized and granted by this act in the charter of the district, including powers as provided in any interlocal agreement entered into pursuant to chapter 163, Florida Statutes, or which shall be required or permitted to be undertaken by the district pursuant to any development order, including any detailed specific area plan development order, or any interlocal service agreement with the City of North Port or other unit of government for fair-share capital construction funding for any certain capital facilities or systems required of a developer pursuant to any applicable development order or agreement.

(q) To exercise all of the powers necessary, convenient, incidental, or proper in connection with any other powers or duties or the special and limited purpose of the district authorized by this act.

This subsection shall be construed liberally in order to carry out effectively the special and limited purpose of this act.

(7) SPECIAL POWERS.—The district shall have, and the board may exercise, the following special powers to implement its lawful and special purpose and to provide, pursuant to that purpose, systems, facilities, services, improvements, projects, works, and infrastructure, each of which constitutes a lawful public purpose when exercised pursuant to this charter, subject to, and not inconsistent with, general law regarding utility providers' territorial and service agreements, the regulatory jurisdiction and permitting authority of all other applicable governmental bodies, agencies, and any special districts having authority with respect to any area included therein, and to plan, establish, acquire, construct or reconstruct, enlarge or extend, equip, operate, finance, fund, and maintain improvements, systems, facilities, services, works, projects, and infrastructure. Any or all of the following special powers are granted by this act in order to implement the special and limited purpose of the district but do not constitute obligations to undertake such improvements, systems, facilities, services, works, projects, or infrastructure:

(a) To provide water management and control for the lands within the district, including irrigation systems and facilities, and to connect some or any of such facilities with roads and bridges. In the event that the board assumes the responsibility for providing water management and control for the district which is to be financed by benefit special assessments, the board shall adopt plans and assessments pursuant to law or may proceed to adopt water management and control plans, assess for benefits, and apportion and levy special assessments, as follows:

1. The board shall cause to be made by the district's engineer, or such other engineer or engineers as the board may employ for that purpose, complete and comprehensive water management and control plans for the lands located within the district that will be improved in any part or in whole by any system of facilities that may be outlined and adopted, and the engineer shall make a report in writing to the board with maps and profiles of said surveys and an estimate of the cost of carrying out and completing the plans.

2. Upon the completion of such plans, the board shall hold a hearing thereon to hear objections thereto, shall give notice of the time and place fixed for such hearing by publication once each week for 2 consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the general area of the district, and shall permit the inspection of the plan at the office of the district by all persons interested. All objections to the plan shall be filed at or before the time fixed in the notice for the hearing and shall be in writing.

3. After the hearing, the board shall consider the proposed plan and any objections thereto and may modify, reject, or adopt the plan or continue the hearing until a day certain for further consideration of the proposed plan or modifications thereof.

4. When the board approves a plan, a resolution shall be adopted and a certified copy thereof shall be filed in the office of the secretary and incorporated by him or her into the records of the district.

5. The water management and control plan may be altered in detail from time to time until the engineer's report pursuant to s. 298.301, Florida Statutes, is filed but not in such manner as to affect materially the conditions of its adoption. After the engineer's report has been filed, no alteration of the plan shall be made, except as provided by this act.

6. Within 20 days after the final adoption of the plan by the board, the board shall proceed pursuant to s. 298.301, Florida Statutes.

(b) To provide water supply, sewer, wastewater, and reclaimed water management, reclamation, and reuse, or any combination thereof, and any irrigation systems, facilities, and services and to construct and operate water systems, sewer systems, irrigation systems, and reclaimed water systems such as connecting intercepting or outlet sewers and sewer mains and pipes and water mains, conduits, or pipelines in, along, and under any street, alley, highway, or other public place or ways, and to dispose of any water, effluent, residue, or other byproducts of such water system, sewer system, irrigation system, or reclaimed water system and to enter into interlocal agreements and other agreements with public or private entities for the same.

(c) To provide bridges, culverts, wildlife corridors, or road crossings that may be needed across any drain, ditch, canal, floodway, holding basin, excavation, public highway, tract, grade, fill, or cut and roadways over levees

and embankments, and to construct any and all of such works and improvements across, through, or over any public right-of-way, highway, grade, fill, or cut.

(d) To provide district or other roads equal to or exceeding the specifications of the county in which such district or other roads are located, and to provide street lights. This special power includes, but is not limited to, roads, parkways, intersections, bridges, landscaping, hardscaping, irrigation, bicycle lanes, sidewalks, jogging paths, multiuse pathways and trails, street lighting, traffic signals, regulatory or informational signage, road striping, underground conduit, underground cable or fiber or wire installed pursuant to an agreement with or tariff of a retail provider of services, and all other customary elements of a functioning modern road system in general or as tied to the conditions of development approval for the area within and without the district, and parking facilities that are freestanding or that may be related to any innovative strategic intermodal system of transportation pursuant to applicable federal, state, and local law and ordinance.

(e) To provide buses, trolleys, rail access, mass transit facilities, transit shelters, ridesharing facilities and services, parking improvements, and related signage.

(f) To provide investigation and remediation costs associated with the cleanup of actual or perceived environmental contamination within the district under the supervision or direction of a competent governmental authority unless the covered costs benefit any person who is a landowner within the district and who caused or contributed to the contamination.

(g) To provide observation areas, mitigation areas, wetland creation areas, and wildlife habitat, including the maintenance of any plant or animal species, and any related interest in real or personal property.

(h) Using its general and special powers as set forth in this act, to provide any other project within or without the boundaries of the district when the project is the subject of an agreement between the district and the City Commission of the City of North Port or with any other applicable public or private entity and is not inconsistent with the effective local comprehensive plans.

(i) To provide parks and facilities for indoor and outdoor recreational, cultural, and educational uses.

(j) To provide school buildings and related structures, which may be leased, sold, or donated to the school district, for use in the educational system when authorized by the district school board.

(k) To provide security, including electronic intrusion-detection systems and patrol vehicles, when authorized by proper governmental agencies, and to contract with the appropriate local general-purpose government agencies for an increased level of such services within the district boundaries.

However, this paragraph does not prohibit the district from contracting with a towing operator to remove a vehicle or vessel from a district-owned facility or property if the district follows the authorization and notice and procedural requirements in s. 715.07, Florida Statutes, for an owner or lessee of private property. The district's selection of a towing operator is not subject to public bidding if the towing operator is included in an approved list of town operators maintained by the local government that has jurisdiction over the district's facility or property.

(l) To provide control and elimination of mosquitoes and other arthropods of public health importance.

(m) To enter into impact fee, mobility fee, or other similar credit agreements with the City of North Port or other governmental bodies or a landowner developer and to sell or assign such credits, on such terms as the district deems appropriate.

(n) To provide buildings and structures for district offices, maintenance facilities, meeting facilities, town centers, stadiums, or any other project authorized or granted by this act.

(o) To establish and create, at noticed meetings, such departments of the board of supervisors of the district, as well as committees, task forces, boards, or commissions, or other agencies under the supervision and control of the district, as from time to time the members of the board may deem necessary or desirable in the performance of the acts or other things necessary to exercise the board's general or special powers to implement an innovative project to carry out the special and limited purpose of the district as provided in this act and to delegate the exercise of its powers to such departments, boards, task forces, committees, or other agencies, and such administrative duties and other powers as the board may deem necessary or desirable, but only if there is a set of expressed limitations for accountability, notice, and periodic written reporting to the board that shall retain the powers of the board.

(p) To provide electrical, sustainable, or green infrastructure improvements, facilities, and services, including, but not limited to, recycling of natural resources, reduction of energy demands, development and generation of alternative or renewable energy sources and technologies, mitigation of urban heat islands, sequestration, capping or trading of carbon emissions or carbon emissions credits, LEED or Florida Green Building Coalition certification, and development of facilities and improvements for low-impact development, and to enter into joint ventures, public-private partnerships, and other agreements and to grant such easements as may be necessary to accomplish the foregoing. Nothing herein shall authorize the district to provide electric service to retail customers or otherwise act to impair electric utility franchise agreements.

(q) To provide for any facilities or improvements that may otherwise be provided for by any county or municipality, including, but not limited to,

libraries, annexes, substations, and other buildings to house public officials, staff, and employees.

(r) To provide waste collection and disposal.

(s) To provide for the construction and operation of communications systems and related infrastructure for the carriage and distribution of communications services, and to enter into joint ventures, public-private partnerships, and other agreements and to grant such easements as may be necessary to accomplish the foregoing. The term “communications systems” means all facilities, buildings, equipment, items, and methods necessary or desirable in order to provide communications services, including, without limitation, wires, cables, conduits, wireless cell sites, computers, modems, satellite antennae sites, transmission facilities, network facilities, and appurtenant devices necessary and appropriate to support the provision of communications services. The term “communications services” includes, without limitation, Internet, voice telephone or similar services provided by voice-over-Internet protocol, cable television, data transmission services, electronic security monitoring services, and multichannel video programming distribution services. Nothing herein shall authorize the district to provide communications services to retail customers or otherwise act to impair existing service provider franchise agreements, though the district may contract with such providers for resale purposes.

(t) To provide health care facilities and to enter into public-private partnerships and agreements as may be necessary to accomplish the foregoing.

(u) To coordinate, work with, and, as the board deems appropriate, enter into interlocal agreements with any public or private entity for the provision of an institution or institutions of higher education.

(v) To coordinate, work with, and, as the board deems appropriate, enter into public-private partnerships and agreements as may be necessary or useful to effectuate the purposes of this act.

The enumeration of special powers herein shall not be deemed exclusive or restrictive but shall be deemed to incorporate all powers, express or implied, necessary or incidental to carrying out such enumerated special powers, including also the general powers provided by this special act charter to the district to implement its purposes. Further, this subsection shall be construed liberally in order to carry out effectively the special and limited purpose of this district under this act.

(8) ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES.—In addition to the other powers provided for in this act, and not in limitation thereof, the district shall have the power, at any time and from time to time after the issuance of any bonds of the district shall have been authorized, to borrow money for the purposes for which such bonds are to be issued in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of the sale of such bonds and to issue bond

anticipation notes in a principal sum not in excess of the authorized maximum amount of such bond issue. Such notes shall be in such denomination or denominations, bear interest at such rate, not to exceed the maximum rate allowed by general law, mature at such time or times not later than 5 years from the date of issuance, and be in such form and executed in such manner as the board shall prescribe. Such notes may be sold at either public or private sale or, if such notes shall be renewal notes, may be exchanged for notes then outstanding on such terms as the board shall determine. Such notes shall be paid from the proceeds of such bonds when issued. The board may, in its discretion, in lieu of retiring the notes by means of bonds, retire them by means of current revenues or from any taxes or assessments levied for the payment of such bonds, but, in such event, a like amount of the bonds authorized shall not be issued.

(9) BORROWING.—The district at any time may obtain loans, in such amount and on such terms and conditions as the board may approve, for the purpose of paying any of the expenses of the district or any costs incurred or that may be incurred in connection with any of the projects of the district, which loans shall bear interest as the board determines, not to exceed the maximum rate allowed by general law, and may be payable from and secured by a pledge of such funds, revenues, taxes, and assessments as the board may determine, subject, however, to the provisions contained in any proceeding under which bonds were theretofore issued and are then outstanding. For the purpose of defraying such costs and expenses, the district may issue negotiable notes, warrants, or other evidences of debt to be payable at such times and to bear such interest as the board may determine, not to exceed the maximum rate allowed by general law, and to be sold or discounted at such price or prices not less than 95 percent of par value and on such terms as the board may deem advisable. The board shall have the right to provide for the payment thereof by pledging the whole or any part of the funds, revenues, taxes, and assessments of the district or by covenanting to budget and appropriate from such funds. The approval of the electors residing in the district shall not be necessary except when required by the State Constitution.

(10) BONDS.—

(a) Sale of bonds.—Bonds may be sold in blocks or installments at different times, or an entire issue or series may be sold at one time. Bonds may be sold at public or private sale after such advertisement, if any, as the board may deem advisable, but not in any event at less than 90 percent of the par value thereof, together with accrued interest thereon. Bonds may be sold or exchanged for refunding bonds. Special assessment and revenue bonds may be delivered by the district as payment of the purchase price of any project or part thereof, or a combination of projects or parts thereof, or as the purchase price or exchange for any property, real, personal, or mixed, including franchises or services rendered by any contractor, engineer, or other person, all at one time or in blocks from time to time, in such manner and upon such terms as the board in its discretion shall determine. The price or prices for any bonds sold, exchanged, or delivered may be:

1. The money paid for the bonds.
2. The principal amount, plus accrued interest to the date of redemption or exchange, or outstanding obligations exchanged for refunding bonds.
3. In the case of special assessment or revenue bonds, the amount of any indebtedness to contractors or other persons paid with such bonds, or the fair value of any properties exchanged for the bonds, as determined by the board.

(b) Authorization and form of bonds.—Any general obligation bonds, special assessment bonds, or revenue bonds may be authorized by resolution or resolutions of the board which shall be adopted by a majority of all the members thereof then in office. Such resolution or resolutions may be adopted at the same meeting at which they are introduced and need not be published or posted. The board may, by resolution, authorize the issuance of bonds and fix the aggregate amount of bonds to be issued; the purpose or purposes for which the moneys derived therefrom shall be expended, including, but not limited to, payment of costs as defined in section 2(2)(h); the rate or rates of interest, not to exceed the maximum rate allowed by general law; the denomination of the bonds; whether the bonds are to be issued in one or more series; the date or dates of maturity, which shall not exceed 40 years from their respective dates of issuance; the medium of payment; the place or places within or without the state at which payment shall be made; registration privileges; redemption terms and privileges, whether with or without premium; the manner of execution; the form of the bonds, including any interest coupons to be attached thereto; the manner of execution of bonds and coupons; and any and all other terms, covenants, and conditions thereof and the establishment of revenue or other funds. Such authorizing resolution or resolutions may further provide for the contracts authorized by s. 159.825(1)(f) and (g), Florida Statutes, regardless of the tax treatment of such bonds being authorized, subject to the finding by the board of a net saving to the district resulting by reason thereof. Such authorizing resolution may further provide that such bonds may be executed in accordance with the Registered Public Obligations Act, except that bonds not issued in registered form shall be valid if manually countersigned by an officer designated by appropriate resolution of the board. The seal of the district may be affixed, lithographed, engraved, or otherwise reproduced in facsimile on such bonds. In case any officer whose signature shall appear on any bonds or coupons shall cease to be such officer before the delivery of such bonds, such signature or facsimile shall nevertheless be valid and sufficient for all purposes the same as if he or she had remained in office until such delivery.

(c) Interim certificates; replacement certificates.—Pending the preparation of definitive bonds, the board may issue interim certificates or receipts or temporary bonds, in such form and with such provisions as the board may determine, exchangeable for definitive bonds when such bonds have been executed and are available for delivery. The board may also provide for the replacement of any bonds which become mutilated, lost, or destroyed.

(d) Negotiability of bonds.—Any bond issued under this act or any temporary bond, in the absence of an express recital on the face thereof that it is nonnegotiable, shall be fully negotiable and shall be and constitute a negotiable instrument within the meaning and for all purposes of the law merchant and the laws of the state.

(e) Defeasance.—The board may make such provision with respect to the defeasance of the right, title, and interest of the holders of any of the bonds and obligations of the district in any revenues, funds, or other properties by which such bonds are secured as the board deems appropriate and, without limitation on the foregoing, may provide that when such bonds or obligations become due and payable or shall have been called for redemption and the whole amount of the principal and interest and premium, if any, due and payable upon the bonds or obligations then outstanding shall be held in trust for such purpose, and provision shall also be made for paying all other sums payable in connection with such bonds or other obligations, then and in such event the right, title, and interest of the holders of the bonds in any revenues, funds, or other properties by which such bonds are secured shall thereupon cease, terminate, and become void; and the board may apply any surplus in any sinking fund established in connection with such bonds or obligations and all balances remaining in all other funds or accounts other than moneys held for the redemption or payment of the bonds or other obligations to any lawful purpose of the district as the board shall determine.

(f) Issuance of additional bonds.—If the proceeds of any bonds are less than the cost of completing the project in connection with which such bonds were issued, the board may authorize the issuance of additional bonds, upon such terms and conditions as the board may provide in the resolution authorizing the issuance thereof, but only in compliance with the resolution or other proceedings authorizing the issuance of the original bonds.

(g) Refunding bonds.—The district shall have the power to issue bonds to provide for the retirement or refunding of any bonds or obligations of the district that at the time of such issuance are or subsequent thereto become due and payable, or that at the time of issuance have been called or are, or will be, subject to call for redemption within 10 years thereafter, or the surrender of which can be procured from the holders thereof at prices satisfactory to the board. Refunding bonds may be issued at any time that in the judgment of the board such issuance will be advantageous to the district. No approval of the qualified electors residing in the district shall be required for the issuance of refunding bonds except in cases in which such approval is required by the State Constitution. The board may by resolution confer upon the holders of such refunding bonds all rights, powers, and remedies to which the holders would be entitled if they continued to be the owners and had possession of the bonds for the refinancing of which such refunding bonds are issued, including, but not limited to, the preservation of the lien of such bonds on the revenues of any project or on pledged funds, without extinguishment, impairment, or diminution thereof. The provisions of this act pertaining to bonds of the district shall, unless the context otherwise requires, govern the issuance of refunding bonds, the form and other details

thereof, the rights of the holders thereof, and the duties of the board with respect thereto.

(h) Revenue bonds.—

1. The district shall have the power to issue revenue bonds from time to time without limitation as to amount. Such revenue bonds may be secured by, or payable from, the gross or net pledge of the revenues to be derived from any project or combination of projects; from the rates, fees, or other charges to be collected from the users of any project or projects; from any revenue-producing undertaking or activity of the district; from special assessments; from benefit special assessments; or from any other source or pledged security. Such bonds shall not constitute an indebtedness of the district, and the approval of the qualified electors shall not be required unless such bonds are additionally secured by the full faith and credit and taxing power of the district.

2. Any two or more projects may be combined and consolidated into a single project and may hereafter be operated and maintained as a single project. The revenue bonds authorized herein may be issued to finance any one or more of such projects, regardless of whether such projects have been combined and consolidated into a single project. If the board deems it advisable, the proceedings authorizing such revenue bonds may provide that the district may thereafter combine the projects then being financed or theretofore financed with other projects to be subsequently financed by the district and that revenue bonds to be thereafter issued by the district shall be on parity with the revenue bonds then being issued, all on such terms, conditions, and limitations as shall have been provided in the proceeding which authorized the original bonds.

(i) General obligation bonds.—

1. Subject to the limitations of this charter, the district shall have the power from time to time to issue general obligation bonds to finance or refinance capital projects or to refund outstanding bonds in an aggregate principal amount of bonds outstanding at any one time not in excess of 35 percent of the assessed value of the taxable property within the district as shown on the pertinent tax records at the time of the authorization of the general obligation bonds for which the full faith and credit of the district is pledged. Except for refunding bonds, no general obligation bonds shall be issued unless the bonds are issued to finance or refinance a capital project and the issuance has been approved at an election held in accordance with the requirements for such election as prescribed by the State Constitution. Such elections shall be called to be held in the district by the Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections upon the request of the board of the district. The expenses of calling and holding an election shall be at the expense of the district, and the district shall reimburse the county for any expenses incurred in calling or holding such election.

2. The district may pledge its full faith and credit for the payment of the principal and interest on such general obligation bonds and for any reserve funds provided therefor and may unconditionally and irrevocably pledge itself to levy ad valorem taxes on all taxable property in the district, to the extent necessary for the payment thereof, without limitation as to rate or amount.

3. If the board determines to issue general obligation bonds for more than one capital project, the approval of the issuance of the bonds for each and all such projects may be submitted to the electors on one and the same ballot. The failure of the electors to approve the issuance of bonds for any one or more capital projects shall not defeat the approval of bonds for any capital project which has been approved by the electors.

4. In arriving at the amount of general obligation bonds permitted to be outstanding at any one time pursuant to subparagraph 1., there shall not be included any general obligation bonds that are additionally secured by the pledge of:

a. Any assessments levied in an amount sufficient to pay the principal and interest on the general obligation bonds so additionally secured, which assessments have been equalized and confirmed by resolution of the board pursuant to this act or s. 170.08, Florida Statutes.

b. Water revenues, sewer revenues, or water and sewer revenues of the district to be derived from user fees in an amount sufficient to pay the principal and interest on the general obligation bonds so additionally secured.

c. Any combination of assessments and revenues described in subparagraphs a. and b.

(j) Bonds as legal investment or security.—

1. Notwithstanding any provisions of any other law to the contrary, all bonds issued under this act shall constitute legal investments for savings banks, banks, trust companies, insurance companies, executors, administrators, trustees, guardians, and other fiduciaries and for any board, body, agency, instrumentality, county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state and shall be and constitute security which may be deposited by banks or trust companies as security for deposits of state, county, municipal, or other public funds or by insurance companies as required or voluntary statutory deposits.

2. Any bonds issued by the district shall be incontestable in the hands of bona fide purchasers or holders for value and shall not be invalid because of any irregularity or defect in the proceedings for the issue and sale thereof.

(k) Covenants.—Any resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds may contain such covenants as the board may deem advisable, and all such covenants shall constitute valid and legally binding and enforceable

contracts between the district and the bondholders, regardless of the time of issuance thereof. Such covenants may include, without limitation, covenants concerning the disposition of the bond proceeds; the use and disposition of project revenues; the pledging of revenues, taxes, and assessments; the obligations of the district with respect to the operation of the project and the maintenance of adequate project revenues; the issuance of additional bonds; the appointment, powers, and duties of trustees and receivers; the acquisition of outstanding bonds and obligations; restrictions on the establishing of competing projects or facilities; restrictions on the sale or disposal of the assets and property of the district; the priority of assessment liens; the priority of claims by bondholders on the taxing power of the district; the maintenance of deposits to ensure the payment of revenues by users of district facilities and services; the discontinuance of district services by reason of delinquent payments; acceleration upon default; the execution of necessary instruments; the procedure for amending or abrogating covenants with the bondholders; and such other covenants as may be deemed necessary or desirable for the security of the bondholders.

(l) Validation proceedings.—The power of the district to issue bonds under this act may be determined, and any of the bonds of the district maturing over a period of more than 5 years shall be validated and confirmed, by court decree, under chapter 75, Florida Statutes, and laws amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto.

(m) Tax exemption.—To the extent allowed by general law, all bonds issued hereunder and interest paid thereon and all fees, charges, and other revenues derived by the district from the projects provided by this act are exempt from all taxes by the state or by any political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof; however, any interest, income, or profits on debt obligations issued hereunder are not exempt from the tax imposed by chapter 220, Florida Statutes. Further, the district is not exempt from chapter 212, Florida Statutes.

(n) Application of s. 189.051, Florida Statutes.—Bonds issued by the district shall meet the criteria set forth in s. 189.051, Florida Statutes.

(o) Act furnishes full authority for issuance of bonds.—This act constitutes full and complete authority for the issuance of bonds and the exercise of the powers of the district provided herein. No procedures or proceedings, publications, notices, consents, approvals, orders, acts, or things by the board, or any board, officer, commission, department, agency, or instrumentality of the district, other than those required by this act, shall be required to perform anything under this act, except that the issuance or sale of bonds pursuant to this act shall comply with the general law requirements applicable to the issuance or sale of bonds by the district. Nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize the district to utilize bond proceeds to fund the ongoing operations of the district.

(p) Pledge by the state to the bondholders of the district.—The state pledges to the holders of any bonds issued under this act that it will not limit

or alter the rights of the district to own, acquire, construct, reconstruct, improve, maintain, operate, or furnish the projects or to levy and collect the taxes, assessments, rentals, rates, fees, and other charges provided for herein and to fulfill the terms of any agreement made with the holders of such bonds or other obligations and that it will not in any way impair the rights or remedies of such holders.

(q) Default.—A default on the bonds or obligations of the district shall not constitute a debt or obligation of the state or any general-purpose local government of the state. In the event of a default or dissolution of the district, no general-purpose local government shall be required to assume the property of the district, the debts of the district, or the district's obligations to complete any infrastructure improvements or provide any services to the district. The provisions of s. 189.076(2), Florida Statutes, shall not apply to the district.

(11) TRUST AGREEMENTS.—Any issue of bonds shall be secured by a trust agreement or resolution by and between the district and a corporate trustee or trustees, which may be any trust company or bank having the powers of a trust company within or without the state. The resolution authorizing the issuance of the bonds or such trust agreement may pledge the revenues to be received from any projects of the district and may contain such provisions for protecting and enforcing the rights and remedies of the bondholders as the board may approve, including, without limitation, covenants setting forth the duties of the district in relation to: the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, improvement, maintenance, repair, operation, and insurance of any projects; the fixing and revising of the rates, fees, and charges; and the custody, safeguarding, and application of all moneys and for the employment of consulting engineers in connection with such acquisition, construction, reconstruction, improvement, maintenance, repair, or operation. It shall be lawful for any bank or trust company within or without the state which may act as a depository of the proceeds of bonds or of revenues to furnish such indemnifying bonds or to pledge such securities as may be required by the district. Such resolution or trust agreement may set forth the rights and remedies of the bondholders and of the trustee, if any, and may restrict the individual right of action by bondholders. The board may provide for the payment of proceeds of the sale of the bonds and the revenues of any project to such officer, board, or depository as it may designate for the custody thereof and may provide for the method of disbursement thereof with such safeguards and restrictions as it may determine. All expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of such resolution or trust agreement may be treated as part of the cost of operation of the project to which such resolution or trust agreement pertains.

(12) AD VALOREM TAXES; ASSESSMENTS, BENEFIT SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS, MAINTENANCE SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS, AND SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS; MAINTENANCE TAXES.—

(a) Ad valorem taxes.—At such time as all members of the board are qualified electors who are elected by qualified electors of the district, the

board shall have the power to levy and assess an ad valorem tax on all the taxable property in the district to construct, operate, and maintain assessable improvements; to pay the principal of, and interest on, any general obligation bonds of the district; and to provide for any sinking or other funds established in connection with any such bonds. An ad valorem tax levied by the board for operating purposes, exclusive of debt service on bonds, shall not exceed 3 mills. The ad valorem tax provided for herein shall be in addition to county and all other ad valorem taxes provided for by law. Such tax shall be assessed, levied, and collected in the same manner and at the same time as county taxes. The levy of ad valorem taxes must be approved by referendum as required by s. 9, Article VII of the State Constitution.

(b) Benefit special assessments.—The board annually shall determine, order, and levy the annual installment of the total benefit special assessments for bonds issued and related expenses to finance assessable improvements. These assessments may be due and collected during each year county taxes are due and collected, in which case such annual installment and levy shall be evidenced to and certified to the property appraiser by the board not later than August 31 of each year. Such assessment shall be entered by the property appraiser on the county tax rolls and shall be collected and enforced by the tax collector in the same manner and at the same time as county taxes, and the proceeds thereof shall be paid to the district. However, this paragraph shall not prohibit the district in its discretion from using the method prescribed in s. 197.3632, Florida Statutes, or chapter 173, Florida Statutes, as each may be amended from time to time, for collecting and enforcing these assessments. Each annual installment of benefit special assessments shall be a lien on the property against which assessed until paid and shall be enforceable in like manner as county taxes. The amount of the assessment for the exercise of the district's powers under subsections (6) and (7) shall be determined by the board based upon a report of the district's engineer and assessed by the board upon such lands, which may be part or all of the lands within the district benefited by the improvement, apportioned between benefited lands in proportion to the benefits received by each tract of land. The board may, if it determines it is in the best interests of the district, set forth in the proceedings initially levying such benefit special assessments or in subsequent proceedings a formula for the determination of an amount, which, when paid by a taxpayer with respect to any tax parcel, shall constitute a prepayment of all future annual installments of such benefit special assessments and that the payment of which amount with respect to such tax parcel shall relieve and discharge such tax parcel of the lien of such benefit special assessments and any subsequent annual installment thereof. The board may provide further that upon delinquency in the payment of any annual installment of benefit special assessments, the prepayment amount of all future annual installments of benefit special assessments as determined in the preceding sentence shall be and become immediately due and payable together with such delinquent annual installment.

(c) Non-ad valorem maintenance taxes.—If and when authorized by general law, to maintain and to preserve the physical facilities and services constituting the works, improvements, or infrastructure owned by the district pursuant to this act, to repair and restore any one or more of them, when needed, and to defray the current expenses of the district, including any sum which may be required to pay state and county ad valorem taxes on any lands which may have been purchased and which are held by the district under this act, the board of supervisors may, upon the completion of said systems, facilities, services, works, improvements, or infrastructure, in whole or in part, as may be certified to the board by the engineer of the board, levy annually a non-ad valorem and nonmillage tax upon each tract or parcel of land within the district, to be known as a “maintenance tax.” This non-ad valorem maintenance tax shall be apportioned upon the basis of the net assessments of benefits assessed as accruing from the original construction and shall be evidenced to and certified by the board of supervisors of the district not later than June 1 of each year to the Sarasota County tax collector and shall be extended on the tax rolls and collected by the tax collector on the merged collection roll of the tax collector in the same manner and at the same time as county ad valorem taxes, and the proceeds therefrom shall be paid to the district. This non-ad valorem maintenance tax shall be a lien until paid on the property against which assessed and enforceable in like manner and of the same dignity as county ad valorem taxes.

(d) Maintenance special assessments.—To maintain and preserve the facilities and projects of the district, the board may levy a maintenance special assessment. This assessment may be evidenced to and certified to the tax collector by the board of supervisors not later than August 31 of each year and shall be entered by the property appraiser on the county tax rolls and shall be collected and enforced by the tax collector in the same manner and at the same time as county taxes, and the proceeds therefrom shall be paid to the district. However, this paragraph shall not prohibit the district in its discretion from using the method prescribed in s. 197.363, s. 197.3631, or s. 197.3632, Florida Statutes, for collecting and enforcing these assessments. These maintenance special assessments shall be a lien on the property against which assessed until paid and shall be enforceable in like manner as county taxes. The amount of the maintenance special assessment for the exercise of the district’s powers under this section shall be determined by the board based upon a report of the district’s engineer and assessed by the board upon such lands, which may be all of the lands within the district benefited by the maintenance thereof, apportioned between the benefited lands in proportion to the benefits received by each tract of land.

(e) Special assessments.—The board may levy and impose any special assessments pursuant to this subsection.

(f) Enforcement of taxes.—The collection and enforcement of all taxes levied by the district shall be at the same time and in like manner as county taxes, and the provisions of the laws of Florida relating to the sale of lands for unpaid and delinquent county taxes; the issuance, sale, and delivery of

tax certificates for such unpaid and delinquent county taxes; the redemption thereof; the issuance to individuals of tax deeds based thereon; and all other procedures in connection therewith shall be applicable to the district to the same extent as if such statutory provisions were expressly set forth herein. All taxes shall be subject to the same discounts as county taxes.

(g) When unpaid tax is delinquent; penalty.—All taxes provided for in this act shall become delinquent and bear penalties on the amount of such taxes in the same manner as county taxes.

(h) Status of assessments.—Benefit special assessments, maintenance special assessments, and special assessments are hereby found and determined to be non-ad valorem assessments as defined by s. 197.3632, Florida Statutes. Maintenance taxes are non-ad valorem taxes and are not special assessments.

(i) Assessments constitute liens; collection.—Any and all assessments, including special assessments, benefit special assessments, and maintenance special assessments authorized by this section, and including special assessments as defined by section 2(2)(aa) and granted and authorized by this subsection, and including maintenance taxes if authorized by general law, shall constitute a lien on the property against which assessed from the date of levy and imposition thereof until paid, coequal with the lien of state, county, municipal, and school board taxes. These assessments may be collected, at the district's discretion, under authority of s. 197.3631, Florida Statutes, as amended from time to time, by the tax collector pursuant to ss. 197.3632 and 197.3635, Florida Statutes, as amended from time to time, or in accordance with other collection measures provided by law. In addition to, and not in limitation of, any powers otherwise set forth herein or in general law, these assessments may also be enforced pursuant to chapter 173, Florida Statutes, as amended from time to time.

(j) Land owned by governmental entity.—Except as otherwise provided by law, no levy of ad valorem taxes or non-ad valorem assessments under this act or chapter 170 or chapter 197, Florida Statutes, as each may be amended from time to time, or otherwise, by a board of the district, on property of a governmental entity that is subject to a ground lease as described in s. 190.003(14), Florida Statutes, shall constitute a lien or encumbrance on the underlying fee interest of such governmental entity.

(13) SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS.—

(a) As an alternative method to the levy and imposition of special assessments pursuant to chapter 170, Florida Statutes, pursuant to the authority of s. 197.3631, Florida Statutes, or pursuant to other provisions of general law, now or hereafter enacted, which provide a supplemental means or authority to impose, levy, and collect special assessments as otherwise authorized under this act, the board may levy and impose special assessments to finance the exercise of any of its powers permitted under this act using the following uniform procedures:

1. At a noticed meeting, the board of supervisors of the district may consider and review an engineer's report on the costs of the systems, facilities, and services to be provided, a preliminary special assessment methodology, and a preliminary roll based on acreage or platted lands, depending upon whether platting has occurred.

a. The special assessment methodology shall address and discuss, and the board shall consider, whether the systems, facilities, and services being contemplated will result in special benefits peculiar to the property, different in kind and degree than general benefits, as a logical connection between the systems, facilities, and services themselves and the property, and whether the duty to pay the special assessments by the property owners is apportioned in a manner that is fair and equitable and not in excess of the special benefit received. It shall be fair and equitable to designate a fixed proportion of the annual debt service, together with interest thereon, on the aggregate principal amount of bonds issued to finance such systems, facilities, and services which give rise to unique, special, and peculiar benefits to property of the same or similar characteristics under the special assessment methodology so long as such fixed proportion does not exceed the unique, special, and peculiar benefits enjoyed by such property from such systems, facilities, and services.

b. The engineer's cost report shall identify the nature of the proposed systems, facilities, and services, their location, a cost breakdown plus a total estimated cost, including cost of construction or reconstruction, labor, and materials, lands, property, rights, easements, franchises, or systems, facilities, and services to be acquired, cost of plans and specifications, surveys of estimates of costs and revenues, costs of engineering, legal, and other professional consultation services, and other expenses or costs necessary or incidental to determining the feasibility or practicability of such construction, reconstruction, or acquisition, administrative expenses, relationship to the authority and power of the district in its charter, and such other expenses or costs as may be necessary or incidental to the financing to be authorized by the board of supervisors.

c. The preliminary special assessment roll will be in accordance with the assessment methodology as may be adopted by the board of supervisors; the special assessment roll shall be completed as promptly as possible and shall show the acreage, lots, lands, or plats assessed and the amount of the fairly and reasonably apportioned assessment based on special and peculiar benefit to the property, lot, parcel, or acreage of land; and, if the special assessment against such lot, parcel, acreage, or portion of land is to be paid in installments, the number of annual installments in which the special assessment is divided shall be entered into and shown upon the special assessment roll.

2. The board of supervisors of the district may determine and declare by an initial special assessment resolution to levy and assess the special assessments with respect to assessable improvements stating the nature of the systems, facilities, and services, improvements, projects, or

infrastructure constituting such assessable improvements, the information in the engineer's cost report, the information in the special assessment methodology as determined by the board at the noticed meeting and referencing and incorporating as part of the resolution the engineer's cost report, the preliminary special assessment methodology, and the preliminary special assessment roll as referenced exhibits to the resolution by reference. If the board determines to declare and levy the special assessments by the initial special assessment resolution, the board shall also adopt and declare a notice resolution which shall provide and cause the initial special assessment resolution to be published once a week for a period of 2 weeks in newspapers of general circulation published in the City of North Port, and said board shall by the same resolution fix a time and place at which the owner or owners of the property to be assessed or any other persons interested therein may appear before said board and be heard as to the propriety and advisability of making such improvements, as to the costs thereof, as to the manner of payment therefor, and as to the amount thereof to be assessed against each property so improved. Thirty days' notice in writing of such time and place shall be given to such property owners. The notice shall include the amount of the special assessment and shall be served by mailing a copy to each assessed property owner at his or her last known address, the names and addresses of such property owners to be obtained from the record of the property appraiser of the county political subdivision in which the land is located or from such other sources as the district manager or engineer deems reliable, and proof of such mailing shall be made by the affidavit of the district manager or by the engineer, said proof to be filed with the district manager, provided that failure to mail said notice or notices shall not invalidate any of the proceedings hereunder. It is provided further that the last publication shall be at least 1 week prior to the date of the hearing on the final special assessment resolution. Said notice shall describe the general areas to be improved and advise all persons interested that the description of each property to be assessed and the amount to be assessed to each piece, parcel, lot, or acre of property may be ascertained at the office of the district manager. Such service by publication shall be verified by the affidavit of the publisher and filed with the district manager. Moreover, the initial special assessment resolution with its attached, referenced, and incorporated engineer's cost report, preliminary special assessment methodology, and preliminary special assessment roll, along with the notice resolution, shall be available for public inspection at the office of the district manager and the office of the engineer or any other office designated by the board of supervisors in the notice resolution. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the landowners of all of the property which is proposed to be assessed may give the district written notice of waiver of any notice and publication provided for in this subparagraph, and such notice and publication shall not be required, provided, however, that any meeting of the board of supervisors to consider such resolution shall be a publicly noticed meeting.

3. At the time and place named in the noticed resolution as provided for in subparagraph 2., the board of supervisors of the district shall meet and

hear testimony from affected property owners as to the propriety and advisability of making the systems, facilities, services, projects, works, improvements, or infrastructure and funding them with assessments referenced in the initial special assessment resolution on the property. Following the testimony and questions from the members of the board or any professional advisors to the district of the preparers of the engineer's cost report, the special assessment methodology, and the special assessment roll, the board of supervisors shall make a final decision on whether to levy and assess the particular special assessments. Thereafter, the board of supervisors shall meet as an equalizing board to hear and to consider any and all complaints as to the particular special assessments and shall adjust and equalize the special assessments to ensure proper assessment based on the benefit conferred on the property.

4. When so equalized and approved by resolution or ordinance by the board of supervisors, to be called the final special assessment resolution, a final special assessment roll shall be filed with the clerk of the board and such special assessment shall stand confirmed and remain legal, valid, and binding first liens on the property against which such special assessments are made until paid, equal in dignity to the first liens of ad valorem taxation of county and municipal governments and school boards. However, upon completion of the systems, facilities, services, projects, improvements, works, or infrastructure, the district shall credit to each of the assessments the difference in the special assessment as originally made, approved, levied, assessed, and confirmed and the proportionate part of the actual cost of the improvement to be paid by the particular special assessments as finally determined upon the completion of the improvement; but in no event shall the final special assessment exceed the amount of the special and peculiar benefits as apportioned fairly and reasonably to the property from the system, facility, or service being provided as originally assessed. Promptly after such confirmation, the special assessment shall be recorded by the clerk of the district in the minutes of the proceedings of the district, and the record of the lien in this set of minutes shall constitute prima facie evidence of its validity. The board of supervisors, in its sole discretion, may by resolution grant a discount equal to all or a part of the payee's proportionate share of the cost of the project consisting of bond financing cost, such as capitalized interest, funded reserves, and bond discounts included in the estimated cost of the project, upon payment in full of any special assessments during such period prior to the time such financing costs are incurred as may be specified by the board of supervisors in such resolution.

5. District special assessments may be made payable in installments over no more than 40 years from the date of the payment of the first installment thereof and may bear interest at fixed or variable rates.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of this act or chapter 170, Florida Statutes, that portion of s. 170.09, Florida Statutes, that provides that special assessments may be paid without interest at any time within 30 days after the improvement is completed and a resolution accepting the same has been adopted by the governing authority shall not be applicable to any

district special assessments, whether imposed, levied, and collected pursuant to this act or other provisions of Florida law, including, but not limited to, chapter 170, Florida Statutes.

(c) In addition, the district is authorized expressly in the exercise of its rulemaking power to adopt a rule or rules which provide for notice, levy, imposition, equalization, and collection of assessments.

(14) ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES OF INDEBTEDNESS BASED ON ASSESSMENTS FOR ASSESSABLE IMPROVEMENTS; ASSESSMENT BONDS.—

(a) The board may, after any special assessments or benefit special assessments for assessable improvements are made, determined, and confirmed as provided in this act, issue certificates of indebtedness for the amount so assessed against the abutting property or property otherwise benefited, as the case may be, and separate certificates shall be issued against each part or parcel of land or property assessed, which certificates shall state the general nature of the improvement for which the assessment is made. The certificates shall be payable in annual installments in accordance with the installments of the special assessment for which they are issued. The board may determine the interest to be borne by such certificates, not to exceed the maximum rate allowed by general law, and may sell such certificates at either private or public sale and determine the form, manner of execution, and other details of such certificates. The certificates shall recite that they are payable only from the special assessments levied and collected from the part or parcel of land or property against which they are issued. The proceeds of such certificates may be pledged for the payment of principal of and interest on any revenue bonds or general obligation bonds issued to finance in whole or in part such assessable improvement, or, if not so pledged, may be used to pay the cost or part of the cost of such assessable improvements.

(b) The district may also issue assessment bonds, revenue bonds, or other obligations payable from a special fund into which such certificates of indebtedness referred to in paragraph (a) may be deposited, or, if such certificates of indebtedness have not been issued, the district may assign to such special fund for the benefit of the holders of such assessment bonds or other obligations, or to a trustee for such bondholders, the assessment liens provided for in this act unless such certificates of indebtedness or assessment liens have been theretofore pledged for any bonds or other obligations authorized hereunder. In the event of the creation of such special fund and the issuance of such assessment bonds or other obligations, the proceeds of such certificates of indebtedness or assessment liens deposited therein shall be used only for the payment of the assessment bonds or other obligations issued as provided in this section. The district is authorized to covenant with the holders of such assessment bonds, revenue bonds, or other obligations that it will diligently and faithfully enforce and collect all the special assessments, and interest and penalties thereon, for which such certificates of indebtedness or assessment liens have been deposited in or

assigned to such fund; to foreclose such assessment liens so assigned to such special fund or represented by the certificates of indebtedness deposited in the special fund, after such assessment liens have become delinquent, and deposit the proceeds derived from such foreclosure, including interest and penalties, in such special fund; and to make any other covenants deemed necessary or advisable in order to properly secure the holders of such assessment bonds or other obligations.

(c) The assessment bonds, revenue bonds, or other obligations issued pursuant to this section shall have such dates of issue and maturity as shall be deemed advisable by the board; however, the maturities of such assessment bonds or other obligations shall not be more than 2 years after the due date of the last installment which will be payable on any of the special assessments for which such assessment liens, or the certificates of indebtedness representing such assessment liens, are assigned to or deposited in such special fund.

(d) Such assessment bonds, revenue bonds, or other obligations issued under this section shall bear such interest as the board may determine, not to exceed the maximum rate allowed by general law, and shall be executed, shall have such provisions for redemption prior to maturity, shall be sold in the manner, and shall be subject to all of the applicable provisions contained in this act for revenue bonds, except as the same may be inconsistent with this section.

(e) All assessment bonds, revenue bonds, or other obligations issued under this section shall be, shall constitute, and shall have all the qualities and incidents of negotiable instruments under the law merchant and the laws of the state.

(15) TAX LIENS.—All taxes of the district provided for in this act, together with all penalties for default in the payment of the same and all costs in collecting the same, including a reasonable attorney fee fixed by the court and taxed as a cost in the action brought to enforce payment, shall, from January 1 for each year the property is liable to assessment and until paid, constitute a lien of equal dignity with the liens for state and county taxes and other taxes of equal dignity with state and county taxes upon all the lands against which such taxes shall be levied. A sale of any of the real property within the district for state and county or other taxes shall not operate to relieve or release the property so sold from the lien for subsequent district taxes or installments of district taxes, which lien may be enforced against such property as though no such sale thereof had been made. In addition to, and not in limitation of, the preceding sentence, for purposes of s. 197.552, Florida Statutes, the lien of all special assessments levied by the district shall constitute a lien of record held by a municipal or county governmental unit. The provisions of ss. 194.171, 197.122, 197.333, and 197.432, Florida Statutes, shall be applicable to district taxes with the same force and effect as if such provisions were expressly set forth in this act.

(16) PAYMENT OF TAXES AND REDEMPTION OF TAX LIENS BY THE DISTRICT; SHARING IN PROCEEDS OF TAX SALE.—

(a) The district shall have the power and right to:

1. Pay any delinquent state, county, district, municipal, or other tax or assessment upon lands located wholly or partially within the boundaries of the district.

2. Redeem or purchase any tax sales certificates issued or sold on account of any state, county, district, municipal, or other taxes or assessments upon lands located wholly or partially within the boundaries of the district.

(b) Delinquent taxes paid, or tax sales certificates redeemed or purchased, by the district, together with all penalties for the default in payment of the same and all costs in collecting the same and a reasonable attorney fee, shall constitute a lien in favor of the district of equal dignity with the liens of state and county taxes and other taxes of equal dignity with state and county taxes upon all the real property against which the taxes were levied. The lien of the district may be foreclosed in the manner provided in this act.

(c) In any sale of land pursuant to s. 197.542, Florida Statutes, as may be amended from time to time, the district may certify to the clerk of the circuit court of the county holding such sale the amount of taxes due to the district upon the lands sought to be sold, and the district shall share in the disbursement of the sales proceeds in accordance with this act and under the laws of the state.

(17) FORECLOSURE OF LIENS.—Any lien in favor of the district arising under this act may be foreclosed by the district by foreclosure proceedings in the name of the district in a court of competent jurisdiction as provided by general law in like manner as is provided in chapter 170 or chapter 173, Florida Statutes, and amendments thereto and the provisions of those chapters shall be applicable to such proceedings with the same force and effect as if those provisions were expressly set forth in this act. Any act required or authorized to be done by or on behalf of a municipality in foreclosure proceedings under chapter 170 or chapter 173, Florida Statutes, may be performed by such officer or agent of the district as the board of supervisors may designate. Such foreclosure proceedings may be brought at any time after the expiration of 1 year from the date any tax, or installment thereof, becomes delinquent; however, no lien shall be foreclosed against any political subdivision or agency of the state. Other legal remedies shall remain available.

(18) MANDATORY USE OF CERTAIN DISTRICT FACILITIES.—To the full extent permitted by law, the district shall require all lands, buildings, premises, persons, firms, and corporations within the district to use the facilities of the district.

(19) COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT; BIDS; NEGOTIATIONS; RELATED PROVISIONS REQUIRED.—

(a) No contract shall be let by the board for any goods, supplies, or materials to be purchased when the amount thereof to be paid by the district shall exceed the amount provided in s. 287.017, Florida Statutes, as amended from time to time, for category four, unless notice of bids shall be advertised once in a newspaper in general circulation in the City of North Port. Any board seeking to construct or improve a public building, structure, or other public works shall comply with the bidding procedures of s. 255.20, Florida Statutes, as amended from time to time, and other applicable general law. In each case, the bid of the lowest responsive and responsible bidder shall be accepted unless all bids are rejected because the bids are too high or the board determines it is in the best interests of the district to reject all bids. The board may require the bidders to furnish bond with a responsible surety to be approved by the board. Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the board from undertaking and performing the construction, operation, and maintenance of any project or facility authorized by this act by the employment of labor, material, and machinery.

(b) The provisions of the Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act, s. 287.055, Florida Statutes, apply to contracts for engineering, architecture, landscape architecture, or registered surveying and mapping services let by the board.

(c) Contracts for maintenance services for any district facility or project shall be subject to competitive bidding requirements when the amount thereof to be paid by the district exceeds the amount provided in s. 287.017, Florida Statutes, as amended from time to time, for category four. The district shall adopt rules, policies, or procedures establishing competitive bidding procedures for maintenance services. Contracts for other services shall not be subject to competitive bidding unless the district adopts a rule, policy, or procedure applying competitive bidding procedures to said contracts. Nothing herein shall preclude the use of requests for proposal instead of invitations to bid as determined by the district to be in its best interest.

(20) RATES, FEES, RENTALS, AND CHARGES; PROCEDURE FOR ADOPTION AND MODIFICATIONS; MINIMUM REVENUE REQUIREMENTS.—

(a) The district is authorized to prescribe, fix, establish, and collect rates, fees, rentals, or other charges, hereinafter sometimes referred to as "revenues," and to revise the same from time to time, for the systems, facilities, and services furnished by the district, including, but not limited to, recreational facilities, water management and control facilities, and water and sewer systems; to recover the costs of making connection with any district service, facility, or system; and to provide for reasonable penalties against any user or property for any such rates, fees, rentals, or other charges that are delinquent.

(b) No such rates, fees, rentals, or other charges for any of the facilities or services of the district shall be fixed until after a public hearing at which all the users of the proposed facility or services or owners, tenants, or occupants served or to be served thereby and all other interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard concerning the proposed rates, fees, rentals, or other charges. Rates, fees, rentals, and other charges shall be adopted under the administrative rulemaking authority of the district, but shall not apply to district leases. Notice of such public hearing setting forth the proposed schedule or schedules of rates, fees, rentals, and other charges shall have been published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of North Port at least once and at least 10 days prior to such public hearing. The rulemaking hearing may be adjourned from time to time. After such hearing, such schedule or schedules, either as initially proposed or as modified or amended, may be finally adopted. A copy of the schedule or schedules of such rates, fees, rentals, or other charges as finally adopted shall be kept on file in an office designated by the board and shall be open at all reasonable times to public inspection. The rates, fees, rentals, or other charges so fixed for any class of users or property served shall be extended to cover any additional users or properties thereafter served which shall fall in the same class, without the necessity of any notice or hearing.

(c) Such rates, fees, rentals, and other charges shall be just and equitable and uniform for users of the same class, and, when appropriate, may be based or computed either upon the amount of service furnished, upon the average number of persons residing or working in or otherwise occupying the premises served, or upon any other factor affecting the use of the facilities furnished, or upon any combination of the foregoing factors, as may be determined by the board on an equitable basis.

(d) The rates, fees, rentals, or other charges prescribed shall be such as will produce revenues, together with any other assessments, taxes, revenues, or funds available or pledged for such purpose, at least sufficient to provide for the items hereinafter listed, but not necessarily in the order stated:

1. To provide for all expenses of operation and maintenance of such facility or service.

2. To pay when due all bonds and interest thereon for the payment of which such revenues are, or shall have been, pledged or encumbered, including reserves for such purpose.

3. To provide for any other funds which may be required under the resolution or resolutions authorizing the issuance of bonds pursuant to this act.

(e) The board shall have the power to enter into contracts for the use of the projects of the district and with respect to the services, systems, and facilities furnished or to be furnished by the district.

(21) RECOVERY OF DELINQUENT CHARGES.—In the event that any rates, fees, rentals, charges, or delinquent penalties are not paid when due and are in default for 60 days or more, the unpaid balance thereof and all interest accrued thereon, together with reasonable attorney fees and costs, may be recovered by the district in a civil action.

(22) DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE.—In the event the fees, rentals, or other charges for district services or facilities are not paid when due, the board shall have the power, under such reasonable rules and regulations as the board may adopt, to discontinue and shut off such services until such fees, rentals, or other charges, including interest, penalties, and charges for the shutting off and discontinuance and the restoration of such services, are fully paid; and, for such purposes, the board may enter on any lands, waters, or premises of any person, firm, corporation, or body, public or private, within the district limits. Such delinquent fees, rentals, or other charges, together with interest, penalties, and charges for the shutting off and discontinuance and the restoration of such services and facilities and reasonable attorney fees and other expenses, may be recovered by the district, which may also enforce payment of such delinquent fees, rentals, or other charges by any other lawful method of enforcement.

(23) ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES.—The board or any aggrieved person may have recourse to such remedies in law and at equity as may be necessary to ensure compliance with this act, including injunctive relief to enjoin or restrain any person violating this act or any bylaws, resolutions, regulations, rules, codes, or orders adopted under this act. In case any building or structure is erected, constructed, reconstructed, altered, repaired, converted, or maintained, or any building, structure, land, or water is used, in violation of this act or of any code, order, resolution, or other regulation made under authority conferred by this act or under law, the board or any citizen residing in the district may institute any appropriate action or proceeding to prevent such unlawful erection, construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, conversion, maintenance, or use; to restrain, correct, or avoid such violation; to prevent the occupancy of such building, structure, land, or water; and to prevent any illegal act, conduct, business, or use in or about such premises, land, or water.

(24) SUITS AGAINST THE DISTRICT.—Any suit or action brought or maintained against the district for damages arising out of tort, including, without limitation, any claim arising upon account of an act causing an injury or loss of property, personal injury, or death, shall be subject to the limitations provided in s. 768.28, Florida Statutes.

(25) EXEMPTION OF DISTRICT PROPERTY FROM EXECUTION.—All district property shall be exempt from levy and sale by virtue of an execution, and no execution or other judicial process shall issue against such property, nor shall any judgment against the district be a charge or lien on its property or revenues; however, nothing contained herein shall apply to or limit the rights of bondholders to pursue any remedy for the enforcement of

any lien or pledge given by the district in connection with any of the bonds or obligations of the district.

(26) TERMINATION, CONTRACTION, OR EXPANSION OF DISTRICT.—

(a) The board of supervisors of the district shall not ask the Legislature to repeal or amend this act to expand or to contract the boundaries of the district or otherwise cause the merger or termination of the district without first obtaining a resolution or official statement from the City of North Port as required by s. 189.031(2)(e)4., Florida Statutes, for creation of an independent special district. The district's consent may be evidenced by a resolution or other official written statement of the district.

(b) The district shall remain in existence until:

1. The district is terminated and dissolved pursuant to amendment to this act by the Legislature.

2. The district has become inactive pursuant to s. 189.062, Florida Statutes.

(27) MERGER WITH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS.—
The district may merge with one or more community development districts situated wholly within its boundaries. The district shall be the surviving entity of the merger. Any mergers shall commence upon each such community development district filing a written request for merger with the district. A copy of the written request shall also be filed with the City of North Port. The district, subject to the direction of its board of supervisors, shall enter into a merger agreement which shall provide for the proper allocation of debt, the manner in which such debt shall be retired, the transition of the community development district board, and the transfer of all financial obligations and operating and maintenance responsibilities to the district. The execution of the merger agreement by the district and each community development district constitutes consent of the landowners within each district. The district and each community development district requesting merger shall hold a public hearing within its boundaries to provide information about and take public comment on the proposed merger in the merger agreement. The public hearing shall be held within 45 days before the execution of the merger agreement by all parties thereto. Notice of the public hearing shall be published at least 14 days before the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of North Port. At the conclusion of the public hearing, each district shall consider a resolution either approving or disapproving the proposed merger. If the district and each community development district which is a party to the merger agreement adopt a resolution approving the proposed merger, the resolutions and the merger agreement shall be filed with the City of North Port. Upon receipt of the resolutions approving the merger and the merger agreement, the City of North Port shall adopt a nonemergency ordinance dissolving each community development district pursuant to s. 190.046(10), Florida Statutes.

(28) INCLUSION OF TERRITORY.—The inclusion of any or all territory of the district within a municipality does not change, alter, or affect the boundary, territory, existence, or jurisdiction of the district.

(29) SALE OF REAL ESTATE WITHIN THE DISTRICT; REQUIRED DISCLOSURE TO PURCHASER.—Subsequent to the creation of this district under this act, each contract for the initial sale of a parcel of real property and each contract for the initial sale of a residential unit within the district shall include, immediately prior to the space reserved in the contract for the signature of the purchaser, the following disclosure statement in boldfaced and conspicuous type which is larger than the type in the remaining text of the contract: “THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT MAY IMPOSE AND LEVY TAXES OR ASSESSMENTS, OR BOTH TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS, ON THIS PROPERTY. THESE TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS PAY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE COSTS OF CERTAIN PUBLIC SYSTEMS, FACILITIES, AND SERVICES OF THE DISTRICT AND ARE SET ANNUALLY BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE DISTRICT. THESE TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS ARE IN ADDITION TO COUNTY AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS AND ALL OTHER TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS PROVIDED FOR BY LAW.”

(30) NOTICE OF CREATION AND ESTABLISHMENT.—Within 30 days after the election of the first board of supervisors creating this district, the district shall cause to be recorded in the grantor-grantee index of the property records in Sarasota County a “Notice of Creation and Establishment of the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District.” The notice shall, at a minimum, include the legal description of the property covered by this act.

(31) DISTRICT PROPERTY PUBLIC; FEES.—Any system, facility, service, works, improvement, project, or other infrastructure owned by the district, or funded by federal tax exempt bonding issued by the district, is public, and the district by rule may regulate, and may impose reasonable charges or fees for, the use thereof, but not to the extent that such regulation or imposition of such charges or fees constitutes denial of reasonable access.

Section 7. If any provision of this act is determined unconstitutional or otherwise determined invalid by a court of law, all the rest and remainder of the act shall remain in full force and effect as the law of this state.

Section 8. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, except that the provisions of this act which authorize the levy of ad valorem taxation shall take effect only upon express approval by a majority vote of those qualified electors of the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District, as required by Section 9 of Article VII of the State Constitution, voting in a referendum election held at such time as all members of the board are qualified electors who are elected by qualified electors of the district as provided in this act.

Approved by the Governor June 14, 2024.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 14, 2024.

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

3E

FORM 8B MEMORANDUM OF VOTING CONFLICT FOR COUNTY, MUNICIPAL, AND OTHER LOCAL PUBLIC OFFICERS

LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE NAME	NAME OF BOARD, COUNCIL, COMMISSION, AUTHORITY, OR COMMITTEE
MAILING ADDRESS	THE BOARD, COUNCIL, COMMISSION, AUTHORITY OR COMMITTEE ON WHICH I SERVE IS A UNIT OF: ☐ CITY ☐ COUNTY ☐ OTHER LOCAL AGENCY
CITY COUNTY	NAME OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISION:
DATE ON WHICH VOTE OCCURRED	MY POSITION IS: ☐ ELECTIVE ☐ APPOINTEE

WHO MUST FILE FORM 8B

This form is for use by any person serving at the county, city, or other local level of government on an appointed or elected board, council, commission, authority, or committee. It applies to members of advisory and non-advisory bodies who are presented with a voting conflict of interest under Section 112.3143, Florida Statutes.

Your responsibilities under the law when faced with voting on a measure in which you have a conflict of interest will vary greatly depending on whether you hold an elective or appointive position. For this reason, please pay close attention to the instructions on this form before completing and filing the form.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 112.3143, FLORIDA STATUTES

A person holding elective or appointive county, municipal, or other local public office **MUST ABSTAIN** from voting on a measure which would inure to his or her special private gain or loss. Each elected or appointed local officer also **MUST ABSTAIN** from knowingly voting on a measure which would inure to the special gain or loss of a principal (other than a government agency) by whom he or she is retained (including the parent, subsidiary, or sibling organization of a principal by which he or she is retained); to the special private gain or loss of a relative; or to the special private gain or loss of a business associate. Commissioners of community redevelopment agencies (CRAs) under Sec. 163.356 or 163.357, F.S., and officers of independent special tax districts elected on a one-acre, one-vote basis are not prohibited from voting in that capacity.

For purposes of this law, a “relative” includes only the officer’s father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law. A “business associate” means any person or entity engaged in or carrying on a business enterprise with the officer as a partner, joint venturer, coowner of property, or corporate shareholder (where the shares of the corporation are not listed on any national or regional stock exchange).

* * * * *

ELECTED OFFICERS:

In addition to abstaining from voting in the situations described above, you must disclose the conflict:

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN by publicly stating to the assembly the nature of your interest in the measure on which you are abstaining from voting; *and*

WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER THE VOTE OCCURS by completing and filing this form with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who should incorporate the form in the minutes.

* * * * *

APPOINTED OFFICERS:

Although you must abstain from voting in the situations described above, you are not prohibited by Section 112.3143 from otherwise participating in these matters. However, you must disclose the nature of the conflict before making any attempt to influence the decision, whether orally or in writing and whether made by you or at your direction.

IF YOU INTEND TO MAKE ANY ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE DECISION PRIOR TO THE MEETING AT WHICH THE VOTE WILL BE TAKEN:

- You must complete and file this form (before making any attempt to influence the decision) with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who will incorporate the form in the minutes. (Continued on page 2)

APPOINTED OFFICERS (continued)

- A copy of the form must be provided immediately to the other members of the agency.
- The form must be read publicly at the next meeting after the form is filed.

IF YOU MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE DECISION EXCEPT BY DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING:

- You must disclose orally the nature of your conflict in the measure before participating.
- You must complete the form and file it within 15 days after the vote occurs with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who must incorporate the form in the minutes. A copy of the form must be provided immediately to the other members of the agency, and the form must be read publicly at the next meeting after the form is filed.

DISCLOSURE OF LOCAL OFFICER'S INTEREST

I, _____, hereby disclose that on _____, 20 ____ :

(a) A measure came or will come before my agency which (check one or more)

- ___ inured to my special private gain or loss;
- ___ inured to the special gain or loss of my business associate, _____ ;
- ___ inured to the special gain or loss of my relative, _____ ;
- ___ inured to the special gain or loss of _____, by
whom I am retained; or
- ___ inured to the special gain or loss of _____, which
is the parent subsidiary, or sibling organization or subsidiary of a principal which has retained me.

(b) The measure before my agency and the nature of my conflicting interest in the measure is as follows:

If disclosure of specific information would violate confidentiality or privilege pursuant to law or rules governing attorneys, a public officer, who is also an attorney, may comply with the disclosure requirements of this section by disclosing the nature of the interest in such a way as to provide the public with notice of the conflict.

Date Filed

Signature

NOTICE: UNDER PROVISIONS OF FLORIDA STATUTES §112.317, A FAILURE TO MAKE ANY REQUIRED DISCLOSURE CONSTITUTES GROUNDS FOR AND MAY BE PUNISHED BY ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING: IMPEACHMENT, REMOVAL OR SUSPENSION FROM OFFICE OR EMPLOYMENT, DEMOTION, REDUCTION IN SALARY, REPRIMAND, OR A CIVIL PENALTY NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000.

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

4

RESOLUTION 2024-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT RATIFYING THE ACTIONS OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER AND DISTRICT STAFF IN NOTICING THE LANDOWNERS' MEETING; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District is a local unit of special purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, being situated in the City of North Port, Sarasota County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the District held its organizational meeting on September 10, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the District Manager and District staff are holding the Landowners' Meeting in conjunction with the Organizational meeting and caused notice thereof to be provided pursuant to Florida law; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to ratify all the actions taken by the District Manager and District staff in noticing the initial landowner's meeting in accordance with Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, for September 10, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. The actions of the District Manager and District staff in noticing the landowners' meeting in accordance with Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, to elect five (5) supervisors of the District, held on the 10th day of September, 2024 at 11:30 a.m., at Forestar, 551 N. Cattlemen Rd., Suite 304, Sarasota, Florida 34232, are hereby ratified and approved.

SECTION 2. If any provision of this Resolution is held to be illegal or invalid, the other provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall become effective upon its passage and shall remain in effect unless rescinded or repealed.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

Composite Exhibit A: Sample Notice of Landowners' Meeting and Election, Proxy, Ballot Form and Instructions

Composite Exhibit A:

Sample Notice of Landowners' Meeting and Election, Proxy, Ballot Form and Instructions

**NOTICE OF LANDOWNERS' MEETING AND ELECTION AND MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Notice is hereby given to the public and all landowners within the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (the "District"), comprising approximately 2,086 acres and generally located south of SR 64, west of CR 675, east of Bourneside Blvd., and north of 61st Avenue E, wholly within the City of North Port, Sarasota County, Florida, advising that a meeting of landowners will be held for the purpose of electing five (5) persons to the District Board of Supervisors. Immediately following the landowners' meeting there will be convened an organizational meeting of the Board for the purpose of considering any such business which may properly come before it.

DATE: September 10, 2024
TIME: 11:30 a.m.
PLACE: Forestar
551 N. Cattlemen Rd., Suite 304
Sarasota, Florida 34232

Each landowner may vote in person or by written proxy. Proxy forms may be obtained upon request at the office of the District Manager, c/o Wrathell, Hunt & Associates, LLC, 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431, 561-571-0100 ("District Office"). At said meeting each landowner or his or her proxy shall be entitled to nominate persons for the position of Supervisor and cast one vote per acre of land, or fractional portion thereof, owned by him or her and located within the District for each person to be elected to the position of Supervisor. A fraction of an acre shall be treated as one acre, entitling the landowner to one vote with respect thereto. Platted lots shall be counted individually and rounded up to the nearest whole acre. The acreage of platted lots shall not be aggregated for determining the number of voting units held by a landowner or a landowner's proxy. At the landowners' meeting the landowners shall select a person to serve as the meeting chair and who shall conduct the meeting.

The landowners' meeting and the Board of Supervisors meeting are open to the public and will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Florida law. One or both of the meetings may be continued to a date, time, and place to be specified on the record at such meeting. A copy of the agenda for these meetings may be obtained from the District Office. There may be an occasion where one or more supervisors will participate by speaker telephone.

Any person requiring special accommodations to participate in these meetings is asked to contact the District Office at least forty-eight (48) hours before the hearing. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 7-1-1 or (800) 955-8770 for aid in contacting the District Office.

A person who decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting is advised that such person will need a record of the proceedings and that accordingly, the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

District Manager

LANDOWNER PROXY
STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT
THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
LANDOWNERS' MEETING – SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that the undersigned, the fee simple owner of the lands described herein, hereby constitutes and appoints _____ ("Proxy Holder") for and on behalf of the undersigned, to vote as proxy at the meeting of the landowners of Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District to be held at the Forestar, 551 N. Cattlemen Rd., Suite 304, Sarasota, Florida 34232 on September 10, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. and at any adjournments thereof, according to the number of acres of unplatted land and/or platted lots owned by the undersigned landowner that the undersigned would be entitled to vote if then personally present, upon any question, proposition, or resolution or any other matter or thing that may be considered at said meeting including, but not limited to, the election of members of the Board of Supervisors. Said Proxy Holder may vote in accordance with his or her discretion on all matters not known or determined at the time of solicitation of this proxy, which may legally be considered at said meeting.

Any proxy heretofore given by the undersigned for said meeting is hereby revoked. This proxy is to continue in full force and effect from the date hereof until the conclusion of the landowners' meeting and any adjournment or adjournments thereof but may be revoked at any time by written notice of such revocation presented at the landowners' meeting prior to the Proxy Holder's exercising the voting rights conferred herein.

Printed Name of Legal Owner

Signature of Legal Owner

Date

By: _____

Its: _____

Parcel Description

Acreage

Authorized Votes

[Insert above the street address of each parcel, the legal description of each parcel, or the tax identification number of each parcel. If more space is needed, identification of parcels owned may be incorporated by reference to an attachment hereto.]

Total Number of Authorized Votes: _____

NOTES: Pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, a fraction of an acre is treated as one (1) acre entitling the landowner to one vote with respect thereto. Moreover, two (2) or more persons who own real property in common that is one acre or less are together entitled to only one vote for that real property.

If the fee simple landowner is not an individual, and is instead a corporation, limited liability company, limited partnership or other entity, evidence that the individual signing on behalf of the entity has the authority to do so should be attached hereto (e.g., bylaws, corporate resolution, etc.).

OFFICIAL BALLOT
STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT
THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
LANDOWNERS' MEETING – SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

For Election (5 Supervisors): The two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes will each receive a four (4) year term, and the three (3) candidates receiving the next highest number of votes will each receive a two (2) year term, with the term of office for the successful candidates commencing upon election.

The undersigned certifies that he/she/it is the fee simple owner of land, or the proxy holder for the fee simple owner of land, located within Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District and described as follows:

Description

Acreage

or

Attach Proxy.

I, _____, as Landowner, or as the proxy holder of _____ (Landowner) pursuant to the Landowner's Proxy attached hereto, do cast my votes as follows:

SEAT	NAME OF CANDIDATE	NUMBER OF VOTES
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Printed Name: _____

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

5

RESOLUTION 2024-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE OF NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT CANVASSING AND CERTIFYING THE RESULTS OF THE LANDOWNERS' ELECTION OF SUPERVISORS HELD PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 2024-292, LAWS OF FLORIDA, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the Star Farms Village of North Port Stewardship District (“**District**”) is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, being situated within the City of North Port, Sarasota County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 2024-292(5)(2)(a), Laws of Florida, a landowners’ meeting is required to be held within 90 days of the District’s creation and every two years following the creation of the District for the purpose of electing supervisors of the District; and

WHEREAS, such landowners meeting was held on September 10, 2024, the minutes of which are attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, at which the below recited persons were duly elected by virtue of the votes cast in their favor; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the District, by means of this Resolution, desire to canvass the votes and declare and certify the results of said election.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF STAR FARMS VILLAGE OF NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. The following persons are found, certified, and declared to have been duly elected as Supervisor of and for the District, having been elected by the votes cast in their favor as shown:

SEAT NUMBER	NAME OF SUPERVISOR	NUMBER OF VOTES
Seat 1		___ Votes
Seat 2		___ Votes
Seat 3		___ Votes
Seat 4		___ Votes
Seat 5		___ Votes

SECTION 2. In accordance with Chapter 2024-292(5)(2)(a), Laws of Florida, and by virtue of the number of votes cast for the Supervisor, the above-named person is declared to have been elected for the following term of office:

SEAT NUMBER	NAME OF SUPERVISOR	TERM OF OFFICE
Seat 1		___-Year Term
Seat 2		___-Year Term
Seat 3		___-Year Term
Seat 4		___-Year Term
Seat 5		___-Year Term

SECTION 3. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE OF NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

6

RESOLUTION 2024-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT ELECTING CERTAIN OFFICERS OF THE DISTRICT, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District ("District") is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the District desires to elect the below-recited persons to the offices specified.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. _____ is elected Chair.

SECTION 2. _____ is elected Vice Chair.

SECTION 3. **Chuck Adams** is elected Secretary.

_____ is elected Assistant Secretary.

_____ is elected Assistant Secretary.

_____ is elected Assistant Secretary.

Craig Wrathell is elected Assistant Secretary.

SECTION 4. **Craig Wrathell** is elected Treasurer.

Jeff Pinder is elected Assistant Treasurer.

SECTION 5. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

Attest:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

7A

RESOLUTION 2024-04

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT APPOINTING AND FIXING THE
COMPENSATION OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER; APPOINTING A METHODOLOGY
CONSULTANT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (“**District**”) is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, and Chapter 189, Florida Statutes, being situated entirely within Sarasota County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the District (“**Board**”) must employ and fix compensation of a District Manager; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to appoint a Methodology Consultant to advise regarding the proposed issuance of special assessment bonds and other financing methods for District improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the appointment of a Methodology Consultant is necessary, appropriate and in the District’s best interests; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to appoint a District Manager and Methodology Consultant and to provide compensation for their services.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:**

Section 1. Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC, is appointed as District Manager and Methodology Consultant and shall be compensated for their services in such capacity in the manner prescribed in the agreement incorporated herein by reference as **Exhibit A**.

Section 2. This authorization shall be continuing in nature until revoked by the District.

Section 3. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

Exhibit A: Agreement for District Management Services



Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC

AGREEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT SERVICES
between
STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT
and
WRATHELL, HUNT & ASSOCIATES, LLC

THIS AGREEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT SERVICES (this "Agreement"), is made and entered into on this 10th day of September, 2024, by and between the **Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District**, hereinafter referred to as "DISTRICT", and the firm of **Wrathell, Hunt & Associates, LLC**, a Florida limited liability company, hereinafter referred to as "MANAGER".

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the DISTRICT desires to retain the MANAGER to provide non-exclusive management, recording, assessment methodology and accounting advisory services for the DISTRICT, as required to meet the needs of the DISTRICT during the contract period; and

WHEREAS, the MANAGER desires to provide such services to the DISTRICT as more particularly described in this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements expressed herein, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and adequacy of which are hereby conclusively acknowledged, the parties hereto, intending to be legally bound, hereby agree as follows:

1. The DISTRICT hereby engages the MANAGER to provide the services more particularly described in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference (collectively, the "Services").
2. The DISTRICT agrees to compensate the MANAGER by payment of the fees (collectively, the "Fees") set forth in the fee schedule attached hereto as Exhibit B and incorporated herein by this reference (the "Fee Schedule"). The Fees, except as otherwise provided on the Fee Schedule, shall be payable in equal monthly installments on the first day of each month. The DISTRICT will consider price adjustments at the end of the fiscal year of the DISTRICT in effect upon the commencement of this Agreement and each succeeding twelve (12)-month period thereafter to compensate for market conditions and the anticipated type and scope of the Services to be performed during the next twelve (12)-month period. Accordingly, the Fees and the Fee Schedule shall be deemed increased at the end of the fiscal year of the DISTRICT in effect upon the commencement of this Agreement and thereafter annually at the end of each succeeding fiscal year to the extent approved in the annual budget adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the DISTRICT (the "Board"). In no event shall the Fees be increased



Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC

to an amount which exceeds the amount of funds approved for the Services in the applicable budget adopted by the Board.

3. This Agreement shall become effective on the date set forth above and the term of this Agreement shall commence on such date and continue until this Agreement is terminated pursuant to the terms of this Section 3. This Agreement may be terminated as follows:
 - a) by the DISTRICT for "good cause", which shall include misfeasance, malfeasance, nonfeasance by the MANAGER, or failure of the MANAGER to perform the Services as required under this Agreement, if such misfeasance, malfeasance, nonfeasance or failure to perform the Services as required under this Agreement has not been cured within ten (10) business days after the DISTRICT has provided notice of same to the MANAGER (the "Cure Period"), upon providing ten (10) business days prior written notice to the MANAGER (which period shall not begin to run until the expiration of the Cure Period);
 - b) upon the dissolution or court-declared invalidity of the DISTRICT; or
 - c) by either party, for any reason, by providing sixty (60) days prior written notice to the other party.

Upon the termination of this Agreement, the MANAGER agrees to take all reasonable and necessary actions to transfer to the DISTRICT, or to such other party as directed by the DISTRICT, all the books and records of the DISTRICT in the MANAGER'S possession in an orderly fashion. The portion of the Fees and any other amounts due and owing to the MANAGER under this Agreement up to the effective date of the termination of this Agreement shall be due and payable immediately upon the termination of this Agreement. The DISTRICT'S obligation to make payment to the MANAGER of the portion of the Fees and any other amounts due and owing to MANAGER under this Agreement up to the effective date of the termination shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

4. The MANAGER shall devote such time as is reasonably necessary to perform the Services.
5. The MANAGER represents that it presently has no interest and shall acquire no interest, either direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner with the performance of the Services, as provided for in the standard set forth in Section 112.311, Florida Statutes. The MANAGER further represents that no person having any such interest shall be employed by the MANAGER to perform the Services or any portion thereof.
6. The MANAGER shall promptly notify the DISTRICT in writing of all potential conflicts of interest for any prospective business association, interest or other circumstance which may influence or appear to influence the MANAGER'S judgment or quality of the Services being provided hereunder. Such written notification shall identify the prospective business association, interest or circumstance, identify the nature of work that the MANAGER may undertake, if applicable, and request an opinion of the DISTRICT as to whether the



Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC

association, interest or circumstance would, in the opinion of the DISTRICT, constitute a conflict of interest if entered into by the MANAGER. The DISTRICT agrees to notify the MANAGER of its opinion within thirty (30) days of receipt of any notification by the MANAGER pursuant to this Section 6. If, in the opinion of the DISTRICT, the prospective business association, interest or circumstance would not constitute a conflict of interest by the MANAGER, the DISTRICT shall so state in its opinion, and in such event (i) the association, interest, or circumstance shall not be deemed to be a conflict of interest with respect to the Services provided to the DISTRICT by the MANAGER under the terms of this Agreement, and (ii) the Manager shall be free to pursue such prospective business association, interest or circumstance. The MANAGER shall be free to perform services similar to the type of services offered to the DISTRICT as part of the Services hereunder, and any other services, for any other special purpose taxing district, developer, landowner or otherwise. Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to prevent the MANAGER from performing such services, or any other services, for any other special taxing district, developer, landowner or otherwise and the providing of such services shall not constitute a conflict of interest under this Agreement.

7. The MANAGER agrees that all Services shall be performed by skilled and competent personnel.
8. The DISTRICT acknowledges that the MANAGER is not an attorney and may not render legal advice or opinions. Although the MANAGER may participate in the accumulation of information necessary for use in documents required by the DISTRICT in order to finalize any particular matters, such information shall be verified by the DISTRICT as to its correctness; provided, however, that the DISTRICT shall not be required to verify the correctness of any information originated by the MANAGER in connection with the Services.
9. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Florida. Any and all legal action necessary to enforce this Agreement will be held in the county where the DISTRICT is located. No remedy herein conferred upon any party is intended to be exclusive of any other remedy and each and every such remedy shall be cumulative and shall be in addition to every other remedy given hereunder or now or hereafter existing at law or in equity or by statute or otherwise. No single or partial exercise by any party of any right, power, or remedy hereunder shall preclude any other or further exercise thereof. The failure of either party to insist at any time upon the strict observance or performance of any of the provisions of this Agreement, shall not be construed as a waiver or relinquishment of the right to insist on the strict observance or performance of any or all of the other provisions of this Agreement. The failure of either party to exercise any right of remedy as provided in this Agreement, shall not impair any such right or remedy or be construed as a waiver or relinquishment of such right of remedy with respect to subsequent defaults. The provisions of this Section 9 shall survive the termination of this Agreement.
10. In any action brought by either party for the enforcement of the obligations of the other party, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover from the non-prevailing party



Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC

reasonable attorney's fees and all costs and expenses expended or incurred by the prevailing party in connection therewith, including without limitation at all trial levels and appellate levels and in post-judgment proceedings. The provisions of this Section 10 shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

11. All notices required in this Agreement shall be sent by either certified mail, return receipt requested with postage prepaid, hand-delivered, or sent by overnight express carrier with next business day delivery guaranteed, addressed to the following addresses, or such other address as either party shall specify hereinafter in written notice to the other party:

If to the Manager: Wrathell, Hunt & Associates, LLC
2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W
Boca Raton, Florida 33431

If to the DISTRICT: Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District
2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W
Boca Raton, Florida 33431

with a copy to: Counsel to the DISTRICT:
Kutak Rock LLP
107 W College Ave
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Any such notice sent as referenced above shall be deemed received on the third (3rd) business day following the day sent, if sent by certified mail with postage prepaid, when delivered if hand-delivered, or on the next business day following the day sent, if sent by overnight express courier with next business day delivery guaranteed.

12. This Agreement contains the entire understanding and agreement between the parties concerning the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior agreements, understandings, discussions, negotiations and undertakings, whether written or oral, between the parties, with respect thereto. This Agreement, or any provision contained herein, may not be amended unless such amendment is set forth in a writing signed by the parties hereto.
13. Neither party to this Agreement will be liable to the other for any failure or delay in performing any of its obligations under or pursuant to this Agreement, other than the payment of money, if such failure or delay is due to any (i) strike(s), lockout(s), or labor dispute(s), (ii) inability to obtain labor or materials, or reasonable substitutes therefor, or (iii) acts of God, governmental restrictions, regulations or controls, enemy or hostile governmental action, civil commotion, wars, national emergencies, natural disasters, fire, or other casualty, utility failures or other cause (including, with respect to the MANAGER, the failure of the DISTRICT to have adequate funds required for performance of the Services) beyond the reasonable control of such applicable party, and such applicable party will be entitled to a reasonable extension of the time for performing such obligations as a result of such cause. The terms of this Section 13 shall survive the termination of this Agreement.



Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC

14. If any term or provision of this Agreement or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall, to any extent, be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement, or the application of such term or provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid or unenforceable, shall not be affected thereby, and each term and provision of this Agreement shall be valid and be enforced to the fullest extent permitted by law.
15. The MANAGER shall not be liable for any acts or omissions of any previous manager(s) of the DISTRICT. Additionally, neither the MANAGER nor any its members, managers, managing members, officers, employees, agents or representatives (collectively, the "Manager Affiliates") shall be liable, responsible, or accountable in damages or otherwise to the DISTRICT for any acts performed by the MANAGER or the Manager Affiliates in good faith and within the scope of this Agreement. The MANAGER or any of the Manager Affiliates cannot provide financial or real estate feasibility forecasting related to the DISTRICT'S ability to repay its indebtedness such as bonds, bond anticipation notes, notes or any other forms of indebtedness. The success of the real estate venture(s) located within the DISTRICT is in no way guaranteed by MANAGER nor any of the Manager Affiliates. Neither the MANAGER nor any of the Manager Affiliates shall be liable to the DISTRICT or otherwise for any loss or damage resulting from the loss or impairment of funds that have been deposited into a bank account owned by the DISTRICT or otherwise titled in the name of the DISTRICT (collectively, the "District Bank Accounts") due to the failure, insolvency or suspension of a financial institution, or any loss or impairment of funds due to the invalidity of any draft, check, document or other negotiable instrument payable to the DISTRICT which is delivered to the MANAGER and deposited into any of the District Bank Accounts. The terms of this Section 15 shall survive the termination of this Agreement.
16. Nothing contained in this Agreement, nor any acts of the parties, shall be deemed or construed to create a partnership or joint venture between the MANAGER and the DISTRICT or to cause the MANAGER to be responsible in any way for the debts or obligations of the DISTRICT. The terms of this Section 16 shall survive the termination of this Agreement.
17. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, both of which, together, shall constitute one and the same agreement.
18. **THE MANAGER AND THE DISTRICT EACH HEREBY KNOWINGLY AND UNCONDITIONALLY WAIVE ANY AND ALL RIGHTS TO DEMAND A JURY TRIAL IN ANY ACTION FOR THE INTERPRETATION OR ENFORCEMENT OF THIS AGREEMENT. THE TERMS OF THIS SECTION 18 SHALL SURVIVE THE TERMINATION OF THIS AGREEMENT.**



Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC

19. Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC, does not represent the District as a Municipal Advisor or Securities Broker; nor is Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC registered to provide such services as described in Section 15B of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Similarly, Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC, does not provide the District with financial advisory services or offer investment advice in any form.
20. Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC, does not represent the District as a Municipal Advisor or Securities Broker; nor is Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC registered to provide such services as described in Section 15B of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Similarly, Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC, does not provide the District with financial advisory services or offer investment advice in any form.

[SIGNATURES APPEAR ON FOLLOWING PAGES]



Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Board of Supervisors of the **Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District** has made and executed this Contract on behalf of the DISTRICT and the MANAGER have each, respectively, by an authorized person or agent, hereunder set their hands and seals effective as of the date and year first above written.

Signed in the presence of

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:
STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

Witnesses:

Print Name: _____

By: _____
Print Name _____
Chair/Vice Chair

Print Name: _____

MANAGER:
WRATHELL, HUNT & ASSOCIATES, LLC

Print Name: _____

By: _____
Craig A. Wrathell, Managing Member

Print Name: _____



EXHIBIT A - SERVICES

Wrathell, Hunt & Associates, LLC will perform all required Management functions of the **Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District** (the “District”), which will include but not be limited to the following:

- Attend all meetings of the Board of Supervisors of the District (the “Board”) and provide the Board with meaningful dialogue of the issues before the Board for action
- Identify significant policies, including analysis of policy implementation with administrative and impact statement and effect on the District
- Develop and train members of the Board in the requirements of Florida Laws with including with respect to, but not limited to, public officers and employees, and the conduct of District business
- Prepare District's Budget as more fully outlined below
- Implement Budget directives
- Prepare specifications for and coordinate for the following services:
 - Insurance, including General Liability along with Directors and Officers Liability
 - Independent Auditor Services
 - Such other services as may be identified from time to time
- Provide all required annual disclosure information to the local government in the county in which the District is located:
 - Public Facilities Report
 - Designation of Registered Office and Registered Agent
 - Public Meeting Schedule
 - Audited Financial Statements (assist with the preparation of same)
- Ensure compliance with the following Florida Statutes:
 - Annual Financial Audit



Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC

- Annual Financial Report
- Public Depositor Report
- Proposed Budget
- District Map and Amendments
- Public Facilities Report
- Registered Agent and Registered Office
- Public Meeting Schedule Notice Requirements

(The reporting requirements of Special Districts periodically change and *Wrathell, Hunt & Associates, LLC* will ensure that we update reporting requirements of the District as the legislature updates the reporting requirements.)

- Record all meetings of the District
- Provide Oath of Office and notary public for all newly elected members of the Board
- Coordinate and provide contract administration for any services provided to the District by outside vendors:
 - Develop service contracts for the delivery of services to the District, with the assistance of the District's Attorney
 - Ensure that contract specifications are met
 - Interface with residents and contractors to ensure that anticipated service levels are being provided
 - Prepare contract amendments and change orders as necessary
 - Ensure proper contractor billing is received
- If required, provide day-to-day management of in-house operations by performing the following:
 - Hire and train a highly qualified staff
 - Coordinate all personnel applications, benefits, and payroll and submit in an accurate and timely manner
 - Prepare and implement operating schedules
 - Prepare and implement operating policies



Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC

- Interface with residents to ensure anticipated levels of service are being met
 - Implement internal purchasing policies
 - Prepare and bid services and commodities as necessary
- Coordinate with the residents to determine the services and levels of service to be provided as part of the District's budget preparations:
 - Identify new services
 - Identify expanded areas of existing services
 - Identify new levels of service
 - Provide budget recommendations based on findings
- Establish Budget Public Hearing(s) and dates
- Establish Board workshop dates (if required)
- Preparation of Estoppel Letters for Property Transfers and Monitoring Development of the District and Performance of Assessment True Up Analysis

Recording Services

Wrathell, Hunt & Associates, LLC will perform all required Recording Secretary functions of the District, which will include but not be limited to the following:

- Prepare all Board Agendas and coordinate receipt of sufficient material for Board to make informed policy decisions
- Prepare and advertise all notices of meetings in an authorized newspaper of circulation in the county in which the District is located
- Record and transcribe all meetings of the Board including regular meetings, special meetings, workshops and public hearing(s). The recording and transcription (edited for grammar) of meetings of the Board provide an essential link to maintaining a highly accurate public record. These minutes are maintained by ***Wrathell, Hunt & Associates, LLC*** in perpetuity for the District and sent to the appropriate governmental agencies in accordance with Florida law.



Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC

- Maintain all other District public records, including Agreements, Contracts and Resolutions in perpetuity for the District
- Maintain District Seal
- Satisfy public records requests in a timely, professional and efficient manner
- Prepare and coordinate applications for:
 - Federal I.D. Number
 - Tax Exemption Certificate
- Prepare Budget and Assessment Resolutions as required by Chapter 190, Florida Statutes
- Prepare Budget Resolution approving the District Manager's Budget and authorization to set public hearing
- Prepare Budget Resolution adopting the District Manager's Budget, as modified by the Board
- Prepare Agendas for Budget Hearings and attend all Board of Supervisor meetings
- Prepare bid specifications for the purchase of services and commodities pursuant to Florida Statutes

Accounting Services

Wrathell, Hunt & Associates, LLC will perform all required accounting functions of the District, which will include but not be limited to the following:

- Prepare a Budget that achieves maximum cost-to-benefit equity for approval
- Submit a Preliminary Budget to Board in accordance with Chapter 190, Florida Statutes
- Modify Preliminary Budget for consideration by the Board at the District's advertised public hearing
- Coordinate Budget preparation with District Board, Engineer, Attorney and Collection Agent



Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC

- Attend workshop(s) and public hearing(s) and be available to answer questions by the Board and the Public
- Establish Government Fund Accounting System in accordance with the Uniform Accounting System prescribed by Department of Banking and Finance for Government Accounting, Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB)
- Adhere to investment policies and procedures pursuant to Chapter 218, Florida Statutes
- Prepare Annual Financial Report for units of local government and distribute to the State Comptroller
- Prepare Public Depositor's Report and distribute to the State Treasurer
- Coordinate and distribute Annual Public Facilities Report and distribute to appropriate agencies
- Administer purchase order system, periodic payment of invoices
- Coordination of tax collection and miscellaneous receivables
- Prepare all required schedules for year-end audit:
 - Prepare schedule of bank reconciliations
 - Prepare cash and Investment confirmations for distribution to authorized Public Depositories and Trustee of District bond issues
 - Prepare analysis of accounts receivable
 - Prepare schedule of interfund accounts
 - Prepare schedule of payables from the governments
 - Prepare schedule of all prepaid expenses
 - Prepare debt confirmation schedules
 - Prepare schedule of accounts payable
 - Prepare schedule of changes in fund balances
 - Prepare schedule of assessment revenue compared to budget
 - Prepare schedule of interest income and provide reasonableness test



Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC

- Prepare schedule of investments and accrued interest
- Prepare analysis of all other revenue
- Prepare analysis of interest expenses and calculate accrued interest expense at year end
- Prepare schedule of operating transfers
- Prepare schedule of cash receipts and cash disbursements
- Prepare analysis of cost of development and construction in progress
- Prepare analysis of reserves for encumbrances
- Prepare analysis of retainages payable
- Prepare amortization and depreciation schedules
- Prepare general fixed asset and general long-term debt account groups
- Perform general fixed asset accounting
- Account for assets constructed by or donated to the District for maintenance
- Prepare inventories of District property in accordance with the rules of the Auditor General

Special Assessment Methodology Preparation Services

Wrathell, Hunt & Associates, LLC will perform all required special assessment methodology functions of the District, which will include but not be limited to the following:

- Review the District's capital improvement program
- Determine the types of special and general benefits of proposed investments
- Determine which properties within the boundaries of the Districts receive special benefits and which properties receive general benefits
- Determine a fair and reasonable apportionment of the special and peculiar benefits of the District-financed improvements among the properties deriving such benefits
- Based on the determination and apportionment of special and peculiar benefit, calculate a fair and reasonable apportionment of the responsibility to pay the non-



Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC

ad valorem special assessments resulting from funding of the District's capital improvement plan

- Prepare a Special Assessment Methodology Report for consideration by the Board of the District
- Prepare an assessment roll of all assessable properties within the District
- Present the Special Assessment Methodology Report to the Board at a public meeting and answer any questions pertaining to the Report
- Prepare the Preliminary and Final Assessment Rolls
- Prepare notices advising the property owners of the completion of construction and the amount of the final assessment
- Act as primary contact to answer property owners' questions regarding the capital assessment

Dissemination Agent Services

Wrathell, Hunt & Associates, LLC, will provide Dissemination Agent Services as specified in the District's Continuing Disclosure Agreement for bonds issued. Such services shall include but are not limited to:

- Determine each year prior to the Annual Filing Date the name, address and filing requirements of the Repository; and
- File a notice with the Issuer stating that the Annual Report or Audited Financial Statement has been provided pursuant to Disclosure Agreement(s), stating the date(s) it was provided, and listing all Repositories with which it was filed.
- All documents, reports, notices, statements, information and other materials provided to the MSRB under the District's Disclosure Agreement(s) shall be provided in an EMMA Compliant Format.



Exhibit B - Fee Schedule

1. District Management, Recording, Financial Accounting and Assessment Roll Services

FEE PROPOSED **\$48,000-annually***
***[\$2,000 per month prior to issuance of first series of bonds]**

2. Assessment Methodology Consultant Services [Assessment Methodology Report]

FEE PROPOSED **~~\$25,000~~ \$21,300 per bond issue**

3. Issuance of Bonds, and Placement of Loans and Other District Indebtedness

FEE PROPOSED **Not to exceed \$35,000 (minus \$3,700) per issue**

The following formula shall explain this fee. The fee for the first \$5,000,000 bond issue(s) SHALL BE \$3.00/\$1,000 with a minimum fee of \$10,000. The additional fee for bond issues between \$5,000,000 and \$10,000,000 shall be \$1.00/\$1,000. The fee for bond issues over \$10,000,000 shall be \$.50/\$1,000 of the additional amount. These fees are payable at closing of the bond issue. It is expressly understood that compensation shall be contingent upon completion of financing and if for any reason a financing is not completed, there shall be no compensation owed to **Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC**. For the issuance of Bond Anticipation Notes, the fee is \$10,000 per issuance.

4. Dissemination Agent Services

FEE PROPOSED **\$1,000 annually per bond issue**

5. Out of Pocket Expenses: **Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC**, shall be reimbursed for **out-of-pocket expenses** incurred in the performance of the services defined herein (i.e. photocopies, postage, mailings, long distance telephone calls, and printing and binding, etc.). **Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC**, will submit monthly invoices to District for work performed and payment shall become due and payable within fifteen (15) days of receipt.

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

7B

RESOLUTION 2024-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT APPOINTING DISTRICT COUNSEL FOR THE DISTRICT, AND AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (“**District**”) is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, being situated entirely within the City of North Port, Sarasota County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the District’s Board of Supervisors (“**Board**”) may contract for the services of consultants to perform planning, engineering, legal or other appropriate services of a professional nature; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to appoint District Counsel and to provide compensation for such services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:

1. **APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL.** Kutak Rock LLP is appointed as District Counsel and shall be compensated for their services in such capacity in the manner prescribed in **Exhibit A**.
2. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 10th day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

Exhibit A: Attorney Retainer Agreement

Exhibit A

Attorney Retainer Agreement

September 10, 2024

Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District
Board of Supervisors
2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W
Boca Raton, Florida 33431

Re: Stewardship District Representation

Dear Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of Kutak Rock LLP, we are pleased to submit this letter regarding our interest in serving as counsel to the Board of Supervisors of the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (the “District”). The Tallahassee office of Kutak Rock has extensive experience representing community development districts and other special taxing districts throughout the state of Florida. Our lawyers have been providing clients with advice regarding the operation of community development districts for over 30 years and presently serve as general counsel to approximately 300-plus community development districts and other special taxing districts throughout Florida and have established a number of others.

Kutak Rock regularly provides advice to districts in contractual matters, bidding, budgeting, and the many other issues with which district boards are confronted on a day-to-day basis. We currently represent several districts in the Southwest Florida area including districts located Charlotte, Lee, Manatee and Sarasota Counties. It is extremely important that counsel to the District be familiar with the significant responsibilities and obligations of the members of the Board of Supervisors. It is also critical that counsel function effectively as a part of the District’s “staff” or management team to ensure that the operations of the District are effectively and smoothly administered. In that regard, we have worked with a variety of engineers, consultants, and other attorneys and fully understand the importance of functioning as a team.

For services as counsel to the District, we propose to charge an hourly rate for the attorney performing the work plus direct out-of-pocket expenses for travel costs, postage, and copying charges, etc. For matters related to issuance of debt, if any, we will identify a ‘not to exceed’ flat fee prior to each such issuance or may track our time hourly. Our rates vary depending generally on the experience of that attorney. For example, my proposed hourly rate is \$305. Work by other non-partner attorneys and paralegals in the firm would also be performed at their established rates. Our rates are reviewed annually and may be adjusted from time to time in conjunction with such reviews, after providing notice to you. Let me assure you that we will make every effort to keep legal costs as low as possible while providing services consistent with our professional responsibilities. Itemized bills showing all time spent for services are rendered monthly and are

September 10, 2024

Page 2

due upon receipt. We have attached a copy of the firm's policy with respect to expenses, although to the extent that Chapter 112, F.S., conflicts with these policies, Chapter 112, F.S., will govern.

With respect to conflicts, it is important to disclose that our firm represents a number of other special districts throughout Florida. Individuals with our firm also represented Forestar (USA) Real Estate Group in the legislative process to establish this district. However, we are unaware of any ethical conflicts in our representation of the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District. Please note that acceptance of the Fee Agreement will constitute your waiver of any "conflict."

If we can provide you with any additional information, please feel free to contact us. Thank you for this opportunity, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jonathan T. Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jonathan T. Johnson

For the firm

KUTAK ROCK LLP
CDD EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

The following is Kutak Rock's expense reimbursement policy for community development district representation. This policy applies unless a different arrangement has been negotiated based on the unique circumstances of a particular client or matter.

All expenses are billed monthly. Billings ordinarily reflect expenses for the most recent month, except where there are delays in receiving bills from third party vendors.

Photocopying and Printing. In-house photocopying and printing are charged at \$0.25 per page (black & white) and \$0.50 per page (color). Outside copying is billed as a pass-through of the outside vendor's charges.

Postage. Postage is billed at actual cost.

Overnight Delivery. Overnight delivery is billed at actual cost.

Local Messenger Service. Local messenger service is billed at 67 cents per mile pursuant to the standard mileage rate for business travel established by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Should the IRS increase the mileage allowance, Kutak Rock shall, without further action, be entitled to reimbursement at the increased rate.

Computerized Legal Research. Charges for computerized legal research are billed at an amount approximating actual cost.

Travel. Travel (including air fare, rental cars, taxicabs, hotel, meals, tips, etc.) is billed at actual cost. Where air travel is required, coach class is used wherever feasible. Out-of-town mileage is billed at 67 cents per mile pursuant to the standard mileage rate for business travel established by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Should the IRS increase the mileage allowance, Kutak Rock shall, without further action, be entitled to reimbursement at the increased rate. Reasonable travel-related expenses for meals, lodging, gratuities, taxi fares, tolls, and parking fees shall also be reimbursed.

Consultants. Unless prior arrangements are made, consultants are ordinarily employed directly by the client. Where consulting or testifying experts are employed by the firm, their charges are passed through with no mark-up. The client is responsible for notifying the firm of any particular billing arrangements or procedures which the client requires of the consulting or testifying experts.

Other Expenses. Other outside expenses, such as court reporters, agency copies, conference calls, etc. are billed at actual cost.

**KUTAK ROCK LLP
FEE AGREEMENT FOR
STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

I. PARTIES

THIS FEE AGREEMENT ("Fee Agreement") is made and entered into by and between the following parties, and supersedes on a going forward basis any prior fee agreement between the parties:

- A. Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District ("Client")
c/o Wrathell, Hunt & Associates, LLC
2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W
Boca Raton, Florida 33431

and

- B. Kutak Rock LLP ("KUTAK")
107 West College Avenue
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

II. SCOPE OF SERVICES

In consideration of the mutual agreements contained herein, the parties agree as follows:

- A. The Client agrees to employ and retain KUTAK as its attorney and legal representative for all legal matters involving the District.
- B. KUTAK accepts such employment and agrees to serve as attorney for and provide legal representation to the Client in connection with those matters referenced above.

III. FEES

The Client agrees to compensate KUTAK for services rendered regarding any matters covered by this Fee Agreement according to the hourly billing rates for individual KUTAK lawyers set forth herein, plus actual expenses incurred by KUTAK in accordance with the attached standard Expense Reimbursement Policy (Attachment A, incorporated herein by reference). For Calendar Year 2024, hourly rates will be \$305 per hour for shareholders, \$275 per hour associates, \$245 per hour for contract attorneys and \$200 per hour for paralegals. All hourly rates will be increased annually by \$10 per hour. To the extent that the District issues bonds during Calendar Year 2024, KUTAK will provide issuer's counsel services under a flat fee of \$39,000 per bond issuance. This flat fee will be increased annually by \$1,000 per year.

IV. CLIENT FILES

The files and work product materials ("Client File") of the Client generated or received by KUTAK will be maintained confidentially to the extent permitted by law and in accordance with the Florida Bar rules. At the conclusion of the representation, the Client File will be stored by KUTAK for a minimum of five (5) years. After the five (5) year storage period, the Client hereby acknowledges and consents that KUTAK may

confidentially destroy or shred the Client File, unless KUTAK is provided a written request from the Client requesting return of the Client File, to which KUTAK will return the Client File at Client's expense.

V. DEFAULT

In the event of a dispute arising under this Fee Agreement, whether or not a lawsuit or other proceeding is filed, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, including attorneys' fees and costs incurred in litigating entitlement to attorneys' fees and costs, as well as in determining or quantifying the amount of recoverable attorneys' fees and costs. The reasonable costs to which the prevailing party is entitled shall include costs that are taxable under any applicable statute, rule, or guideline, as well as non-taxable costs, including, but not limited to, costs of investigation, telephone charges, mailing and delivery charges, information technology support charges, consultant and expert witness fees, travel expenses, court reporter fees, and mediator fees, regardless of whether such costs are otherwise taxable. Venue of any such action shall be exclusive in the state courts of the Second Judicial Circuit in and for Leon County, Florida.

VI. TERMINATION

Either party may terminate this Fee Agreement upon providing prior written notice to the other party at its regular place of business.

VII. EXECUTION OF FEE AGREEMENT

This Fee Agreement shall be deemed fully executed upon its signing by KUTAK and the Client. The contract formed between KUTAK and the Client shall be the operational contract between the parties.

VIII. ENTIRE CONTRACT

This Fee Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties.

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

KUTAK ROCK LLP

By: _____

By: _____

Jonathan T. Johnson, Partner

Its: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

ATTACHMENT A

KUTAK ROCK LLP EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

The following is the expense reimbursement policy for the Fee Agreement. All expenses are billed monthly. Billings ordinarily reflect expenses for the most recent month, except where there are delays in receiving bills from third party vendors.

Telephone. All telephone charges are billed at an amount approximating actual cost.

Photocopying and Printing. In-house photocopying and printing is charged at \$0.05 per page, which is less than actual cost.

Facsimile. There are no charges for faxes.

Postage. Postage is billed at actual cost.

Overnight Delivery. Overnight delivery is billed at actual cost.

Computerized Legal Research. Charges for computerized legal research are billed at an amount approximating actual cost.

Travel. Travel (including air fare, rental cars, taxicabs, hotel, meals, tips, etc.) is billed at actual cost. Where air travel is required, coach class is used wherever feasible. Out-of-town mileage is billed at the State of Florida approved reimbursement rate (i.e., pursuant to Chapter 112, Florida Statutes).

Consultants. Unless prior arrangements are made, consultants are ordinarily employed directly by the Client. Where consultants are employed by the firm, their charges are passed-through with no mark-up. The Client is responsible for notifying the firm of any particular billing arrangements or procedures which the Client requires of the consultant.

Other Expenses. Other outside expenses, such as court reporters, agency copies, etc. are billed at actual cost.

Word Processing and Secretarial Overtime. No charge is made for word processing. No charge is made for secretarial overtime except in major litigation matters where unusual overtime demands are imposed.

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

7C

RESOLUTION 2024-06

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT DESIGNATING A REGISTERED
AGENT AND REGISTERED OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT, AND PROVIDING FOR
AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (the “District”) is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, *Laws of Florida*, and Chapter 189, *Florida Statutes*; and

WHEREAS, the District is statutorily required to designate a registered agent and a registered office location for the purposes of accepting any process, notice, or demand required or permitted by law to be served upon the District in accordance with Section 189.014(1), *Florida Statutes*.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:**

SECTION 1. Craig Wrathell is hereby designated as the Registered Agent for the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District.

SECTION 2. The District’s Registered Office shall be located at 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431.

SECTION 3. In accordance with Section 189.014, *Florida Statutes*, the District’s Secretary is hereby directed to file certified copies of this Resolution with the City of North Port, Sarasota County, and the Florida Department of Commerce.

SECTION 4. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

7D

RESOLUTION 2024-07

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING AN INTERIM DISTRICT ENGINEER FOR THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT, AUTHORIZING ITS COMPENSATION AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (“**District**”) is a local unit of special purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the District’s Board of Supervisors (“**Board**”) may contract for the services of consultants to perform planning, engineering, architectural or other appropriate services of a professional nature; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to appoint an “Interim District Engineer” and to provide compensation for their services, until a formal request for qualifications for engineering services can be conducted;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:

1. APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM DISTRICT ENGINEER; COMPENSATION. The Interim Engineer is hereby appointed, and shall be compensated for its services, pursuant to the agreement attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, which is hereby approved. This authorization shall be continuing in nature until revoked by the District.

2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

Exhibit A: Interim Engineering Services Agreement

Exhibit A

Interim Engineering Services Agreement

INTERIM ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is made and entered into this 10th day of September, 2024, by and between:

STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT, a local unit of special-purpose government established pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Law of Florida, and located in the City of North Port, Florida, with a mailing address of 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431 ("**District**"), and

ATWELL, LLC, a foreign limited liability corporation, with a mailing address of Two Towne Square, Suite 700, Southfield, Michigan 48076 ("**Engineer**").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the District is a local unit of special-purpose established pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, the District was established for the purpose of planning, financing, constructing acquiring, and/or maintaining certain infrastructure improvements and services within the District; and

WHEREAS, the District intends to employ Engineer on an interim basis to perform engineering, surveying, planning, landscaping, construction administration, environmental management, and permitting, financial and economic studies, as defined by a separate work authorization or work authorizations; and

WHEREAS, Engineer shall serve as the District's professional representative in each service or project to which this Agreement applies and will give consultation and advice to the District during performance of its services.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual covenants herein contained, the acts and deeds to be performed by the parties and the payments by the District to Engineer of the sums of money herein specified, it is mutually covenanted and agreed as follows:

SECTION 1. RECITALS. The Recitals stated above are true and correct and by this reference are incorporated herein and form a material part of this Agreement.

SECTION 2. SCOPE OF SERVICES. Engineer will provide general engineering planning and/or study services, as authorized by one or more Work Authorization(s), hereinafter defined, including:

- A. Preparation of any necessary reports and attendance at meetings of the District's Board of Supervisors ("Board");
- B. Assistance in meeting with necessary parties involving bond issues, special reports, feasibility studies, or other tasks;
- C. Any other items requested by the Board.

SECTION 3. REPRESENTATIONS. Engineer hereby represents to the District that:

- A. It has the experience and skill to perform the services required to be performed by this Agreement;
- B. It shall design to and comply with limitation, professional registration and licensing requirements (both corporate and individual for all required basic disciplines) in effect during the term of this Agreement, and shall, if requested by the District, provide certification of compliance with all registration and licensing requirements;
- C. It shall perform said services in accordance with generally accepted professional standards in the most expeditious and economical manner, and to the extent consistent with the best interests of the District; and
- D. It is adequately financed to meet any financial obligations it may be required to incur under this Agreement.

SECTION 4. METHOD OF AUTHORIZATION. Each service or project shall be authorized in writing by the District ("Work Authorization"). Each Work Authorization shall include the scope of work, compensation, project schedule, and special provisions or conditions specific to the service or project being authorized. Authorization of services or projects under this Agreement shall be at the sole discretion of the District. Work Authorization Number 1 attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, and incorporated herein by this reference, is hereby *approved*.

SECTION 5. COMPENSATION. It is understood and agreed that the payment of compensation for services under this Agreement shall be stipulated in each Work Authorization. Services rendered by Engineer under this Agreement shall not exceed the amounts specifically authorized by each written Work Authorization. One of the following methods will be utilized:

- A. *Lump Sum Amount* - The District and Engineer shall mutually agree to a lump sum amount for the services to be rendered payable monthly in direct proportion to the work accomplished.
- B. *Hourly Personnel Rates* - For services or projects where scope of services is not clearly defined, or recurring services or other projects where the District desires the use of the hourly compensation rates, the District and Engineer shall use the hourly compensation rates outlined in **Exhibit B** attached hereto. The District and Engineer may

agree to a “not to exceed” amount when utilizing hourly personnel rates for a specific Work Authorization.

SECTION 6. REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES. Reimbursable expenses consist of actual expenditures made by Engineer, its employees, or its consultants in the interest of the project for the incidental expenses which are listed as follows:

A. Expenses of transportation and living when traveling in connection with a project, for long distance phone calls and telegrams, and fees paid for securing approval of authorities having jurisdiction over the project. All expenditures shall be made in accordance with Chapter 112, *Florida Statutes*, and in accordance with the District’s travel reimbursement policy.

B. Expense of reproduction, postage, and handling of drawings and specifications.

SECTION 7. TERM OF AGREEMENT. It is understood and agreed that this Agreement is for interim engineering services. It is further understood and agreed that the term of this Agreement will be from the time of execution of this Agreement by the parties until such time as the District notifies Engineer that it has entered into a subsequent agreement for engineering services.

SECTION 8. SPECIAL CONSULTANTS. When authorized in writing by the District, additional special consulting services may be utilized by Engineer and paid for on a cost basis.

SECTION 9. BOOKS AND RECORDS. Engineer shall maintain comprehensive books and records relating to any services performed under this Agreement, which shall be retained by Engineer for a period of at least four (4) years from and after completion of any services hereunder. The District, or its authorized representative, shall have the right to audit such books and records at all reasonable times upon prior notice to Engineer.

SECTION 10. OWNERSHIP OF DOCUMENTS.

A. All rights in and title to all plans, drawings, specifications, ideas, concepts, designs, sketches, models, programs, software, creation, inventions, reports, or other tangible work product originally developed by Engineer pursuant to this Agreement (“Work Product”) shall be and remain the sole and exclusive property of the District when developed and shall be considered work for hire.

B. Engineer shall deliver all Work Product to the District upon completion thereof unless it is necessary for Engineer in the District’s sole discretion, to retain possession for a longer period of time. Upon early termination of Engineer’s services hereunder, Engineer shall deliver all such Work Product whether complete or not. The District shall have all rights to use any and all Work Product. Engineer shall retain copies of the Work Product for its permanent records, provided the Work Product is not used without the District’s prior express written consent. Engineer agrees not to recreate any Work

Product contemplated by this Agreement, or portions thereof, which if constructed or otherwise materialized, would be reasonably identifiable with the project.

C. The District exclusively retains all manufacturing rights to all materials or designs developed under this Agreement. To the extent the services performed under this Agreement produce or include copyrightable or patentable materials or designs, such materials or designs are work made for hire for the District as the author, creator, or inventor thereof upon creation, and the District shall have all rights therein including, without limitation, the right of reproduction, with respect to such work. Engineer hereby assigns to the District any and all rights Engineer may have including, without limitation, the copyright, with respect to such work. Engineer acknowledges that the District is the motivating factor for, and for the purpose of copyright or patent, has the right to direct and supervise the preparation of such copyrightable or patentable materials or designs.

SECTION 11. ACCOUNTING RECORDS. Records of Engineer pertaining to the services provided hereunder shall be kept on a basis of generally accepted accounting principles and shall be available to the District or its authorized representative for observation or audit at mutually agreeable times.

SECTION 12. REUSE OF DOCUMENTS. All documents including drawings and specifications furnished by Engineer pursuant to this Agreement are instruments of service. They are not intended or represented to be suitable for reuse by the District or others on extensions of the work for which they were provided or on any other project. Any reuse without specific written consent by Engineer will be at the District's sole risk and without liability or legal exposure to Engineer. All documents including drawings, plans and specifications furnished by Engineer to the District are subject to reuse in accordance with Section 287.055(10), *Florida Statutes*.

SECTION 13. ESTIMATE OF COST. Since Engineer has no control over the cost of labor, materials, or equipment or over a contractor's(s') methods of determining prices, or over competitive bidding or market conditions, its opinions of probable cost provided as a service hereunder are to be made on the basis of its experience and qualifications and represent its best judgment as a design professional familiar with the construction industry, but Engineer cannot and does not guarantee that proposals, bids, or the construction costs will not vary from opinions of probable cost prepared by it. If the District wishes greater assurance as to the construction costs, it shall employ an independent cost estimator at its own expense. Services to modify approved documents to bring the construction cost within any limitation established by the District will be considered additional services and justify additional fees.

SECTION 14. INSURANCE. Subject to the provisions of this Section, Engineer shall maintain insurance during the performance of its services under this Agreement, with limits of liability not less than the following:

Workers' Compensation

Statutory

General Liability	
Bodily Injury (including Contractual)	\$1,000,000/\$2,000,000
Property Damage (including Contractual)	\$1,000,000/\$2,000,000
Automobile Liability	Combined Single Limit \$1,000,000
Bodily Injury / Property Damage	
Professional Liability for Errors and Omissions	\$1,000,000

If any such policy of insurance is a “claims made” policy, and not an “occurrence” policy, Engineer shall, without interruption, and at the District’s option, maintain the insurance for at least five (5) years after the one year anniversary of this Agreement.

The District, its officers, supervisors, agents, staff, and representatives shall be named as additional insured parties, except with respect to the Worker’s Compensation Insurance and the Professional Liability for Errors and Omissions Insurance both for which only proof of insurance shall be provided. Engineer shall furnish the District with the Certificate of Insurance evidencing compliance with the requirements of this Section. No certificate shall be acceptable to the District unless it provides that any change or termination within the policy periods of the insurance coverage, as certified, shall not be effective within thirty (30) days of prior written notice to the District. Insurance coverage shall be from a reputable insurance carrier, licensed to conduct business in the state of Florida.

If Engineer fails to have secured and maintained the required insurance, the District has the right (without any obligation to do so, however), to secure such required insurance in which event, Engineer shall pay the cost for that required insurance and shall furnish, upon demand, all information that may be required in connection with the District’s obtaining the required insurance.

SECTION 15. CONTINGENT FEE. Engineer warrants that it has not employed or retained any company or person, other than a bona fide employee working solely for Engineer, to solicit or secure this Agreement and that it has not paid or agreed to pay any person, company, corporation, individual, or firm, other than a bona fide employee working solely for Engineer, any fee, commission, percentage, gift, or other consideration contingent upon or resulting from the award or making of this Agreement.

SECTION 16. COMPLIANCE WITH GOVERNMENTAL REGULATIONS. In performing its obligations under this Agreement, Engineer and each of its agents, contractors, subcontractors, employees or anyone directly or indirectly employed by Engineer, shall comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, and orders of any public or governmental authority having appropriate jurisdiction. If Engineer fails to notify the District in writing within five (5) days of the

receipt of any notice, order, required to comply notice, or a report of a violation of an alleged violation, made by any local, State or Federal governmental body or agency or subdivision thereof with respect to the services being rendered under this Agreement or any action of Engineer or any of its agents, servants, or employees, or fails to comply with any requirement of such agency within five (5) days after receipt of any such notice, order request to comply notice, or report of a violation or an alleged violation, the District may terminate this Agreement, such termination to be effective upon the giving of notice of termination.

SECTION 17. COMPLIANCE WITH PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS. In performing its obligations under this Agreement, Engineer and each of its agents, contractors, subcontractors, employees, or anyone directly or indirectly employed by Engineer, shall maintain the highest standard of care, skill, diligence, and professional competency for such work and/or services. Any designs, drawings, reports, or specifications prepared or furnished by Engineer that contain errors, conflicts, or omissions will be promptly corrected by Engineer at no cost to the District.

SECTION 18. AUDIT. Engineer agrees that the District or any of its duly authorized representatives shall, until the expiration of four (4) years after expenditure of funds under this Agreement, have access to and the right to examine any books, documents, papers, and records of Engineer involving transactions related to this Agreement. Engineer agrees that payment made under this Agreement shall be subject to reduction for amounts charged thereto that are found on the basis of audit examination not to constitute allowable costs. All required records shall be maintained until an audit is completed and all questions arising therefrom are resolved, or three (3) years after completion of all work under this Agreement.

SECTION 19. INDEMNIFICATION. Engineer agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold the District and the District's officers and employees harmless from liabilities, damages, losses, and costs, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees, which may come against the District and the District's officers and employees, to the extent caused wholly or in part by negligent, reckless, or intentionally wrongful acts, omissions, or defaults by Engineer or persons employed or utilized by Engineer the course of any work done under this Agreement. To the extent a limitation on liability is required by Section 725.06 of the Florida Statutes or other applicable law, liability under this section shall in no event exceed the greater of the insurance limits set forth herein or Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000). Engineer agrees such limitation bears a reasonable commercial relationship to the contract and was part of the project specifications or bid documents.

PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 558.0035 (2023), AN INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEE OR AGENT MAY NOT BE HELD INDIVIDUALLY LIABLE FOR NEGLIGENCE.

SECTION 20. PUBLIC RECORDS. Engineer understands and agrees that all documents of any kind provided to the District in connection with this Agreement may be public records, and, accordingly, Engineer agrees to comply with all applicable provisions of Florida law in handling

such records, including, but not limited, to Section 119.0701, *Florida Statutes*. Among other requirements and to the extent applicable by law, Engineer shall 1) keep and maintain public records required by the District to perform the service; 2) upon request by the Public Records Custodian, hereinafter defined, provide the District with the requested public records or allow the records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time period at a cost that does not exceed the cost provided in Chapter 119, *Florida Statutes*; 3) ensure that public records which are exempt or confidential, and exempt from public records disclosure requirements, are not disclosed except as authorized by law for the duration of this Agreement term and following this Agreement term if Engineer does not transfer the records to the Public Records Custodian of the District; and 4) upon completion of this Agreement, transfer to the District, at no cost, all public records in Engineer's possession or, alternatively, keep, maintain and meet all applicable requirements for retaining public records pursuant to Florida laws. When such public records are transferred by Engineer, Engineer shall destroy any duplicate public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements. All records stored electronically must be provided to the District in a format that is compatible with Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF formats. Engineer acknowledges that the designated Public Records Custodian for the District is **Craig Wrathell**.

IF THE ENGINEER HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, *FLORIDA STATUTES*, TO ENGINEER'S DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT, CONTACT THE CUSTODIAN OF PUBLIC RECORDS AT WRATHELL, HUNT & ASSOCIATES, LLC, 2300 GLADES ROAD, SUITE 410W, BOCA RATON, FLORIDA 33431, 561-571-0010, WRATHELLC@WHHASSOCIATES.COM.

SECTION 21. NOTICES. All notices, requests, consents, and other communications hereunder ("Notices") shall be in writing and shall be delivered, mailed by First Class Mail, postage prepaid, or overnight delivery service, to the parties, as follows:

- | | | |
|-----------|----------------------------|---|
| A. | If to the District: | Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship
District
2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W
Boca Raton, Florida 33431
Attn: District Manager |
| | With a copy to: | Kutak Rock LLP
107 West College Avenue
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
Attn: District Counsel |
| B. | If to Engineer: | Atwell, LLC |

Two Towne Square, Suite 700
Southfield, Michigan 48076
Attn: _____

Except as otherwise provided herein, any Notice shall be deemed received only upon actual delivery at the address set forth herein. Notices delivered after 5:00 p.m. (at the place of delivery) or on a non-business day, shall be deemed received on the next business day. If any time for giving Notice contained in this Agreement would otherwise expire on a non-business day, the Notice period shall be extended to the next succeeding business day. Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays recognized by the United States government shall not be regarded as business days. Counsel for the parties may deliver Notice on behalf of the parties. Any party or other person to whom Notices are to be sent or copied may notify the other parties and addressees of any change in name or address to which Notices shall be sent by providing the same on five (5) days written notice to the parties and addressees set forth herein.

SECTION 22. EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION. Engineer agrees that it shall bear the responsibility for verifying the employment status, under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, of all persons it employs in the performance of this Agreement.

SECTION 23. CONTROLLING LAW. The parties agree that this Agreement shall be controlled and governed by the laws of the State of Florida. Venue shall exclusively be in the court of appropriate jurisdiction, in and for Sarasota County, Florida.

SECTION 24. ASSIGNMENT. Neither the District nor Engineer shall assign, sublet, or transfer any rights under or interest in this Agreement without the express written consent of the other. Nothing in this paragraph shall prevent Engineer from employing such independent professional associates and consultants as Engineer deems appropriate, pursuant to Section 8 herein.

SECTION 25. TERMINATION. The District may terminate this Agreement for cause immediately upon notice to Engineer. The District or Engineer may terminate this Agreement without cause upon thirty (30) days' written notice. At such time as Engineer receives notification of the intent of the District to terminate this Agreement, Engineer shall not perform any further services unless directed to do so in writing by the District. In the event of any termination or breach of any kind, Engineer shall not be entitled to consequential damages of any kind (including but not limited to lost profits), but instead Engineer's sole remedy will be to recover payment for services rendered to the date of the notice of termination, subject to any offsets the District may have against the Engineer.

SECTION 26. RECOVERY OF COSTS AND FEES. In the event either party is required to enforce this Agreement by court proceedings or otherwise, then the substantially prevailing party shall be entitled to recover from the other party all costs incurred, including reasonable attorneys' fees, paralegal fees and expert witness fees and costs for trial, alternative dispute resolution, or appellate proceedings.

SECTION 27. AMENDMENTS. Amendments to and waivers of the provisions contained in this Agreement may be made only by an instrument in writing which is executed by both of the parties hereto and formally approved by the Board.

SECTION 28. AGREEMENT. This Agreement reflects the negotiated agreement of the parties, each represented by competent legal counsel. Accordingly, this Agreement shall be construed as if both parties jointly prepared it, and no presumption against one party or the other shall govern the interpretation of any of the provisions of this Agreement.

SECTION 29. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR. The District and Engineer agree and acknowledge that Engineer shall serve as an independent contractor of the District. Neither Engineer nor employees of Engineer, if any, are employees of the District under the meaning or application of any federal or state unemployment, insurance laws, or any other potentially applicable laws. Engineer agrees to assume all liabilities or obligations by any one or more of such laws with respect to employees of Engineer, if any, in the performance of this Agreement. Engineer shall not have any authority to assume or create any obligation, express or implied, on behalf of the District and Engineer shall have no authority to represent as agent, employee, or in any other capacity the District unless set forth differently herein or authorized by vote of the Board.

SECTION 30. COUNTERPARTS. This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which when executed and delivered shall be an original; however, all such counterparts together shall constitute, but one and the same instrument. Signature and acknowledgment pages, if any, may be detached from the counterparts and attached to a single copy of this document to physically form one document.

[Remainder of this page intentionally left blank]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed the day and year first above written.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

WITNESS:

ATWELL, LLC

Witness

Print Name: _____
Title: _____

Exhibit A: Work Authorization Number 1

Exhibit B: Schedule of Rates

Exhibit A

September 10, 2024

Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District
City of North Port, Florida

Subject: Work Authorization Number 1
Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District

Dear Chairperson, Board of Supervisors:

Atwell, LLC (the "Engineer") is pleased to submit this work authorization to provide interim engineering services for Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (the "District"). We will provide these services pursuant to our current agreement dated September 10, 2024 ("Interim Agreement") as follows:

I. Scope of Work

The District will engage the services of Engineer as the Interim Engineer to prepare an Engineer's Report to support the District's proposed bond issuances and to attend meetings and bond validation proceedings regarding the District's proposed issuance of bonds.

II. Fees

The District will compensate Engineer pursuant to the hourly rate schedule contained within the Interim Agreement. The District will reimburse all direct costs which include items such as printing, drawings, travel, deliveries, etc., pursuant to the Interim Agreement.

This proposal, together with the Interim Agreement, represents the entire understanding between the District and Engineer with regard to the referenced work authorization. If you wish to accept this work authorization, please sign both copies where indicated, and return one complete copy to our office. Upon receipt, we will promptly schedule our services.

Thank you for your consideration.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED

Sincerely,

By: _____
Authorized Representative of Star Farms
Village at North Port Stewardship District

By: _____

Exhibit B

Schedule of Rates

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

7E

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES
FOR THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

RFQ for Engineering Services

The Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (the “District”), located in the City of North Port, Florida, announces that professional engineering services will be required on a continuing basis for the District’s anticipated capital improvements which may include work related to _____ and other public improvements authorized by Chapter 2023-335, Laws of Florida, and Chapter 189, *Florida Statutes*. The engineering firm selected will act in the general capacity of District Engineer and will provide District engineering services, as required.

Any firm or individual (“Applicant”) desiring to provide professional services to the District must: 1) hold applicable federal, state and local licenses; 2) be authorized to do business in Florida in accordance with Florida law; and 3) furnish a statement (“Qualification Statement”) of its qualifications and past experience on U.S. General Service Administration’s “Architect-Engineer Qualifications, Standard Form No. 330,” with pertinent supporting data. Among other things, Applicants must submit information relating to: a) the ability and adequacy of the Applicant’s professional personnel; b) whether the Applicant is a certified minority business enterprise; c) the Applicant’s willingness to meet time and budget requirements; d) the Applicant’s past experience and performance, including but not limited to past experience as a District Engineer for any community development districts and past experience with the City of North Port and Sarasota County; e) the geographic location of the Applicant’s headquarters and offices; f) the current and projected workloads of the Applicant; and g) the volume of work previously awarded to the Applicant by the District. Further, each Applicant must identify the specific individual affiliated with the Applicant who would be handling District meetings, construction services, and other engineering tasks.

The District will review all Applicants and will comply with Florida law, including the Consultant’s Competitive Negotiations Act, Chapter 287, *Florida Statutes* (“CCNA”). All Applicants interested must submit one (1) electronic and one (1) hardcopy of Standard Form No. 330 and the Qualification Statement by 12:00 p.m. on _____, 2024 to the attention of Craig Wrathell, Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC, 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431 (“District Manager’s Office”).

The Board shall select and rank the Applicants using the requirements set forth in the CCNA and the evaluation criteria on file with the District Manager, and the highest ranked Applicant will be requested to enter into contract negotiations. If an agreement cannot be reached between the District and the highest ranked Applicant, negotiations will cease and begin with the next highest ranked Applicant, and if these negotiations are unsuccessful, will continue to the third highest ranked Applicant.

The District reserves the right to reject any and all Qualification Statements. Additionally, there is no express or implied obligation for the District to reimburse Applicants for any expenses associated with the preparation and submittal of the Qualification Statements in response to this request.

Any protest regarding the terms of this Notice, or the evaluation criteria on file with the District Manager, must be filed in writing, within seventy-two (72) hours (excluding weekends) after the publication of this Notice. The formal protest setting forth with particularity the facts and law upon which the protest is based shall be filed within seven (7) calendar days after the initial notice of protest was filed. Failure to timely file a notice of protest or failure to timely file a formal written protest shall constitute a waiver of any right to object or protest with respect to aforesaid Notice or evaluation criteria provisions. Any person who files a notice of protest shall provide to the District, simultaneous with the filing of the notice, a protest bond with a responsible surety to be approved by the District and in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00).

Publish on: _____ (must be published at least 14 days prior to submittal deadline)

STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

DISTRICT ENGINEER PROPOSALS COMPETITIVE SELECTION CRITERIA

1) Ability and Adequacy of Professional Personnel (Weight: 25 Points)

Consider the capabilities and experience of key personnel within the firm including certification, training, and education; affiliations and memberships with professional organizations; etc.

2) Consultant's Past Performance (Weight: 25 Points)

Past performance for other community development districts and independent special districts; amount of experience on similar projects; character, integrity, reputation, of respondent; etc.

3) Geographic Location (Weight: 20 Points)

Consider the geographic location of the firm's headquarters, offices and personnel in relation to the project.

4) Willingness to Meet Time and Budget Requirements (Weight: 15 Points)

Consider the consultant's ability and desire to meet time and budget requirements including rates, staffing levels and past performance on previous projects; etc.

5) Certified Minority Business Enterprise (Weight: 5 Points)

Consider whether the firm is a Certified Minority Business Enterprise. Award either all eligible points or none.

6) Recent, Current and Projected Workloads (Weight: 5 Points)

Consider the recent, current and projected workloads of the firm.

7) Volume of Work Previously Awarded to Consultant by District (Weight: 5 Points)

Consider the desire to diversify the firms that receive work from the District; etc.

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

7F

Ch. 2024-292 LAWS OF FLORIDA

(1) DISTRICT MANAGER AND EMPLOYEES.—The board shall employ and fix the compensation of a district manager, who shall have charge and supervision of the works of the district and shall be responsible for preserving and maintaining any improvement or facility constructed or erected pursuant to this act, for maintaining and operating the equipment owned by the district, and for performing such other duties as may be prescribed by the board. It shall not be a conflict of interest or constitute an abuse of public position under chapter 112, Florida Statutes, for a board member, the district manager, or another employee of the district to be a stockholder, officer, or employee of a landowner or an affiliate of a landowner. The district manager may hire or otherwise employ and terminate the employment of such other persons, including, without limitation, professional, supervisory, and clerical employees, as may be necessary and authorized by the board. **The compensation and other conditions of employment of the officers and employees of the district shall be as provided by the board.**

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

7G

RESOLUTION 2024-08

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT DESIGNATING THE PRIMARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AND PRINCIPAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE DISTRICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (the “District”) is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, and Chapter 189, Florida Statutes, being situated entirely within the City of North Port and Sarasota County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to designate its primary administrative office as the location where the District’s public records are routinely created, sent, received, maintained, and requested, for the purposes of prominently posting the contact information of the District’s Record’s Custodian in order to provide citizens with the ability to access the District’s records and ensure that the public is informed of the activities of the District in accordance with Chapter 119, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the District also desires to specify the location of the District’s principal headquarters for the purpose of establishing proper venue under the common law home venue privilege applicable to the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. The District’s primary administrative office for purposes of Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, shall be located at 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431.

SECTION 2. The District’s principal headquarters for purposes of establishing proper venue shall be located Sarasota County, Florida.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

7H

RESOLUTION 2024-09

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT DESIGNATING THE LOCATION OF THE LOCAL DISTRICT RECORDS OFFICE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (the “District”) is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, and Chapter 189, Florida Statutes, being situated entirely within the City of North Port and Sarasota County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the District is statutorily required to designate a local district records office location for the purposes of affording citizens the ability to access the District’s records, promoting the disclosure of matters undertaken by the District, and ensuring that the public is informed of the activities of the District in accordance with Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 2024-292(5)(8), Laws of Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. The District’s local records office shall be located at

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

[REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

71

RESOLUTION 2024-10

A RESOLUTION SETTING FORTH THE POLICY OF STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WITH REGARD TO THE SUPPORT AND LEGAL DEFENSE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND DISTRICT OFFICERS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors (the “Board”) and the officers and staff of the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (the “District”) are constantly presented with the necessity for making decisions regarding various phases of District policy and management; and

WHEREAS, it is absolutely essential to the effective operation of the District that such decisions be made in an environment where the threat of personal liability for the Board and its officers and staff is maintained at a minimum; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to formalize a policy with regard to the support and legal protection of the Board and its officers and staff so as to reduce the threat of personal liability to such individuals and allow for an effective decision-making environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. As set forth in this Resolution, the District, in accordance with Florida law, agrees that the following Board members, officers and staff (together, “Indemnitees”) of the District shall be provided the benefit of the indemnification, support and legal defense provisions provided in this Resolution:

- A. All members of the Board of Supervisors; and
- B. Secretary and Assistant Secretaries, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurers, and other District officers, as well as District Staff (e.g., the District Manager, the District Engineer, and the District Counsel).

SECTION 2. As set forth in this Resolution and in accordance with Sections 111.07 and 768.28, *Florida Statutes*, the District hereby agrees to provide legal representation to defend any and all civil actions, including federal civil rights and other federal civil claims, arising from a complaint for damages or injuries suffered as a result of any action or omission of action of all Indemnitees, present or former, arising out of and in the scope of his or her employment or function, unless, in the case of a tort action, the Indemnitee acted in bad faith, with malicious purpose, or in a manner exhibiting wanton and willful disregard of human rights, safety, or property. Defense of such civil actions includes, but is not limited to, any civil rights lawsuit seeking relief personally against any Indemnitee for an act or omission under color of state law, custom or usage, wherein it is alleged that such Indemnitee has deprived another person of

rights secured under the Federal Constitution or laws, including, by way of example, actions under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 or other federal statute. The District hereby further agrees to provide legal representation to defend against any other litigation arising against an Indemnitee from the performance of their official duties while serving a public purpose, including civil, administrative or criminal actions as permitted by law. By these provisions, the District does not waive any immunity from liability or limited waiver of such immunity as granted under Florida law. Rather, the District is stating that to the extent the State does not through its laws protect the Board and its officers from liability, the District is committed to doing so to the extent described in this Resolution and as permitted by law.

SECTION 3. The District may insure itself in order to cover all reasonable costs and fees directly arising out of or in connection with any legal claim or suit that directly results from a decision or act made by an Indemnitee while performing the duties and functions of his or her position.

SECTION 4. This Resolution is intended to evidence the District's support of Indemnites who perform acts and render decisions in the good faith performance of their duties and functions. The District will neither support nor defend those actions or omissions committed by an individual outside the scope of his or her office or committed in bad faith or with malicious purpose or in a manner exhibiting wanton and willful disregard of human rights, safety, or property. By adoption of this Resolution, the Indemnitee(s) in question are each presumed to have acted within the scope of his or her office and are presumed to be acting in good faith, without a malicious purpose and not in a manner exhibiting wanton and willful disregard of human rights, safety or property. The District's Board of Supervisors may overcome this presumption only by unanimous vote of those participating and voting, in accordance with Section 7 herein.

SECTION 5. In the event that the District has expended funds to provide an attorney to defend a Indemnitee who is found to be personally liable by virtue of actions outside the scope of his or her employment or function, or is found to have acted in bad faith, with malicious purpose, or in a manner exhibiting wanton and willful disregard of human rights, safety, or property, the individual shall be required to reimburse the District for funds so expended. The District may recover such funds in a civil action against such individual.

SECTION 6. The District agrees to pay any final judgment, including damages, fines, penalties or other damages, costs, and attorney's fees and costs, arising from any complaint for damages or injuries suffered as a result of any action or omission of action of any Indemnitee as described in Section 111.07, *Florida Statutes*. If the action arises under Section 768.28, *Florida Statutes*, as a tort claim, the limitations and provisions of that section governing payment shall apply. If the action is a civil rights action arising under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, or similar federal statutes, payment for the full amount of judgment may be made unless the individual has been determined in the final judgment to have caused the harm intentionally. The District agrees to pay any compromise or settlement of any claim or litigation described in this paragraph,

provided, however, that the District determines such compromise or settlement to be in the District's best interest.

SECTION 7. To rebut the presumption of the automatic payment of judgments or provision of legal representation pursuant to this Resolution, at least one of the following determinations shall be made by a unanimous decision of the District's Board of Supervisors participating and voting:

- A. The actions of the Indemnitee were outside the scope of his or her duties and authority; or
- B. The acts or omissions of the Indemnitee constituted bad faith, malicious purpose, intentional infliction of harm or were done in a manner exhibiting wanton and willful disregard of human rights, safety or property; or
- C. The Indemnitee received financial profit or advantage to which he or she was not legally entitled.

SECTION 8. To ensure the provision of legal representation pursuant to this Resolution, the following must be met:

- A. A copy of the summons, complaint, notice, demand letter or other document or pleading in the action, or a letter setting forth the substance of any claim or complaint, must be delivered to the District Chair, Vice Chair, District Manager or District Counsel within fourteen (14) calendar days after actual receipt of any such document together with a specific request in writing that the District defend or provide representation for the Indemnitee; and
- B. The Indemnitee must cooperate continuously and fully with the District in the defense of the action.

SECTION 9. Any indemnification, legal defense or other protection provided pursuant to this representation shall not extend to:

- A. Consulting or other outside professional or business activities for which the Indemnitee received financial or other material compensation, which are outside the scope of his or her District duties and authority; and
- B. Any independent contractor for whom defense or indemnification is not authorized pursuant to Section 1(b) of this Resolution, unless the Board votes to authorize such indemnification, legal defense, or other protection; and

- C. Any fine, penalty or other punishment imposed as a result of conviction for a criminal offense, and any legal fees and costs incurred to defend criminal prosecution in which a conviction is obtained; and
- D. Claims brought against the Indemnitee by the District's Board of Supervisors; and
- E. Any indemnification or defense prohibited by law.

SECTION 10. In the event legal representation or defense is provided pursuant to this Resolution, the Indemnitee may either:

- A. Retain legal counsel appointed by the District, in which case legal counsel shall be paid directly by the District; or
- B. Retain legal counsel chosen by the Indemnitee, in which case the District shall have the right to:
 - i. Approve, in advance, any agreement for legal fees or disbursements; and
 - ii. Pay all or part of the legal fees, costs and other disbursements and to set a maximum for legal fees, costs and other disbursements; and
 - iii. Direct the defense and settle or compromise the action or claim; and
 - iv. Reduce or offset any monies that may be payable by the District by any court costs or attorney's fees awarded to the Indemnitee.

SECTION 11. The benefits of the policy adopted in this Resolution shall not enlarge the rights that would have been available to any third-party plaintiff or claimant in the absence of this policy.

SECTION 12. To the extent permitted by law, this policy shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, personal representatives and estate of the Board member and/or officer.

SECTION 13. The District reserves the right to change, modify or withdraw this Resolution in its sole discretion, except as to actions, demand or other claims based on acts or omissions that occurred before the effective change, modification or withdrawal of this Resolution.

SECTION 14. This Resolution shall be effective as of its adoption on the date listed below and shall apply to any acts or omissions occurring after that date.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

Attest:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

7J

RESOLUTION 2024-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLIC'S OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD; DESIGNATING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS; DESIGNATING A PROCEDURE TO IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS SEEKING TO BE HEARD; ADDRESSING PUBLIC DECORUM; ADDRESSING EXCEPTIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (the "District") is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, *Laws of Florida*; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 2024-292, *Laws of Florida*, authorizes the District to adopt resolutions as may be necessary for the conduct of District business; and

WHEREAS, Section 286.0114, *Florida Statutes*, requires that members of the public be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a proposition before a board or commission; and

WHEREAS, Section 286.0114, *Florida Statutes*, sets forth guidelines for rules and policies that govern the public's opportunity to be heard at a public meeting; and

WHEREAS, the District's Board of Supervisors ("Board") finds that it is in the best interests of the District to adopt by resolution a policy ("Public Comment Policy") for immediate use and application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. DESIGNATING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS. The District's Chairperson, his or her designee, or such other person conducting a District meeting ("Presiding Officer"), shall ensure that there is at least one (1) period of time ("Public Comment Period") in the District's meeting agenda whereby the public has an opportunity to be heard on propositions before the Board, as follows:

A. An initial Public Comment Period shall be provided at the start of each Board meeting before consideration of any propositions by the Board. In the event there are propositions that come before the Board that are not listed on the agenda, the Presiding Officer shall announce a Public Comment Period on such proposition prior to the Board voting on the matter.

B. Speakers shall be permitted to address any agenda item during the initial Public Comment Period. Speakers shall be permitted to address any non-agenda matters of

personal or general concern during the Public Comment Period provided after the conclusion of the District's business items.

C. Individuals wishing to make a public comment are limited to three (3) minutes per person. Potential speakers may not assign his/her three (3) minutes to extend another speaker's time.

D. The Presiding Officer may extend or reduce the time periods set forth herein in order to facilitate orderly and efficient District business, provided however that a reasonable opportunity for public comment shall be provided consistent with the requirements of Section 286.0114, *Florida Statutes*. The Presiding Officer may also elect to set and announce additional Public Comment Periods if he or she deems it appropriate.

SECTION 2. DESIGNATING A PROCEDURE TO IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS SEEKING TO BE HEARD. Unless otherwise directed and declared by the Presiding Officer, individuals seeking to be heard on propositions before the Board shall identify themselves by a show of hands at the beginning of each Public Comment Period, as announced by the Presiding Officer. Alternatively, in the event that public attendance is high, and/or if otherwise in the best interests of the District in order to facilitate efficient and orderly District business, the Presiding Officer may require individuals to complete speaker cards that include the individual's name, address, the proposition on which they wish to be heard, the individual's position on the proposition (i.e., "for," "against," or "undecided"), and if appropriate, to indicate the designation of a representative to speak for the individual or the individual's group. In the event large groups of individuals desire to speak, the Presiding Officer may require each group to designate a representative to speak on behalf of such group. Any attorney hired to represent an individual or company's interests before the Board shall notify the Board of such representation prior to proving any public comment.

Sections 1 and 2 herein shall be deemed to apply only to District Board meetings, but the Presiding Officer of a District workshop in his or her discretion may elect to apply such Sections to District workshops.

SECTION 3. PUBLIC DECORUM. The following policies govern public decorum at public meetings and workshops:

A. Each person addressing the Board shall proceed to the place assigned for speaking, and should state his or her name and address in an audible tone of voice for the public record.

B. All remarks shall be addressed to the Board as a body and not to any member thereof or to any staff member. No person other than a Board Supervisor or District staff member shall be permitted to enter into any discussion with an individual speaker while he or she has the floor, without the permission of the Presiding Officer.

C. Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit the Presiding Officer from maintaining orderly conduct and proper decorum in a public meeting. Speakers shall refrain from disruptive behavior and from making vulgar or threatening remarks. Speakers shall refrain from launching personal attacks against any Board Supervisor, District staff member, or member of the public. The Presiding Officer shall have the discretion to remove any speaker who disregards these policies from the meeting.

D. In the case that any person is declared out of order by the Presiding Officer and ordered expelled, and does not immediately leave the meeting facilities, the following steps may be taken:

- i. The Presiding Officer may declare a recess;
- ii. The Presiding Officer may contact the local law enforcement authority; or
- iii. In case the person does not remove himself or herself from the meeting, the Presiding Officer may request that he or she be placed under arrest by local law enforcement authorities for violation of Section 871.01, *Florida Statutes*, or other applicable law.

SECTION 4. EXCEPTIONS. The Board recognizes and may apply all applicable exceptions to Section 286.0114, *Florida Statutes*, including those set forth in Section 286.0114(3), *Florida Statutes*, and other applicable law. Additionally, the Presiding Officer may alter the procedures set forth in this Public Comment Policy for public hearings and other special proceedings that may require a different procedure under Florida law.

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this Resolution is held to be illegal or invalid, the other provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall become effective upon its passage and shall remain in effect unless rescinded or repealed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

7K

RESOLUTION 2024-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A RECORDS MANAGEMENT LIAISON OFFICER; PROVIDING THE DUTIES OF THE RECORDS MANAGEMENT LIAISON OFFICER; ADOPTING A RECORDS RETENTION POLICY; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (“District”) is a local unit of special purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, and Chapter 189, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, and Chapter 189, Florida Statutes, authorizes the District to adopt rules to govern the administration of the District and to adopt resolutions as may be necessary for the conduct of district business; and

WHEREAS, Section 1.2(2) of the District’s Proposed Rules of Procedure appoints the Secretary of the District as the District’s records custodian; and

WHEREAS, Section 257.36(5), Florida Statutes, requires the District to establish and maintain an active and continuing program for the economical and efficient management of records and to provide for the appointment of a records management liaison officer (“Records Management Liaison Officer”); and

WHEREAS, the District desires for the Records Management Liaison Officer to be an employee of the District or an employee of the District Manager; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to authorize the District’s records custodian to appoint a Records Management Liaison Officer, which may or may not be the District’s records custodian; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to prescribe duties of the Records Management Liaison Officer and provide for the assignment of additional duties; and

WHEREAS, the District’s Board of Supervisors (“Board”) finds that it is in the best interests of the District to adopt by resolution a Records Retention Policy (the “Policy”) for immediate use and application; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to provide for future amendment of the Records Retention Policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. The District hereby authorizes the District's records custodian to appoint a Records Management Liaison Officer and report such appointment to the appropriate State of Florida agencies. A Records Management Liaison Officer shall be an employee of the District or the District Manager. The Board, and the District's records custodian, shall each have the individual power to remove the Records Management Liaison Officer at any time for any reason. Immediately following the removal or resignation of a Records Management Liaison Officer, the District's records custodian shall appoint a replacement Records Management Liaison Officer.

SECTION 2. The duties of the Records Management Liaison Officer shall include the following:

- A. serve as the District's contact with the Florida Department of State, State Library and Archives of Florida; and
- B. coordinate the District's records inventory; and
- C. maintain records retention and disposition forms; and
- D. coordinate District records management training; and
- E. develop records management procedures consistent with the below Records Retention Policy, as amended; and
- F. participate in the development of the District's development of electronic record keeping systems; and
- G. submit annual compliance statements; and
- H. work with the Florida Department of State, State Library and Archives of Florida to establish individual retention schedules for the District, from time to time and as may be necessary; and
- I. such other duties as may be assigned by the Board or the District's records custodian in the future.

SECTION 3. The District hereby adopts as its Records Retention Policy the applicable provisions of Section 257.36(5), Florida Statutes, the rules adopted by the Division of Library and Information Services of the Department of State ("Division") pursuant to Section 257.36, Florida Statutes, and the General Records Schedules established by the Division. However, the District hereby extends the minimum retention guidelines contained in the General Records Schedules so that the District will retain all public records relating to District business until the Board of Supervisors amends the Records Retention Policy to address the disposition of the same. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the District shall retain Transitory Messages until the Transitory Message is obsolete, superseded or administrative value is lost in accordance with the General Records Schedule for State and Local Government Agencies, Item #146, as incorporated by reference in Rule 1B-24.003(1)(a), Florida Administrative Code. The District hereby determines the electronic record shall be considered the official record of all public records relating to District business and any paper originals are designated as duplicates which may be disposed of unless prohibited by any law, rule or ordinance. To the extent the above statute, rules, or schedules are amended or supplemented in the future, the District's Records Retention Policy shall automatically incorporate such amendment or supplement provided that such automatic amendment does not permit the disposition of District records without further action of the

Board. The Records Retention Policy shall remain in full force and effect until such time as the Board amends the Policy.

SECTION 4. If any provision of this Resolution is held to be illegal or invalid, the other provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. This resolution shall become effective upon its passage and shall remain in effect unless rescinded or repealed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

7L

RESOLUTION 2024-13

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT GRANTING THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR THE AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY CONVEYANCE AND DEDICATION DOCUMENTS, PLATS, AND OTHER DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DISTRICT'S IMPROVEMENTS; APPROVING THE SCOPE AND TERMS OF SUCH AUTHORIZATION; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (the "District") is a local unit of special purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, authorizes the District to construct, install, operate, and/or maintain systems and facilities for certain public infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, the District intends to adopt a report of its District Engineer (the "Engineer's Report"), which sets forth the scope of the District's capital improvement plan and the improvements which are to be constructed therewith (the "Improvements"); and

WHEREAS, in connection with the development of the Improvements in accordance with the Engineer's Report, which includes, but is not limited to, obtaining all necessary permits and approvals from local governments and agencies for the construction and/or operation of infrastructure improvements, the District is required, from time to time, to accept, convey and dedicate certain interests in real and personal property, including, but not limited to easements, plat dedications, site plans, deeds and bills of sale for infrastructure improvements (hereinafter, the "Permits and Conveyances"); and

WHEREAS, to facilitate the efficient development of the Improvements, the District desires to authorize the Chair and Vice Chair to approve and execute the Permits and Conveyances necessary to finalize the development of the District's capital improvement plan (the "Conveyance Authority"); and

WHEREAS, the Conveyance Authority shall be subject to the District Engineer and District Counsel agreeing that each such proposed Permit or Conveyance is legal, consistent with the District's improvement plan and necessary for the development of the Improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors finds that granting to the Chair and Vice Chair the Conveyance Authority is in the best interests of the District so that the development of the Improvements may proceed expeditiously, subject to the terms and limitations imposed by this Resolution.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:**

SECTION 1. INCORPORATION OF RECITALS. The recitals so stated are true and correct and by this reference are incorporated into and form a material part of this Resolution.

SECTION 2. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY. The Chair and Vice Chair of the District's Board of Supervisors are hereby authorized to sign, accept or execute Permits and Conveyances as defined above. The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Assistant Secretary of the District's Board of Supervisors are hereby authorized to countersign any such Permits and Conveyances signed by the Chair or Vice Chair. Such authority shall be subject to the District Engineer and District Counsel's review and approval.

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this Resolution is held to be illegal or invalid, the other provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall take effect upon its passage and shall remain in effect unless rescinded or repealed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

7M

RESOLUTION 2024-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT RATIFYING, CONFIRMING AND APPROVING THE RECORDING OF THE NOTICE OF CREATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (“District”) is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida (“Act”), and Chapter 189, Florida Statutes, being situated entirely within the City of North Port, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the District was established by the Act which was adopted by the Florida Legislature and became effective on June 14, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Act contemplates a “Notice of Creation and Establishment” to be filed within 30 days after the election of the first board of supervisors creating the District; and

WHEREAS, the landowner election and organizational meeting of the District’s Board of Supervisors was scheduled for September 10, 2024; and

WHEREAS, prior to the date of the landowner election, Kutak Rock LLP arranged for the recording of the “Notice of Creation and Establishment of the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District” with the Sarasota County Clerk of Court to ensure compliance with Florida law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. The actions of Kutak Rock LLP in recording the Notice of Creation and Establishment of the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District are hereby ratified, confirmed and approved.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

Attest:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

Upon recording, this instrument should be returned to:

(This space reserved for Clerk)

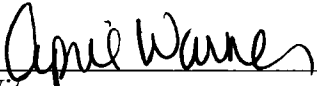
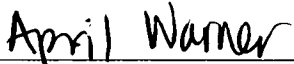
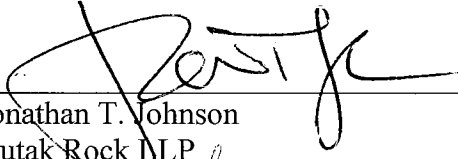
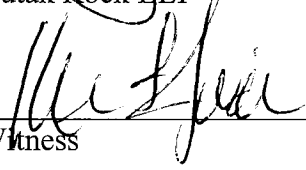
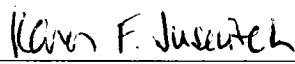
Jonathan T. Johnson, Esq.
Kutak Rock LLP
107 West College Avenue
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

**NOTICE OF CREATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Florida Legislature enacted Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, which became effective on June 14, 2024, creating and establishing the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (“District”). The legal description of the lands encompassed within the District is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. The District is a special-purpose form of local government established pursuant to and governed by Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, and Chapter 189, Florida Statutes. More information on the powers, responsibilities, and duties of the District may be obtained by examining Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, or by contacting the District’s registered agent as designated to the Department of Commerce in accordance with Section 189.014, Florida Statutes.

THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT MAY IMPOSE AND LEVY TAXES OR ASSESSMENTS, OR BOTH TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS, ON THIS PROPERTY. THESE TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS PAY THE CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS OF CERTAIN PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES OF THE DISTRICT AND ARE SET ANNUALLY BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE DISTRICT. THESE TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS ARE IN ADDITION TO COUNTY AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS AND ALL OTHER TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS PROVIDED FOR BY LAW.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Notice has been executed on this 14th day of July, 2024,
and recorded in the Official Records of Sarasota County, Florida.

 _____ Witness  _____ Print Name 107 West College Avenue Tallahassee, Florida 32301	 _____ Jonathan T. Johnson Kutak Rock LLP  _____ Witness  _____ Print Name 107 West College Avenue Tallahassee, Florida 32301
--	--

**STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF LEON**

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by means of ☒ physical presence or ☐ online
notarization, this 14 day of July, 2024, by Jonathan T. Johnson. He ☒ is personally known to
me or ☐ produced _____ as identification.



Print Name: Peyton Avrett
Notary Public, State of Florida

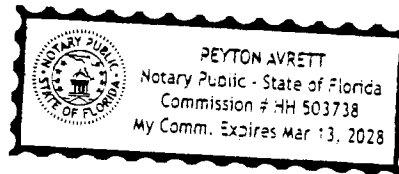


Exhibit A

TRACT 1 (FROM O.R.L. 2002036237)

A PORTION OF THE NORTH HALF OF SECTION 5, TOWNSHIP 39 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 5; THENCE N.89°37'34"W., ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTHEAST QUARTER, A DISTANCE OF 2652.93 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 5; THENCE N.89°37'34"W., ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER, A DISTANCE OF 2652.93 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 5; THENCE N.00°44'41"E., ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER, A DISTANCE OF 1761.54 FEET TO A POINT ON THE CENTER LINE OF A 100 FOOT WIDE, NON-EXCLUSIVE INGRESS, EGRESS AND UTILITY EASEMENT RUNNING THROUGH SECTIONS 4, 5 AND 6 AS DESCRIBED IN O.R.L. 2001131259, PUBLIC RECORDS OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND TO A POINT ON A CURVE TO THE RIGHT, HAVING A RADIUS OF 2000.00 FEET, A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 00°51'35", A CHORD BEARING OF S.80°38'17"E., AND A CHORD LENGTH OF 30.01 FEET; THENCE ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, AN ARC LENGTH OF 30.01 FEET TO THE POINT OF TANGENCY OF SAID CURVE; THENCE S.80°12'29"E., CONTINUING ALONG SAID CENTER LINE, A DISTANCE OF 2116.26 FEET TO THE POINT OF CURVATURE OF A CURVE TO THE LEFT, HAVING A RADIUS OF 1000.00 FEET, A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 25°59'19", A CHORD BEARING OF N.86°47'52"E. AND A CHORD LENGTH OF 449.71 FEET; THENCE ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, AN ARC LENGTH OF 453.59 FEET TO THE POINT OF TANGENCY OF SAID CURVE; THENCE N.73°48'12"E., ALONG SAID CENTER LINE, A DISTANCE OF 348.80 FEET TO THE POINT OF CURVATURE OF A CURVE TO THE RIGHT, HAVING A RADIUS OF 1000.00 FEET, A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 71°05'17", A CHORD BEARING OF S.70°39'09"E., AND A CHORD LENGTH OF 1162.66 FEET; THENCE ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, AN ARC LENGTH OF 1240.72 FEET TO THE POINT OF TANGENCY OF SAID CURVE; THENCE S.35°06'31"E., ALONG SAID CENTER LINE, A DISTANCE OF 852.30 FEET TO THE POINT OF CURVATURE OF

A CURVE TO THE LEFT, HAVING A RADIUS OF 900.00 FEET, A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 54°12'00", A CHORD BEARING OF S.62°12'31" E. AND A CHORD LENGTH OF 819.98 FEET; THENCE ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, AN ARC LENGTH OF 851.37 FEET TO THE POINT OF TANGENCY OF SAID CURVE; THENCE S.89°18'31"E., ALONG SAID CENTER LINE, A DISTANCE OF 72.56 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 5; THENCE S.00°50'30"W., ALONG SAID EAST LINE, A DISTANCE OF 88.02 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

TOGETHER WITH THE INGRESS/EGRESS AND UTILITY EASEMENT GRANTED IN O.R. INSTRUMENT NO. 2002036237 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

TRACT 2

A PORTION OF SECTIONS 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 15 AND 16, TOWNSHIP 39 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 39 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, ALSO BEING THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SECOND ADDITION TO NORTH PORT CHARLOTTE ESTATES, PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 19, PAGES 44 AND 44A THROUGH 44-D, PUBLIC RECORDS OF SAID SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE S.00°30'07"W. (GRID BEARING, FLORIDA TRANSVERSE MERCATOR, WEST ZONE), ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 6, A DISTANCE OF 2548.44 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 6; THENCE S.00°30'07"W., CONTINUING ALONG SAID WEST LINE OF SECTION 6, A DISTANCE OF 100.02 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE S.88°26'46"E., PARALLEL WITH AND 100.00 FEET SOUTH OF THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 6, A DISTANCE OF 5299.57 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 5, BEARING S.00°44'41"W., A DISTANCE OF 100.01 FEET FROM THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 5; THENCE S.89°37'34"E., PARALLEL WITH AND 100.00 FEET SOUTH OF THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 5, A DISTANCE OF 5305.69 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 4, BEARING S.00°50'30"W., A DISTANCE OF 100.01 FEET FROM THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 4; THENCE S.89°49'42"E., PARALLEL WITH AND 100.00 FEET SOUTH OF THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 4, A DISTANCE OF 4877.78 FEET; THENCE S.16°26'43"E., A DISTANCE OF 960.52 FEET; THENCE S.00°47'59"W., PARALLEL WITH AND 150.00 FEET WEST OF THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 4, A DISTANCE OF 513.02 FEET; THENCE S.18°20'50"W., A DISTANCE OF 1189.95 FEET TO A POINT ON THE NORTH LINE OF

SECTION 9, BEARING N.89°56'00"W., A DISTANCE OF 508.81 FEET FROM THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 9; THENCE N.89°56'03"W., ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 9, A DISTANCE OF 2148.47 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE EAST HALF OF SAID SECTION 9; THENCE S.01°01'52"W., ALONG THE WEST LINE OF THE EAST HALF OF SAID SECTION 9, A DISTANCE OF 5312.87 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE EAST HALF OF SAID SECTION 9; THENCE S.89°47'00"E., ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SECTION 9, ALSO THE NORTH LINE OF SECTION 16, A DISTANCE OF 2662.92 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 15; THENCE S.89°40'03"E., ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 15, A DISTANCE OF 536.06 FEET TO A POINT IN THE ALDERMAN SLOUGH; THENCE FOLLOWING SAID ALDERMAN SLOUGH IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION, THE FOLLOWING COURSES THROUGH SECTION 15: THENCE S.12°02'12"E., A DISTANCE OF 127.44 FEET; THENCE S.09°19'36"E., A DISTANCE OF 688.88 FEET; THENCE S.04°17'39"E., A DISTANCE OF 145.23 FEET; THENCE S.11°04'54"E., A DISTANCE OF 278.80 FEET; THENCE S.18°24'37"W., A DISTANCE OF 118.03 FEET; THENCE S.27°30'33"W., A DISTANCE OF 170.26 FEET; THENCE S.05°11'15"E., A DISTANCE OF 86.33 FEET; THENCE S.07°05'59"W., A DISTANCE OF 206.26 FEET; THENCE S.03°47'11"E., A DISTANCE OF 108.15 FEET; THENCE S.15°38'29"W., A DISTANCE OF 229.08 FEET; THENCE S.11°11'29"W., A DISTANCE OF 651.33 FEET; THENCE S.04°17'53"W., A DISTANCE OF 74.25 FEET; THENCE S.16°13'07"W., A DISTANCE OF 79.94 FEET; THENCE S.06°56'07"W., A DISTANCE OF 292.06 FEET; THENCE S.19°33'24"W., A DISTANCE OF 62.42 FEET; THENCE S.51°48'15"W., A DISTANCE OF 177.50 FEET; THENCE S.35°17'02"W., A DISTANCE OF 182.82 FEET; THENCE S.51°44'00"W., A DISTANCE OF 129.18 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF SECTION 16, BEARING N.00°16'13"E., A DISTANCE OF 1734.15 FEET FROM THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 16; THENCE S.51°44'00"W., THROUGH SECTION 16, A DISTANCE OF 18.84 FEET; THENCE S.35°17'35"W., A DISTANCE OF 203.28 FEET TO A POINT ON THE NORTHERLY LIMITED ACCESS RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR INTERSTATE HIGHWAY #75; THENCE N.44°57'25"W., ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 7168.47 FEET TO THE POINT OF CURVATURE OF A CURVE TO THE LEFT, HAVING A RADIUS OF 5846.49 FEET, A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 44°14'48", A CHORD BEARING OF N.67°04'49"W., AND A CHORD LENGTH OF 4403.59 FEET; THENCE ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, AN ARC LENGTH OF 4514.95 FEET TO THE POINT OF TANGENCY OF SAID CURVE; THENCE N.89°12'13"W., ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 1309.66 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 8; THENCE N.01°04'23"E., ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 8, A DISTANCE OF 2325.50 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 6; THENCE N.87°10'58"W., ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 6,

ALSO THE NORTH LINE OF SECTION 7, A DISTANCE OF 5292.12 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 6; THENCE N.00°30'07"E., ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 6, A DISTANCE OF 2448.42 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

LESS AND EXCEPT:

A PORTION OF THE SOUTH HALF OF SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 39 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 6, N.= 1007797.74, E.= 605625.27, FLORIDA STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, WEST ZONE; THENCE N.00°30'07"E., 'GRID BEARING' ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 6, A DISTANCE OF 56.50 FEET; THENCE N.42°23'13"E., A DISTANCE OF 2975.77 FEET; THENCE S.88°26'46"E., A DISTANCE OF 2676.20 FEET TO A POINT ON THE NORTHEASTERLY LINE OF THAT CERTAIN 50 FOOT WIDE WATER PIPE LINE EASEMENT AS DESCRIBED IN O.R.I. # 1999158305, PUBLIC RECORDS OF SAID SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE S.44°53'43"E., ALONG SAID NORTHEASTERLY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 889.05 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 6; THENCE S.00°44'41"W., ALONG SAID EAST LINE, A DISTANCE OF 1812.32 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 6; THENCE N.87°10'58"W., ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 6, A DISTANCE OF 5292.12 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

AND LESS THE PORTION THEREOF CONVEYED IN O.R. INSTRUMENT NO. 2002056489, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

TOGETHER WITH AN EASEMENT FOR INGRESS/EGRESS & UTILITIES OVER, ACROSS AND THROUGH SAID LANDS DESCRIBED IN O.R. INSTRUMENT NO. 2002056489

TRACT 3 (FROM O.R.I. 2000076817)

A PORTION OF SECTIONS 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 AND 10, TOWNSHIP 39 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 39 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, ALSO BEING THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SECOND ADDITION TO NORTH PORT CHARLOTTE ESTATES, PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 19, PAGES 44 AND 44A THROUGH 44-0, PUBLIC RECORDS OF SAID SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE S.00°30'07"W. (GRID BEARING, FLORIDA TRANSVERSE MERCATOR, WEST ZONE), ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 6, A DISTANCE OF 2548.44 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF

THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 6 AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE S.88°26'46"E., ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTH HALF A DISTANCE OF 5299.99 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTH HALF OF SECTION 5; THENCE S.89°37'34"E., ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTH HALF, A DISTANCE OF 5305.86 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTH HALF OF SECTION 4; THENCE S.89°49'42"E., ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTH HALF, A DISTANCE OF 5280.31 FEET TO A POINT IN THE ALDERMAN SLOUGH BEARING N.89°49'42"W., A DISTANCE OF 32.18 FEET FROM THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 4; THENCE FOLLOWING SAID ALDERMAN SLOUGH IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION, THE FOLLOWING COURSES: S.19°46'12"W., A DISTANCE OF 384.63 FEET; THENCE S.06°17'38"E., A DISTANCE OF 74.84 FEET; THENCE S.16°26'43"E., A DISTANCE OF 499.12 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 3, BEARING N.00°47'59"E., A DISTANCE OF 1748.16 FEET FROM THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 3; THENCE S.16°26'43"E., THROUGH SECTION 3, A DISTANCE OF 211.62 FEET; THENCE S.03°07'54"W., A DISTANCE OF 225.97 FEET; THENCE S.07°53'10"W., A DISTANCE OF 216.17 FEET; THENCE S.18°35'25"W., A DISTANCE OF 87.96 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF SECTION 4, BEARING N.00°47'59"E., A DISTANCE OF 1022.00 FEET FROM THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 4; THENCE S.18°20'50"W., A DISTANCE OF 1076.23 FEET TO A POINT ON THE NORTH LINE OF SECTION 9, BEARING N.89°56'00"W., A DISTANCE OF 324.51 FEET FROM THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 9; THENCE S.18°25'53"W., THROUGH SECTION 9, A DISTANCE OF 85.39 FEET; THENCE S.27°12'16"E., A DISTANCE OF 517.18 FEET; THENCE S.57°39'41"E., A DISTANCE OF 124.04 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 10, BEARING S.00°58'09"W., A DISTANCE OF 607.04 FEET FROM THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 10; THENCE S.57°39'41"E., THROUGH SECTION 10, A DISTANCE OF 63.21 FEET; THENCE S.10°12'48"E., A DISTANCE OF 555.38 FEET; THENCE S.07°21'16"E., A DISTANCE OF 672.34 FEET; THENCE S.10°44'03"E., A DISTANCE OF 651.24 FEET; THENCE S.10°36'13"W., A DISTANCE OF 530.75 FEET; THENCE S.01°14'47"W., A DISTANCE OF 820.24 FEET; THENCE S.03°22'21"E., A DISTANCE OF 253.99 FEET; THENCE S.08°05'01"E., A DISTANCE OF 925.01 FEET; THENCE S.12°02'12"E., A DISTANCE OF 324.13 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 10; THENCE N.89°40'03"W., ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 10 AND LEAVING SAID ALDERMAN SLOUGH, A DISTANCE OF 536.06 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 9; THENCE N.89°47'00"W., ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 9, A DISTANCE OF 2662.92 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE EAST HALF OF SAID SECTION 9; THENCE N.01°01'52"E., ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID EAST HALF, A

DISTANCE OF 5312.87 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE EAST HALF OF SAID SECTION 9; THENCE S89°56'00"E., ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SECTION 9, ALSO THE SOUTH LINE OF SECTION 4, A DISTANCE OF 2148.47 FEET TO A POINT BEARING N.89°56'00"W., A DISTANCE OF 508.81 FEET FROM THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 4; THENCE N.18°20'50"E., THROUGH SECTION 4, A DISTANCE OF 1189.95 FEET; THENCE N.60°47'59"E., PARALLEL WITH AND 150.00 FEET WEST OF THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 4, A DISTANCE OF 513.02 FEET; THENCE N.16°26'43"W., A DISTANCE OF 969.52 FEET; THENCE N.89°49'42"W., PARALLEL WITH AND 100.00 FEET SOUTH OF THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 4, A DISTANCE OF 4877.78 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF SECTION 5; THENCE N.89°37'34"W., PARALLEL WITH AND 100.00 FEET SOUTH OF THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 5, A DISTANCE OF 5305.89 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF SECTION 6; THENCE N.88°26'46"W., PARALLEL WITH AND 100.00 FEET SOUTH OF THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 6, A DISTANCE OF 5299.57 FEET TO THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 6; THENCE N.00°30'07"E., ALONG SAID WEST LINE, A DISTANCE OF 100.02 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTH HALF OF SAID SECTION 6 AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

AND LESS THE PORTION THEREOF CONVEYED IN O.R. INSTRUMENT NO. 2002056489, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

TOGETHER WITH AN EASEMENT FOR INGRESS/EGRESS & UTILITIES OVER, ACROSS AND THROUGH SAID LANDS DESCRIBED IN O.R. INSTRUMENT NO. 2002056489.

CONTAINING A TOTAL AREA OF 2,086 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

Being subject to any rights-of-way, restrictions and easements of record.

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

7N

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ANNUAL AUDIT SERVICES**

The Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District hereby requests proposals for annual financial auditing services. The proposal must provide for the auditing of the District's financial records for the fiscal year ending September 30, 20__, with an option for two additional optional annual renewals. The District is a local unit of special-purpose government created under Chapter 2024-292, *Laws of Florida*, for the purpose of financing, constructing, and maintaining public infrastructure. The District is located in the City of North Port, Florida, and has an annual operating budget of approximately \$_____. The final contract will require that, among other things, the audit for the fiscal year ending September 30, 20__, be completed no later than April 15, 20__.

The auditing entity submitting a proposal must be duly licensed under Chapter 473, *Florida Statutes*, and be qualified to conduct audits in accordance with "Government Auditing Standards," as adopted by the Florida Board of Accountancy. Audits shall be conducted in accordance with Florida Law and particularly Section 218.39, *Florida Statutes*, and the rules of the Florida Auditor General.

Proposal packages, which include evaluation criteria and instructions to proposers, are available from the District Manager at the address and telephone number listed below. Proposers must provide one (1) electronic and one (1) hardcopy of their proposal to the District Manager, Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC, 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431, (561) 571-0010 in an envelope marked on the outside "Auditing Services, Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District." Proposals must be received by _____ a/p.m. on _____, _____, 20__, at the office of the District Manager. Please direct all questions regarding this Notice to the District Manager.

Craig Wrathell
District Manager

Run date: must be published in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the District and the county in which the District is located. The public announcement must allow for at least 7 days for the submission of proposals.

STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

District Auditing Services for Fiscal Year 20__
City of North Port, Florida

INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS

SECTION 1. DUE DATE. Sealed proposals must be received no later than _____, _____, **20__**, at ____ a/p.m., at the offices of District Manager, Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC, 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431, (561) 571-0010. Proposals will be publicly opened at that time.

SECTION 2. FAMILIARITY WITH THE LAW. By submitting a proposal, the Proposer is assumed to be familiar with all federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, rules and regulations that in any manner affect the work. Ignorance on the part of the Proposer will in no way relieve it from responsibility to perform the work covered by the proposal in compliance with all such laws, ordinances and regulations.

SECTION 3. QUALIFICATIONS OF PROPOSER. The contract, if awarded, will only be awarded to a responsible Proposer who is qualified by experience and licensing to do the work specified herein. The Proposer shall submit with its proposal satisfactory evidence of experience in similar work and show that it is fully prepared to complete the work to the satisfaction of the District.

SECTION 4. SUBMISSION OF ONLY ONE PROPOSAL. Proposers shall be disqualified and their proposals rejected if the District has reason to believe that collusion may exist among the Proposers, the Proposer has defaulted on any previous contract or is in arrears on any previous or existing contract, or for failure to demonstrate proper licensure and business organization.

SECTION 5. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL. Submit one (1) electronic and one (1) hardcopy of the Proposal Documents, and other requested attachments at the time and place indicated herein, which shall be enclosed in an opaque sealed envelope, marked with the title "Auditing Services – Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District" on the face of it.

SECTION 6. MODIFICATION AND WITHDRAWAL. Proposals may be modified or withdrawn by an appropriate document duly executed and delivered to the place where proposals are to be submitted at any time prior to the time and date the proposals are due. No proposal may be withdrawn after opening for a period of ninety (90) days.

SECTION 7. PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS. The proposal documents shall consist of the notice announcing the request for proposals, these instructions, the Evaluation Criteria Sheet and a proposal with all required documentation pursuant to Section 12 of these instructions (the "Proposal Documents").

SECTION 8. PROPOSAL. In making its proposal, each Proposer represents that it has read and understands the Proposal Documents and that the proposal is made in accordance therewith.

SECTION 9. BASIS OF AWARD/RIGHT TO REJECT. The District reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, make modifications to the work, and waive any informalities or irregularities in proposals as it is deemed in the best interests of the District.

SECTION 10. CONTRACT AWARD. Within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the Notice of Award from the District, the Proposer shall enter into and execute a Contract (engagement letter) with the District.

SECTION 11. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY. Nothing herein shall be construed as or constitute a waiver of the District's limited waiver of liability contained in Section 768.28, *Florida Statutes*, or any other statute or law.

SECTION 12. MISCELLANEOUS. All proposals shall include the following information in addition to any other requirements of the proposal documents.

- A. List the position or title of all personnel to perform work on the District audit. Include resumes for each person listed; list years of experience in present position for each party listed and years of related experience.
- B. Describe proposed staffing levels, including resumes with applicable certifications.
- C. Three references from projects of similar size and scope. The Proposer should include information relating to the work it conducted for each reference as well as a name, address and phone number of a contact person.
- D. The lump sum cost of the provision of the services under the proposal for the District's first audit for which there are no special assessment bonds, plus the lump sum cost of two (2) annual renewals, which renewals shall include services related to the District's anticipated issuance of special assessment bonds.

SECTION 13. PROTESTS. In accordance with the District's Rules of Procedure, any protest regarding the Proposal Documents, must be filed in writing, at the offices of the

District Manager, within seventy-two (72) calendar hours (excluding Saturday, Sunday, and state holidays) after the receipt of the Proposal Documents. The formal protest setting forth with particularity the facts and law upon which the protest is based shall be filed within seven (7) calendar days (including Saturday, Sunday, and state holidays) after the initial notice of protest was filed. Failure to timely file a notice of protest or failure to timely file a formal written protest shall constitute a waiver of any right to object or protest with respect to the aforesaid Proposal Documents.

SECTION 14. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS. The criteria to be used in the evaluation of proposals are presented in the Evaluation Criteria Sheet, contained within the Proposal Documents.

***Alternatively, the Board may choose to evaluate firms without considering price, in which case the remaining categories would be assigned 25 points each.

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

70

Strange Zone, Inc.

Quotation

260 NW 67th Street #108
Boca Raton, FL 33487
Phone: (305) 607-2989

DATE September 4, 2024
Quotation # M24-1032
Customer ID SFVANPSD

Prepared by: Stephan

Prepared For:

Star Farms Village At North Port Stewardship District
C.O. Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC
PO Box 810036
Boca Raton, Florida 33481
Phone: (561) 571-0010

Description	AMOUNT
Website creation & development <i>Website will be created using company provided colors, images & logo if available. The website will include the following pages & content: Home page, About page, What is a CDD page, Required reporting information page, FAQs page, News section if desired, Contact page, and Meetings & documents page which include PDF documents of audits, budget, meeting agenda, meeting schedule & minutes from meetings. Website HTML Code will be WCAG 2.2 AA Compliant. Client will be responsible for providing Remediated PDF.</i>	\$975.00
Website maintenance For 1 year Please allow up to 48 hours for updates to be posted. <i>Maintenance includes posting of minutes, meeting agendas, audits, scheduled meetings, budgets, general documents, and any other content update needed. Creation of new pages will be a separate fee of \$50/ Page.</i>	\$600.00
Website hosting & Email For 1 year <i>Hosting service also includes 5 emails address accounts with 2GB of space for each account. Additional email storage \$10/User/Month</i>	Included
Domain Registration (starfarmsvillageatnorthportsd.net)	\$35.00
SSL Certificates 1 year	\$69.99
TOTAL	\$ 1,679.99

If you have any questions concerning this quotation, Stephan, (305) 607-2989, strangezone@gmail.com

Payment must be received before the start of this agreement.

Date

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

7P

Date: September 4, 2024
Re: Website Mitigation Items for Accessibility

This proposal is for the website, which our development and audit team will perform the scope of services outlined below. ADA Site Compliance is a consultancy which provides specific services for the client. Any services outside of the scope below, or separate sites or templates, will require additional evaluations and proposals.

Technological Auditing

WCAG Standards
Technological auditing of the agreed upon pages.
Detailed Reports

Accessibility Policy and Compliance Shield

Indication to all website visitors that compliance, accessibility, and usability are a priority.
Provides contact information (phone and/or email) for users who find inaccessible areas of the website.



Scope of Services Performed by ADA Site Compliance:

- A. Technological Auditing and Reporting – WCAG Standards
- B. Accessibility Policy and Compliance Shield
- C. Technical Support – Email and Phone

Compliance Shield, Accessibility Policy and 1 Annual Technological Audit

\$210 per website (normally \$549) – Annual Pricing

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT
NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

By: _____

Name: _____

Its: _____

Date: _____

ADA Site Compliance

By: *Joshua LaBadie*

Name: Joshua LaBadie

Its: Senior Compliance Advisor



STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

7Q

RESOLUTION 2024-15

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT TO DESIGNATE DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND AUTHORIZATION TO PUBLISH NOTICE OF SUCH HEARING FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING RULES OF PROCEDURE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (the “District”) is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the District (the “Board”) is authorized by Chapter 2024-292(6)(6)(e), Laws of Florida, to adopt rules and orders pursuant to Chapter 120, *Florida Statutes*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. A Public Hearing will be held to adopt the District’s Rules of Procedure on _____, 2024, at _____ .m., at _____.

SECTION 2. The District Secretary is directed to publish notice of the hearing in accordance with Section 120.54, *Florida Statutes*.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

7Q1

**RULES OF PROCEDURE
STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

EFFECTIVE AS OF _____, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rule 1.0	General.....	2
Rule 1.1	Governing Board Members; Officers and Voting	3
Rule 1.2	District Offices; Public Information and Inspection of Records; Policies; Service Contract Requirements; Financial Disclosure Coordination	7
Rule 1.3	Public Meetings, Hearings, and Workshops	10
Rule 1.4	Internal Controls to Prevent Fraud, Waste and Abuse.....	15
Rule 2.0	Rulemaking Proceedings	16
Rule 3.0	Competitive Purchase	22
Rule 3.1	Procedure Under the Consultants’ Competitive Negotiation Act.....	27
Rule 3.2	Procedure Regarding Auditor Selection	31
Rule 3.3	Purchase of Insurance	35
Rule 3.4	Pre-qualification.....	37
Rule 3.5	Construction Contracts, Not Design-Build	42
Rule 3.6	Construction Contracts, Design-Build	46
Rule 3.7	Payment and Performance Bonds.	51
Rule 3.8	Goods, Supplies, and Materials	52
Rule 3.9	Maintenance Services	56
Rule 3.10	Contractual Services	59
Rule 3.11	Protests with Respect to Proceedings under Rules 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8, and 3.9.....	60
4.0	Effective Date	63

Rule 1.0 General.

- (1) The Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (the “District”) was created pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, and was established to provide for the ownership, operation, maintenance, and provision of various capital facilities and services within its jurisdiction. The purpose of these rules (the “Rules”) is to describe the general operations of the District.
- (2) Definitions located within any section of these Rules shall be applicable within all other sections, unless specifically stated to the contrary.
- (3) Unless specifically permitted by a written agreement with the District, the District does not accept documents filed by electronic mail or facsimile transmission. Filings are only accepted during normal business hours.
- (4) A Rule of the District shall be effective upon adoption by affirmative vote of the District Board. After a Rule becomes effective, it may be repealed or amended only through the rulemaking procedures specified in these Rules. Notwithstanding, the District may immediately suspend the application of a Rule if the District determines that the Rule conflicts with Florida law. In the event that a Rule conflicts with Florida law and its application has not been suspended by the District, such Rule should be interpreted in the manner that best effectuates the intent of the Rule while also complying with Florida law. If the intent of the Rule absolutely cannot be effectuated while complying with Florida law, the Rule shall be automatically suspended.

Specific Authority: Ch. 2024-292(6)(6)(e); (6)(6)(q), Laws of Florida

Law Implemented: Ch. 2024-292(6)(6)(e); (6)(6)(q), Laws of Florida

Rule 1.1 Governing Board Members; Officers and Voting.

- (1) Governing Board Members. The Governing Board of the District (the “Board”) shall consist of five (5) members. Members of the Board (“Board Members”) appointed by ordinance or rule or elected by landowners must be citizens of the United States of America and residents of the State of Florida. Board Members elected or appointed by the Board to elector seats must be citizens of the United States of America, residents of the State of Florida and of the District and registered to vote with the Supervisor of Elections of the county in which the District is located and for those elected, shall also be qualified to run by the Supervisor of Elections. The Board shall exercise the powers granted to the District under Florida law.
 - (a) Board Members shall hold office for the term specified by Chapter 2024-292(5), Laws of Florida. If, during the term of office, any Board member(s) vacates their office, the remaining member(s) of the Board shall fill the vacancies by appointment for the remainder of the term(s). If three or more vacancies exist at the same time, a quorum, as defined herein, shall not be required to appoint replacement Board members.
 - (b) Three (3) members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of conducting business, exercising powers and all other purposes. A Board member shall be counted toward the quorum if physically present at the meeting, regardless of whether such Board member is prohibited from, or abstains from, participating in discussion or voting on a particular item.
 - (c) Action taken by the Board shall be upon a majority vote of the members present, unless otherwise provided in the Rules or required by law. Subject to Rule 1.3(10), a Board member participating in the Board meeting by teleconference or videoconference shall be entitled to vote and take all other action as though physically present.
 - (d) Unless otherwise provided for by an act of the Board, any one Board member may attend a mediation session on behalf of the Board. Any agreement resulting from such mediation session must be approved pursuant to subsection (1)(c) of this Rule.
- (2) Officers. At the first Board meeting held after each election where the newly elected members take office, the Board shall select a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Treasurer.
 - (a) The Chairperson must be a member of the Board. If the Chairperson resigns from that office or ceases to be a member of the Board, the Board shall select a Chairperson. The Chairperson serves at the pleasure of the Board. The Chairperson shall be authorized to execute resolutions and contracts on the District’s behalf. The Chairperson shall convene and conduct all meetings of the Board. In the event the Chairperson is unable to attend a

meeting, the Vice-Chairperson shall convene and conduct the meeting. The Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson may delegate the responsibility of conducting the meeting to the District's manager ("District Manager") or District Counsel, in whole or in part.

- (b) The Vice-Chairperson shall be a member of the Board and shall have such duties and responsibilities as specifically designated by the Board from time to time. The Vice-Chairperson has the authority to execute resolutions and contracts on the District's behalf in the absence of the Chairperson. If the Vice-Chairperson resigns from office or ceases to be a member of the Board, the Board shall select a Vice-Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson serves at the pleasure of the Board.
- (c) The Secretary of the Board serves at the pleasure of the Board and need not be a member of the Board. The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining the minutes of Board meetings and may have other duties assigned by the Board from time to time. An employee of the District Manager may serve as Secretary. The Secretary shall be bonded by a reputable and qualified bonding company in at least the amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000), or have in place a fidelity bond, employee theft insurance policy, or a comparable product in at least the amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) that names the District as an additional insured.
- (d) The Treasurer need not be a member of the Board but must be a resident of the State of Florida. The Treasurer shall perform duties described in Chapter 2024-292(6)(2) and (3), Laws of Florida, as well as those assigned by the Board from time to time. The Treasurer shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. The Treasurer shall either be bonded by a reputable and qualified bonding company in at least the amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000), or have in place a fidelity bond, employee theft insurance policy, or a comparable product in at least the amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) that names the District as an additional insured.
- (e) In the event that both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are absent from a Board meeting and a quorum is present, the Board may designate one of its members or a member of District staff to convene and conduct the meeting. In such circumstances, any of the Board members present are authorized to execute agreements, resolutions, and other documents approved by the Board at such meeting. In the event that the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are both unavailable to execute a document previously approved by the Board, the Secretary or any Assistant Secretary may execute such document.
- (f) The Board may assign additional duties to District officers from time to time, which include, but are not limited to, executing documents on behalf of the District.

- (g) The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and any other person authorized by District Resolution may sign checks and warrants for the District, countersigned by the Treasurer or other persons authorized by the Board.
- (3) Committees. The Board may establish committees of the Board, either on a permanent or temporary basis, to perform specifically designated functions. Committees may include individuals who are not members of the Board. Such functions may include, but are not limited to, review of bids, proposals, and qualifications, contract negotiations, personnel matters, and budget preparation.
- (4) Record Book. The Board shall keep a permanent record book entitled "Record of Proceedings," in which shall be recorded minutes of all meetings, resolutions, proceedings, certificates, and corporate acts. The Records of Proceedings shall be located at a District office and shall be available for inspection by the public.
- (5) Meetings. For each fiscal year, the Board shall establish a schedule of regular meetings, which shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the District is located and filed with the local general-purpose governments within whose boundaries the District is located. All meetings of the Board and Committees serving an advisory function shall be open to the public in accord with the provisions of Chapter 286 of the Florida Statutes.
- (6) Voting Conflict of Interest. The Board shall comply with Section 112.3143 of the Florida Statutes, so as to ensure the proper disclosure of conflicts of interest on matters coming before the Board for a vote. For the purposes of this section, "voting conflict of interest" shall be governed by the Florida Constitution, Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, as amended from time to time. Generally, a voting conflict exists when a Board member is called upon to vote on an item which would inure to the Board member's special private gain or loss or the Board member knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of a principal by whom the Board member is retained, the parent organization or subsidiary of a corporate principal, a business associate, or a relative including only a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law.
 - (a) When a Board member knows the member has a conflict of interest on a matter coming before the Board, the member should notify the Board's Secretary prior to participating in any discussion with the Board on the matter. The member shall publicly announce the conflict of interest at the meeting. This announcement shall appear in the minutes.

If the Board member was elected at a landowner's election or appointed to fill a vacancy of a seat last filled at a landowner's election, the Board member may vote or abstain from voting on the matter at issue. If the Board member was elected by electors residing within the District, the Board

member is prohibited from voting on the matter at issue. In the event that the Board member intends to abstain or is prohibited from voting, such Board member shall not participate in the discussion on the item subject to the vote.

The Board's Secretary shall prepare a Memorandum of Voting Conflict (Form 8B) which shall then be signed by the Board member, filed with the Board's Secretary, and provided for attachment to the minutes of the meeting within fifteen (15) days of the meeting.

- (b) If a Board member inadvertently votes on a matter and later learns he or she has a conflict on the matter, the member shall immediately notify the Board's Secretary. Within fifteen (15) days of the notification, the member shall file the appropriate Memorandum of Voting Conflict, which will be attached to the minutes of the Board meeting during which the vote on the matter occurred. The Memorandum of Voting Conflict shall immediately be provided to other Board members and shall be read publicly at the next meeting held subsequent to the filing of the Memorandum of Voting Conflict. The Board member's vote is unaffected by this filing.
- (c) It is not a conflict of interest for a Board member, the District Manager, or an employee of the District to be a stockholder, officer or employee of a landowner or of an entity affiliated with a landowner.
- (d) In the event that a Board member elected at a landowner's election or appointed to fill a vacancy of a seat last filled at a landowner's election, has a continuing conflict of interest, such Board member is permitted to file a Memorandum of Voting Conflict at any time in which it shall state the nature of the continuing conflict. Only one such continuing Memorandum of Voting Conflict shall be required to be filed for each term the Board member is in office.

Specific Authority: Ch. 2024-292(6)(6)(e); (6)(6)(q), Laws of Florida

Law Implemented: §§ 112.3143, Fla. Stat., Ch. 2024-292(5) and (6), Laws of Florida

Rule 1.2 District Offices; Public Information and Inspection of Records; Policies; Service Contract Requirements; Financial Disclosure Coordination.

(1) District Offices. Unless otherwise designated by the Board, the official District office shall be the District Manager's office identified by the District Manager. If the District Manager's office is not located within the county in which the District is located, the Board shall designate a local records office within such county which shall at a minimum contain, but not be limited to, the following documents:

- (a) Agenda packages for prior 24 months and next meeting;
- (b) Official minutes of meetings, including adopted resolutions of the Board;
- (c) Names and addresses of current Board members and District Manager, unless such addresses are protected from disclosure by law;
- (d) Adopted engineer's reports;
- (e) Adopted assessment methodologies/reports;
- (f) Adopted disclosure of public financing;
- (g) Limited Offering Memorandum for each financing undertaken by the District;
- (h) Proceedings, certificates, bonds given by all employees, and any and all corporate acts;
- (i) District policies and rules;
- (j) Fiscal year end audits; and
- (k) Adopted budget for the current fiscal year.

The District Manager shall ensure that each District records office contains the documents required by Florida law.

(2) Public Records. District public records include all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, tapes, photographs, films, sound recordings, data processing software, or other material, regardless of the physical form, characteristics, or means of transmission, made or received in connection with the transaction of official business of the District. All District public records not otherwise restricted by law may be copied or inspected at the District Manager's office during regular business hours. Certain District records can also be inspected and copied at the District's local records office during regular business hours. All written public records requests shall be directed to the Secretary who by these rules is appointed as the

District's records custodian. Regardless of the form of the request, any Board member or staff member who receives a public records request shall immediately forward or communicate such request to the Secretary for coordination of a prompt response. The Secretary, after consulting with District Counsel as to the applicability of any exceptions under the public records laws, shall be responsible for responding to the public records request. At no time can the District be required to create records or summaries of records, or prepare opinions regarding District policies, in response to a public records request.

- (3) Service Contracts. Any contract for services, regardless of cost, shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws. The District Manager shall be responsible for initially enforcing all contract provisions related to a contractor's duty to comply with public records laws.
- (4) Fees; Copies. Copies of public records shall be made available to the requesting person at a charge of \$0.15 per page for one-sided copies and \$0.20 per page for two-sided copies if not more than 8 ½ by 14 inches. For copies of public records in excess of the sizes listed in this section and for outside duplication services, the charge shall be equal to the actual cost of reproduction. Certified copies of public records shall be made available at a charge of one dollar (\$1.00) per page. If the nature or volume of records requested requires extensive use of information technology resources or extensive clerical or supervisory assistance, the District may charge, in addition to the duplication charge, a special service charge that is based on the cost the District incurs to produce the records requested. This charge may include, but is not limited to, the cost of information technology resource, employee labor, and fees charged to the District by consultants employed in fulfilling the request. In cases where the special service charge is based in whole or in part on the costs incurred by the District due to employee labor, consultant fees, or other forms of labor, those portions of the charge shall be calculated based on the lowest labor cost of the individual(s) who is/are qualified to perform the labor, taking into account the nature and volume of the public records to be inspected or copied. The charge may include the labor costs of supervisory and/or clerical staff whose assistance is required to complete the records request, in accordance with Florida law. For purposes of this Rule, the word "extensive" shall mean that it will take more than 15 minutes to locate, review for confidential information, copy and re-file the requested material. In cases where extensive personnel time is determined by the District to be necessary to safeguard original records being inspected, the special service charge provided for in this section shall apply. If the total fees, including but not limited to special service charges, are anticipated to exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), then, prior to commencing work on the request, the District will inform the person making the public records request of the estimated cost, with the understanding that the final cost may vary from that estimate. If the person making the public records request decides to proceed with the request, payment of the estimated cost is required in advance. Should the person fail to pay the estimate, the District is under no duty to produce the requested records. After the request has been fulfilled, additional payments or credits may be

due. The District is under no duty to produce records in response to future records requests if the person making the request owes the District for past unpaid duplication charges, special service charges, or other required payments or credits.

- (5) Records Retention. The Secretary of the District shall be responsible for retaining the District's records in accordance with applicable Florida law.
- (6) Policies. The Board may adopt policies related to the conduct of its business and the provision of services either by resolution or motion.
- (7) Financial Disclosure Coordination. Unless specifically designated by Board resolution otherwise, the Secretary shall serve as the Financial Disclosure Coordinator ("Coordinator") for the District as required by the Florida Commission on Ethics ("Commission"). The Coordinator shall create, maintain and update a list of the names, e-mail addresses, physical addresses, and names of the agency of, and the office or position held by, all Supervisors and other persons required by Florida law to file a statement of financial interest due to his or her affiliation with the District ("Reporting Individual"). The Coordinator shall provide this list to the Commission by February 1 of each year, which list shall be current as of December 31 of the prior year. Each Supervisor and Reporting Individual shall promptly notify the Coordinator in writing if there are any changes to such person's name, e-mail address, or physical address. Each Supervisor and Reporting Individual shall promptly notify the Commission in the manner prescribed by the Commission if there are any changes to such person's e-mail address.

Specific Authority: Ch. 2024-292(6)(6)(e); (6)(6)(q), Laws of Florida

Law Implemented: Ch. 2024-292(5), Laws of Florida, §§ 112.31446(3), 112.3145(8)(a)1., 119.07, 119.0701, Fla. Stat.

Rule 1.3 Public Meetings, Hearings, and Workshops.

- (1) Notice. Except in emergencies, or as otherwise required by statute or these Rules, at least seven (7) days, but no more than thirty (30) days public notice shall be given of any public meeting, hearing or workshop of the Board. Public notice shall be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the District and in the county in which the District is located. “General circulation” means a publication that is printed and published at least once a week for the preceding year, offering at least 25% of its words in the English language, qualifies as a periodicals material for postal purposes in the county in which the District is located, is for sale to the public generally, is available to the public generally for the publication of official or other notices, and is customarily containing information of a public character or of interest or of value to the residents or owners of property in the county where published, or of interest or of value to the general public. The annual meeting notice required to be published by Section 189.015 of the Florida Statutes, shall be published in a newspaper not of limited subject matter, which is published at least five days a week, unless the only newspaper in the county is published less than five days a week. Each Notice shall state, as applicable:
- (a) The date, time and place of the meeting, hearing or workshop;
 - (b) A brief description of the nature, subjects, and purposes of the meeting, hearing, or workshop;
 - (c) The District office address for the submission of requests for copies of the agenda, as well as a contact name and telephone number for verbal requests for copies of the agenda; and
 - (d) The following or substantially similar language: “Pursuant to provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting/hearing/workshop is asked to advise the District Office at least forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting/hearing/workshop by contacting the District Manager at (561) 571-0010. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1 (800) 955-8770 or 9 (800) 955-8771, who can aid you in contacting the District Office.”
 - (e) The following or substantially similar language: “A person who decides to appeal any decision made at the meeting/hearing/workshop with respect to any matter considered at the meeting/hearing/workshop is advised that person will need a record of the proceedings and that accordingly, the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.”

- (f) The following or substantially similar language: “The meeting [or hearing or workshop] may be continued in progress without additional notice to a time, date, and location stated on the record.”
- (2) Mistake. In the event that a meeting is held under the incorrect assumption that notice required by law and these Rules has been given, the Board at its next properly noticed meeting shall cure such defect by considering the agenda items from the prior meeting individually and anew.
- (3) Agenda. The District Manager, under the guidance of District Counsel and the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson, shall prepare an agenda of the meeting/hearing/workshop. The agenda and any meeting materials available in an electronic format, excluding any confidential and any confidential and exempt information, shall be available to the public at least seven (7) days before the meeting/hearing/workshop, except in an emergency. Meeting materials shall be defined as, and limited to, the agenda, meeting minutes, resolutions, and agreements of the District that District staff deems necessary for Board approval. Inclusion of additional materials for Board consideration other than those defined herein as “meeting materials” shall not convert such materials into “meeting materials.” For good cause, the agenda may be changed after it is first made available for distribution, and additional materials may be added or provided under separate cover at the meeting. The requirement of good cause shall be liberally construed to allow the District to efficiently conduct business and to avoid the expenses associated with special meetings.

The District may, but is not required to, use the following format in preparing its agenda for its regular meetings:

- Call to order
- Roll call
- Public comment
- Organizational matters
- Review of minutes
- Specific items of old business
- Specific items of new business
- Staff reports
 - (a) District Counsel
 - (b) District Engineer
 - (c) District Manager
 - 1. Financial Report
 - 2. Approval of Expenditures
- Board Member’s requests and comments
- Public comment
- Adjournment

- (4) Minutes. The Secretary shall be responsible for preparing and keeping the minutes of each meeting of the Board. Minutes shall be corrected and approved by the Board at a subsequent meeting. The Secretary may work with other staff members in preparing draft minutes for the Board's consideration.
- (5) Special Requests. Persons wishing to receive, by mail, notices or agendas of meetings, may so advise the District Manager or Secretary at the District Office. Such persons shall furnish a mailing address in writing and shall be required to pre-pay the cost of the copying and postage.
- (6) Emergency Meetings. The Chairperson, or Vice-Chairperson if the Chairperson is unavailable, upon consultation with the District Manager and District Counsel, if available, may convene an emergency meeting of the Board without first having complied with sections (1) and (3) of this Rule, to act on emergency matters that may affect the public health, safety, or welfare. Whenever possible, the District Manager shall make reasonable efforts to provide public notice and notify all Board members of an emergency meeting twenty-four (24) hours in advance. Reasonable efforts may include telephone notification. Notice of the emergency meeting must be provided both before and after the meeting on the District's website, if it has one. Whenever an emergency meeting is called, the District Manager shall be responsible for notifying at least one newspaper of general circulation in the District. After an emergency meeting, the Board shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the District, the time, date and place of the emergency meeting, the reasons why an emergency meeting was necessary, and a description of the action taken. Actions taken at an emergency meeting may be ratified by the Board at a regularly noticed meeting subsequently held.
- (7) Public Comment. The Board shall set aside a reasonable amount of time at each meeting for public comment and members of the public shall be permitted to provide comment on any proposition before the Board. The portion of the meeting generally reserved for public comment shall be identified in the agenda. Policies governing public comment may be adopted by the Board in accordance with Florida law.
- (8) Budget Hearing. Notice of hearing on the annual budget(s) shall be in accord with Chapter 2024-292(6)(4), Laws of Florida. Once adopted in accord with Chapter 2024-292(6)(4), Laws of Florida, the annual budget(s) may be amended from time to time by action of the Board. Approval of invoices by the Board in excess of the funds allocated to a particular budgeted line item shall serve to amend the budgeted line item.
- (9) Public Hearings. Notice of required public hearings shall contain the information required by applicable Florida law and by these Rules applicable to meeting notices and shall be mailed and published as required by Florida law. The District Manager shall ensure that all such notices, whether mailed or published, contain the information required by Florida law and these Rules and are mailed and published

as required by Florida law. Public hearings may be held during Board meetings when the agenda includes such public hearing.

- (10) Participation by Teleconference/Videoconference. District staff may participate in Board meetings by teleconference or videoconference. Board members may also participate in Board meetings by teleconference or videoconference if in the good judgment of the Board extraordinary circumstances exist; provided however, at least three Board members must be physically present at the meeting location to establish a quorum. Such extraordinary circumstances shall be presumed when a Board member participates by teleconference or videoconference, unless a majority of the Board members physically present determines that extraordinary circumstances do not exist.
- (11) Board Authorization. The District has not adopted Robert's Rules of Order. For each agenda item, there shall be discussion permitted among the Board members during the meeting. Unless such procedure is waived by the Board, approval or disapproval of resolutions and other proposed Board actions shall be in the form of a motion by one Board member, a second by another Board member, and an affirmative vote by the majority of the Board members present. Any Board member, including the Chairperson, can make or second a motion.
- (12) Continuances. Any meeting or public hearing of the Board may be continued without re-notice or re-advertising provided that:
 - (a) The Board identifies on the record at the original meeting a reasonable need for a continuance;
 - (b) The continuance is to a specified date, time, and location publicly announced at the original meeting; and
 - (c) The public notice for the original meeting states that the meeting may be continued to a date and time and states that the date, time, and location of any continuance shall be publicly announced at the original meeting and posted at the District Office immediately following the original meeting.
- (13) Attorney-Client Sessions. An Attorney-Client Session is permitted when the District's attorneys deem it necessary to meet in private with the Board to discuss pending litigation to which the District is a party before a court or administrative agency or as may be authorized by law. The District's attorney must request such session at a public meeting. Prior to holding the Attorney-Client Session, the District must give reasonable public notice of the time and date of the session and the names of the persons anticipated to attend the session. The session must commence at an open meeting in which the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson announces the commencement of the session, the estimated length of the session, and the names of the persons who will be attending the session. The discussion during the session is confined to settlement negotiations or strategy related to

litigation expenses or as may be authorized by law. Only the Board, the District's attorneys (including outside counsel), the District Manager, and the court reporter may attend an Attorney-Client Session. During the session, no votes may be taken and no final decisions concerning settlement can be made. Upon the conclusion of the session, the public meeting is reopened, and the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson must announce that the session has concluded. The session must be transcribed by a court-reporter and the transcript of the session filed with the District Secretary within a reasonable time after the session. The transcript shall not be available for public inspection until after the conclusion of the litigation.

- (14) Security and Firesafety Board Discussions. Portions of a meeting which relate to or would reveal a security or firesafety system plan or portion thereof made confidential and exempt by section 119.071(3)(a), Florida Statutes, are exempt from the public meeting requirements and other requirements of section 286.011, Florida Statutes, and section 24(b), Article 1 of the State Constitution. Should the Board wish to discuss such matters, members of the public shall be required to leave the meeting room during such discussion. Any records of the Board's discussion of such matters, including recordings or minutes, shall be maintained as confidential and exempt records in accordance with Florida law.

Specific Authority: Ch. 2024-292(6)(6)(e); (6)(6)(q), Laws of Florida

Law Implemented: Ch. 2024-292(5) and (6), Laws of Florida, §§ 189.069(2)(a)16, 286.0105, 286.011, 286.0113, 286.0114, Fla. Stat.

Rule 1.4 Internal Controls to Prevent Fraud, Waste and Abuse

- (1) Internal Controls. The District shall establish and maintain internal controls designed to:
- (a) Prevent and detect “fraud,” “waste” and “abuse” as those terms are defined in section 11.45(1), Florida Statutes; and
 - (b) Promote and encourage compliance with applicable laws, rules contracts, grant agreements, and best practices; and
 - (c) Support economical and efficient operations; and
 - (d) Ensure reliability of financial records and reports; and
 - (e) Safeguard assets.
- (2) Adoption. The internal controls to prevent fraud, waste and abuse shall be adopted and amended by the District in the same manner as District policies.

Specific Authority: Ch. 2024-292(6)(6)(e); (6)(6)(q), Laws of Florida
Law Implemented: § 218.33(3), Fla. Stat.

Rule 2.0 Rulemaking Proceedings.

- (1) Commencement of Proceedings. Proceedings held for adoption, amendment, or repeal of a District rule shall be conducted according to these Rules. Rulemaking proceedings shall be deemed to have been initiated upon publication of notice by the District. A “rule” is a District statement of general applicability that implements, interprets, or prescribes law or policy, or describes the procedure or practice requirements of the District (“Rule”). Nothing herein shall be construed as requiring the District to consider or adopt rules unless required by Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida. Policies adopted by the District which do not consist of rates, fees, rentals or other monetary charges may be, but are not required to be, implemented through rulemaking proceedings.
- (2) Notice of Rule Development.
 - (a) Except when the intended action is the repeal of a Rule, the District shall provide notice of the development of a proposed rule by publication of a Notice of Rule Development in a newspaper of general circulation in the District before providing notice of a proposed rule as required by section (3) of this Rule. Consequently, the Notice of Rule Development shall be published at least twenty-nine (29) days prior to the public hearing on the proposed Rule. The Notice of Rule Development shall indicate the subject area to be addressed by rule development, provide a short, plain explanation of the purpose and effect of the proposed rule, cite the specific legal authority for the proposed rule, and include a statement of how a person may promptly obtain, without cost, a copy of any preliminary draft, if available.
 - (b) All rules as drafted shall be consistent with Sections 120.54(1)(g) and 120.54(2)(b) of the Florida Statutes.
- (3) Notice of Proceedings and Proposed Rules.
 - (a) Prior to the adoption, amendment, or repeal of any rule other than an emergency rule, the District shall give notice of its intended action, setting forth a short, plain explanation of the purpose and effect of the proposed action, a reference to the specific rulemaking authority pursuant to which the rule is adopted, and a reference to the section or subsection of the Florida Statutes being implemented, interpreted, or made specific. The notice shall include a summary of the District’s statement of the estimated regulatory costs, if one has been prepared, based on the factors set forth in Section 120.541(2) of the Florida Statutes, and a statement that any person who wishes to provide the District with a lower cost regulatory alternative as provided by Section 120.541(1), must do so in writing within twenty-one (21) days after publication of the notice. The notice shall additionally include a statement that any affected person may request a public hearing by submitting a written request within twenty-one (21) days after the date

of publication of the notice. Except when intended action is the repeal of a rule, the notice shall include a reference to both the date on which and the place where the Notice of Rule Development required by section (2) of this Rule appeared.

- (b) The notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the District and each county in which the District is located not less than twenty-eight (28) days prior to the intended action. The proposed rule shall be available for inspection and copying by the public at the time of the publication of notice.
 - (c) The notice shall be mailed to all persons named in the proposed rule and to all persons who, at least fourteen (14) days prior to such mailing, have made requests of the District for advance notice of its rulemaking proceedings. Any person may file a written request with the District Manager to receive notice by mail of District proceedings to adopt, amend, or repeal a rule. Such persons must furnish a mailing address and may be required to pay the cost of copying and mailing.
- (4) Rule Development Workshops. Whenever requested in writing by any affected person, the District must either conduct a rule development workshop prior to proposing rules for adoption or the Chairperson must explain in writing why a workshop is unnecessary. The District may initiate a rule development workshop but is not required to do so.
- (5) Petitions to Initiate Rulemaking. All Petitions to Initiate Rulemaking proceedings must contain the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner, the specific action requested, the specific reason for adoption, amendment, or repeal, the date submitted, the text of the proposed rule, and the facts showing that the petitioner is regulated by the District or has a substantial interest in the rulemaking. Not later than sixty (60) calendar days following the date of filing a petition, the Board shall initiate rulemaking proceedings or deny the petition with a written statement of its reasons for the denial. If the petition is directed to an existing policy that the District has not formally adopted as a rule, the District may, in its discretion, notice and hold a public hearing on the petition to consider the comments of the public directed to the policy, its scope and application, and to consider whether the public interest is served adequately by the application of the policy on a case-by-case basis, as contrasted with its formal adoption as a rule. However, this section shall not be construed as requiring the District to adopt a rule to replace a policy.
- (6) Rulemaking Materials. After the publication of the notice referenced in section (3) of this Rule, the Board shall make available for public inspection and shall provide, upon request and payment of the cost of copies, the following materials:
 - (a) The text of the proposed rule, or any amendment or repeal of any existing rules;

- (b) A detailed written statement of the facts and circumstances justifying the proposed rule;
 - (c) A copy of the statement of estimated regulatory costs if required by Section 120.541 of the Florida Statutes; and
 - (d) The published notice.
- (7) Hearing. The District may, or, upon the written request of any affected person received within twenty-one (21) days after the date of publication of the notice described in section (3) of this Rule, shall, provide a public hearing for the presentation of evidence, argument, and oral statements, within the reasonable conditions and limitations imposed by the District to avoid duplication, irrelevant comments, unnecessary delay, or disruption of the proceedings. The District shall publish notice of the public hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the District either in the text of the notice described in section (3) of this Rule or in a separate publication at least seven (7) days before the scheduled public hearing. The notice shall specify the date, time, and location of the public hearing, and the name, address, and telephone number of the District contact person who can provide information about the public hearing. Written statements may be submitted by any person prior to or at the public hearing. All timely submitted written statements shall be considered by the District and made part of the rulemaking record.
- (8) Emergency Rule Adoption. The Board may adopt an emergency rule if it finds that immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare exists which requires immediate action. Prior to the adoption of an emergency rule, the District Manager shall make reasonable efforts to notify a newspaper of general circulation in the District. Notice of emergency rules shall be published as soon as possible in a newspaper of general circulation in the District. The District may use any procedure which is fair under the circumstances in the adoption of an emergency rule as long as it protects the public interest as determined by the District and otherwise complies with these provisions.
- (9) Negotiated Rulemaking. The District may use negotiated rulemaking in developing and adopting rules pursuant to Section 120.54(2)(d) of the Florida Statutes, except that any notices required under Section 120.54(2)(d) of the Florida Statutes, may be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the District is located.
- (10) Rulemaking Record. In all rulemaking proceedings, the District shall compile and maintain a rulemaking record. The record shall include, if applicable:
 - (a) The texts of the proposed rule and the adopted rule;
 - (b) All notices given for a proposed rule;

- (c) Any statement of estimated regulatory costs for the rule;
- (d) A written summary of hearings, if any, on the proposed rule;
- (e) All written comments received by the District and responses to those written comments; and
- (f) All notices and findings pertaining to an emergency rule.

(11) Petitions to Challenge Existing Rules.

- (a) Any person substantially affected by a rule may seek an administrative determination of the invalidity of the rule on the ground that the rule is an invalid exercise of the District's authority.
- (b) The petition seeking an administrative determination must state with particularity the provisions alleged to be invalid with sufficient explanation of the facts or grounds for the alleged invalidity and facts sufficient to show that the person challenging a rule is substantially affected by it.
- (c) The petition shall be filed with the District. Within 10 days after receiving the petition, the Chairperson shall, if the petition complies with the requirements of subsection (b) of this section, designate any member of the Board (including the Chairperson), District Manager, District Counsel, or other person as a hearing officer who shall conduct a hearing within 30 days thereafter, unless the petition is withdrawn or a continuance is granted by agreement of the parties. The failure of the District to follow the applicable rulemaking procedures or requirements in this Rule shall be presumed to be material; however, the District may rebut this presumption by showing that the substantial interests of the petitioner and the fairness of the proceedings have not been impaired.
- (d) Within 30 days after the hearing, the hearing officer shall render a decision and state the reasons therefor in writing.
- (e) Hearings held under this section shall be de novo in nature. The petitioner has a burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the existing rule is an invalid exercise of District authority as to the objections raised. The hearing officer may:
 - (i) Administer oaths and affirmations;
 - (ii) Rule upon offers of proof and receive relevant evidence;

- (iii) Regulate the course of the hearing, including any pre-hearing matters;
 - (iv) Enter orders; and
 - (v) Make or receive offers of settlement, stipulation, and adjustment.
 - (f) The petitioner and the District shall be adverse parties. Other substantially affected persons may join the proceedings as intervenors on appropriate terms which shall not unduly delay the proceedings.
- (12) Variances and Waivers. A “variance” means a decision by the District to grant a modification to all or part of the literal requirements of a rule to a person who is subject to the rule. A “waiver” means a decision by the District not to apply all or part of a rule to a person who is subject to the rule. Variances and waivers from District rules may be granted subject to the following:
- (a) Variances and waivers shall be granted when the person subject to the rule demonstrates that the purpose of the underlying statute will be or has been achieved by other means by the person, and when application of the rule would create a substantial hardship or would violate principles of fairness. For purposes of this section, "substantial hardship" means a demonstrated economic, technological, legal, or other type of hardship to the person requesting the variance or waiver. For purposes of this section, "principles of fairness" are violated when the literal application of a rule affects a particular person in a manner significantly different from the way it affects other similarly situated persons who are subject to the rule.
 - (b) A person who is subject to regulation by a District Rule may file a petition with the District, requesting a variance or waiver from the District’s Rule. Each petition shall specify:
 - (i) The rule from which a variance or waiver is requested;
 - (ii) The type of action requested;
 - (iii) The specific facts that would justify a waiver or variance for the petitioner; and
 - (iv) The reason why the variance or the waiver requested would serve the purposes of the underlying statute.
 - (c) The District shall review the petition and may request only that information needed to clarify the petition or to answer new questions raised by or directly related to the petition. If the petitioner asserts that any request for additional information is not authorized by law or by Rule of the District,

the District shall proceed, at the petitioner's written request, to process the petition.

- (d) The Board shall grant or deny a petition for variance or waiver and shall announce such disposition at a publicly held meeting of the Board, within ninety (90) days after receipt of the original petition, the last item of timely requested additional material, or the petitioner's written request to finish processing the petition. The District's statement granting or denying the petition shall contain a statement of the relevant facts and reasons supporting the District's action.

- (13) Rates, Fees, Rentals and Other Charges. All rates, fees, rentals, or other charges shall be subject to rulemaking proceedings. Policies adopted by the District which do not consist of rates, fees, rentals or other charges may be, but are not required to be, implemented through rulemaking proceedings.

Specific Authority: Ch. 2024-292(6)(6)(e); (6)(6)(q) and (6)(20), Laws of Florida

Law Implemented: Ch. 2024-292(6)(6)(e) and (6)(20), Laws of Florida

Rule 3.0 Competitive Purchase.

- (1) Purpose and Scope. In order to comply with Chapter 2024-292(6)(19)(a) through (c), Laws of Florida and Sections 287.055 and 287.017 of the Florida Statutes, the following provisions shall apply to the purchase of Professional Services, insurance, construction contracts, design-build services, goods, supplies, and materials, Contractual Services, and maintenance services.
- (2) Board Authorization. Except in cases of an Emergency Purchase, a competitive purchase governed by these Rules shall only be undertaken after authorization by the Board.
- (3) Definitions.
 - (a) “Competitive Solicitation” means a formal, advertised procurement process, other than an Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, or Invitation to Negotiate, approved by the Board to purchase commodities and/or services which affords vendors fair treatment in the competition for award of a District purchase contract.
 - (b) “Continuing Contract” means a contract for Professional Services entered into in accordance with Section 287.055 of the Florida Statutes, between the District and a firm, whereby the firm provides Professional Services to the District for projects in which the costs do not exceed two million dollars (\$2,000,000), for a study activity when the fee for such Professional Services to the District does not exceed two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000), or for work of a specified nature as outlined in the contract with the District, with no time limitation except that the contract must provide a termination clause (for example, a contract for general District engineering services). Firms providing Professional Services under Continuing Contracts shall not be required to bid against one another.
 - (c) “Contractual Service” means the rendering by a contractor of its time and effort rather than the furnishing of specific commodities. The term applies only to those services rendered by individuals and firms who are independent contractors. Contractual Services do not include auditing services, Maintenance Services, or Professional Services as defined in Section 287.055(2)(a) of the Florida Statutes, and these Rules. Contractual Services also do not include any contract for the furnishing of labor or materials for the construction, renovation, repair, modification, or demolition of any facility, building, portion of building, utility, park, parking lot, or structure or other improvement to real property entered into pursuant to Chapter 255 of the Florida Statutes, and Rules 3.5 or 3.6.
 - (d) “Design-Build Contract” means a single contract with a Design-Build Firm for the design and construction of a public construction project.

- (e) “Design-Build Firm” means a partnership, corporation or other legal entity that:
 - (i) Is certified under Section 489.119 of the Florida Statutes, to engage in contracting through a certified or registered general contractor or a certified or registered building contractor as the qualifying agent; or
 - (ii) Is certified under Section 471.023 of the Florida Statutes, to practice or to offer to practice engineering; certified under Section 481.219 of the Florida Statutes, to practice or to offer to practice architecture; or certified under Section 481.319 of the Florida Statutes, to practice or to offer to practice landscape architecture.
- (f) “Design Criteria Package” means concise, performance-oriented drawings or specifications for a public construction project. The purpose of the Design Criteria Package is to furnish sufficient information to permit Design-Build Firms to prepare a bid or a response to the District’s Request for Proposals, or to permit the District to enter into a negotiated Design-Build Contract. The Design Criteria Package must specify performance-based criteria for the public construction project, including the legal description of the site, survey information concerning the site, interior space requirements, material quality standards, schematic layouts and conceptual design criteria of the project, cost or budget estimates, design and construction schedules, site development requirements, provisions for utilities, stormwater retention and disposal, and parking requirements applicable to the project. Design Criteria Packages shall require firms to submit information regarding the qualifications, availability, and past work of the firms, including the partners and members thereof.
- (g) “Design Criteria Professional” means a firm who holds a current certificate of registration under Chapter 481 of the Florida Statutes, to practice architecture or landscape architecture, or a firm who holds a current certificate as a registered engineer under Chapter 471 of the Florida Statutes, to practice engineering, and who is employed by or under contract to the District to provide professional architect services, landscape architect services, or engineering services in connection with the preparation of the Design Criteria Package.
- (h) “Emergency Purchase” means a purchase necessitated by a sudden unexpected turn of events (for example, acts of God, riot, fires, floods, hurricanes, accidents, or any circumstances or cause beyond the control of the Board in the normal conduct of its business), where the Board finds that the delay incident to competitive purchase would be detrimental to the interests of the District. This includes, but is not limited to, instances where

the time to competitively award the project will jeopardize the funding for the project, will materially increase the cost of the project, or will create an undue hardship on the public health, safety, or welfare.

- (i) “Invitation to Bid” is a written solicitation for sealed bids with the title, date, and hour of the public bid opening designated specifically and defining the commodity or service involved. It includes printed instructions prescribing conditions for bidding, qualification, evaluation criteria, and provides for a manual signature of an authorized representative. It may include one or more bid alternates.
- (j) “Invitation to Negotiate” means a written solicitation for competitive sealed replies to select one or more vendors with which to commence negotiations for the procurement of commodities or services.
- (k) “Negotiate” means to conduct legitimate, arm’s length discussions and conferences to reach an agreement on a term or price.
- (l) “Professional Services” means those services within the scope of the practice of architecture, professional engineering, landscape architecture, or registered surveying and mapping, as defined by the laws of Florida, or those services performed by any architect, professional engineer, landscape architect, or registered surveyor and mapper, in connection with the firm's or individual's professional employment or practice.
- (m) “Proposal (or Reply or Response) Most Advantageous to the District” means, as determined in the sole discretion of the Board, the proposal, reply, or response that is:
 - (i) Submitted by a person or firm capable and qualified in all respects to perform fully the contract requirements, who has the integrity and reliability to assure good faith performance;
 - (ii) The most responsive to the Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation as determined by the Board; and
 - (iii) For a cost to the District deemed by the Board to be reasonable.
- (n) “Purchase” means acquisition by sale, rent, lease, lease/purchase, or installment sale. It does not include transfer, sale, or exchange of goods, supplies, or materials between the District and any federal, state, regional or local governmental entity or political subdivision of the State of Florida.
- (o) “Request for Proposals” or “RFP” is a written solicitation for sealed proposals with the title, date, and hour of the public opening designated and

requiring the manual signature of an authorized representative. It may provide general information, applicable laws and rules, statement of work, functional or general specifications, qualifications, proposal instructions, work detail analysis, and evaluation criteria as necessary.

- (p) “Responsive and Responsible Bidder” means an entity or individual that has submitted a bid that conforms in all material respects to the Invitation to Bid and has the capability in all respects to fully perform the contract requirements and the integrity and reliability that will assure good faith performance. “Responsive and Responsible Vendor” means an entity or individual that has submitted a proposal, reply, or response that conforms in all material respects to the Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation and has the capability in all respects to fully perform the contract requirements and the integrity and reliability that will assure good faith performance. In determining whether an entity or individual is a Responsive and Responsible Bidder (or Vendor), the District may consider, in addition to factors described in the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, the following:
 - (i) The ability and adequacy of the professional personnel employed by the entity/individual;
 - (ii) The past performance of the entity/individual for the District and in other professional employment;
 - (iii) The willingness of the entity/individual to meet time and budget requirements;
 - (iv) The geographic location of the entity’s/individual’s headquarters or office in relation to the project;
 - (v) The recent, current, and projected workloads of the entity/individual;
 - (vi) The volume of work previously awarded to the entity/individual;
 - (vii) Whether the cost components of the bid or proposal are appropriately balanced; and
 - (viii) Whether the entity/individual is a certified minority business enterprise.
- (q) “Responsive Bid,” “Responsive Proposal,” “Responsive Reply,” and “Responsive Response” all mean a bid, proposal, reply, or response which conforms in all material respects to the specifications and conditions in the

Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitations to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation document and these Rules, and the cost components of which, if any, are appropriately balanced. A bid, proposal, reply or response is not responsive if the person or firm submitting it fails to meet any material requirement relating to the qualifications, financial stability, or licensing of the bidder.

Specific Authority: Ch. 2024-292(6)(6)(e); (6)(6)(q), Laws of Florida

Law Implemented: Ch. 2024-292(6)(19), Laws of Florida, §§ 255.20, 287.055, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.1 Procedure Under the Consultants' Competitive Negotiations Act.

- (1) Scope. The following procedures are adopted for the selection of firms or individuals to provide Professional Services exceeding the thresholds herein described, for the negotiation of such contracts, and to provide for protest of actions of the Board under this Rule. As used in this Rule, "Project" means that fixed capital outlay study or planning activity when basic construction cost is estimated by the District to exceed the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017 of the Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY FIVE, or for a planning study activity when the fee for Professional Services is estimated by the District to exceed the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017 for CATEGORY TWO, as such categories may be amended or adjusted from time to time.
- (2) Qualifying Procedures. In order to be eligible to provide Professional Services to the District, a consultant must, at the time of receipt of the firm's qualification submittal:
 - (a) Hold all required applicable state professional licenses in good standing;
 - (b) Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;
 - (c) Hold a current and active Florida corporate charter or be authorized to do business in the State of Florida in accordance with Chapter 607 of the Florida Statutes, if the consultant is a corporation; and
 - (d) Meet any qualification requirements set forth in the District's Request for Qualifications.

Evidence of compliance with this Rule may be submitted with the qualifications, if requested by the District. In addition, evidence of compliance must be submitted any time requested by the District.

- (3) Public Announcement. Except in cases of valid public emergencies as certified by the Board, the District shall announce each occasion when Professional Services are required for a Project or a Continuing Contract by publishing a notice providing a general description of the Project, or the nature of the Continuing Contract, and the method for interested consultants to apply for consideration. The notice shall appear in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the District and in such other places as the District deems appropriate. The notice must allow at least fourteen (14) days for submittal of qualifications from the date of publication. The District may maintain lists of consultants interested in receiving such notices. These consultants are encouraged to submit annually statements of qualifications and performance data. The District shall make reasonable efforts to provide copies of any notices to such consultants, but the failure to do so shall not give such consultants any bid protest or other rights or otherwise disqualify any otherwise valid procurement process. The Board has the right to reject any and all

qualifications, and such reservation shall be included in the published notice. Consultants not receiving a contract award shall not be entitled to recover from the District any costs of qualification package preparation or submittal.

(4) Competitive Selection.

- (a) The Board shall review and evaluate the data submitted in response to the notice described in section (3) of this Rule regarding qualifications and performance ability, as well as any statements of qualifications on file. The Board shall conduct discussions with, and may require public presentation by consultants regarding their qualifications, approach to the Project, and ability to furnish the required services. The Board shall then select and list the consultants, in order of preference, deemed to be the most highly capable and qualified to perform the required Professional Services, after considering these and other appropriate criteria:
 - (i) The ability and adequacy of the professional personnel employed by each consultant;
 - (ii) Whether a consultant is a certified minority business enterprise;
 - (iii) Each consultant's past performance;
 - (iv) The willingness of each consultant to meet time and budget requirements;
 - (v) The geographic location of each consultant's headquarters, office and personnel in relation to the project;
 - (vi) The recent, current, and projected workloads of each consultant; and
 - (vii) The volume of work previously awarded to each consultant by the District.
- (b) Nothing in these Rules shall prevent the District from evaluating and eventually selecting a consultant if less than three (3) Responsive qualification packages, including packages indicating a desire not to provide Professional Services on a given Project, are received.
- (c) If the selection process is administered by any person or committee other than the full Board, the selection made will be presented to the full Board with a recommendation that competitive negotiations be instituted with the selected firms in order of preference listed.
- (d) Notice of the rankings adopted by the Board, including the rejection of some or all qualification packages, shall be provided in writing to all consultants

by United States Mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or overnight delivery service. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's ranking decisions under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.

(5) Competitive Negotiation.

- (a) After the Board has authorized the beginning of competitive negotiations, the District may begin such negotiations with the firm listed as most qualified to perform the required Professional Services at a rate or amount of compensation which the Board determines is fair, competitive, and reasonable.
- (b) In negotiating a lump-sum or cost-plus-a-fixed-fee professional contract for more than the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017 of the Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY FOUR, the firm receiving the award shall be required to execute a truth-in-negotiation certificate stating that "wage rates and other factual unit costs supporting the compensation are accurate, complete and current at the time of contracting." In addition, any professional service contract under which such a certificate is required, shall contain a provision that "the original contract price and any additions thereto, shall be adjusted to exclude any significant sums by which the Board determines the contract price was increased due to inaccurate, incomplete, or noncurrent wage rates and other factual unit costs."
- (c) Should the District be unable to negotiate a satisfactory agreement with the firm determined to be the most qualified at a price deemed by the District to be fair, competitive, and reasonable, then negotiations with that firm shall be terminated and the District shall immediately begin negotiations with the second most qualified firm. If a satisfactory agreement with the second firm cannot be reached, those negotiations shall be terminated and negotiations with the third most qualified firm shall be undertaken.
- (d) Should the District be unable to negotiate a satisfactory agreement with one of the top three (3) ranked consultants, additional firms shall be selected by the District, in order of their competence and qualifications. Negotiations shall continue, beginning with the first-named firm on the list, until an agreement is reached or the list of firms is exhausted.

(6) Contracts; Public Records. In accordance with Florida law, each contract entered into pursuant to this Rule shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws.

- (7) Continuing Contract. Nothing in this Rule shall prohibit a Continuing Contract between a consultant and the District.
- (8) Emergency Purchase. The District may make an Emergency Purchase without complying with these Rules. The fact that an Emergency Purchase has occurred or is necessary shall be noted in the minutes of the next Board meeting.

Specific Authority: Ch. 2024-292(6)(6)(e); (6)(6)(q), Laws of Florida

Law Implemented: Ch. 2024-292(6)(6)(c); (6)(19), Laws of Florida, §§ 119.0701, 287.055, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.2 Procedure Regarding Auditor Selection.

In order to comply with the requirements of Section 218.391 of the Florida Statutes, the following procedures are outlined for selection of firms or individuals to provide Auditing Services and for the negotiation of such contracts.

(1) Definitions.

- (a) "Auditing Services" means those services within the scope of the practice of a certified public accounting firm licensed under Chapter 473 of the Florida Statutes, and qualified to conduct audits in accordance with government auditing standards as adopted by the Florida Board of Accountancy.
- (b) "Committee" means the auditor selection committee appointed by the Board as described in section (2) of this Rule.

(2) Establishment of Auditor Selection Committee. Prior to a public announcement under section (4) of this Rule that Auditing Services are required, the Board shall establish an auditor selection committee ("Committee"), the primary purpose of which is to assist the Board in selecting an auditor to conduct the annual financial audit required by Section 218.39 of the Florida Statutes. The Committee shall include at least three individuals, at least one of which must also be a member of the Board. The establishment and selection of the Committee must be conducted at a publicly noticed and held meeting of the Board. The Chairperson of the Committee must be a member of the Board. An employee, a chief executive officer, or a chief financial officer of the District may not serve as a member of the Committee; provided however such individual may serve the Committee in an advisory capacity.

(3) Establishment of Minimum Qualifications and Evaluation Criteria. Prior to a public announcement under section (4) of this Rule that Auditing Services are required, the Committee shall meet at a publicly noticed meeting to establish minimum qualifications and factors to use for the evaluation of Auditing Services to be provided by a certified public accounting firm licensed under Chapter 473 of the Florida Statutes, and qualified to conduct audits in accordance with government auditing standards as adopted by the Florida Board of Accountancy.

- (a) Minimum Qualifications. In order to be eligible to submit a proposal, a firm must, at all relevant times including the time of receipt of the proposal by the District:
 - (i) Hold all required applicable state professional licenses in good standing;

- (ii) Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;
- (iii) Hold a current and active Florida corporate charter or be authorized to do business in the State of Florida in accordance with Chapter 607 of the Florida Statutes, if the proposer is a corporation; and
- (iv) Meet any pre-qualification requirements established by the Committee and set forth in the RFP or other specifications.

If requested in the RFP or other specifications, evidence of compliance with the minimum qualifications as established by the Committee must be submitted with the proposal.

- (b) Evaluation Criteria. The factors established for the evaluation of Auditing Services by the Committee shall include, but are not limited to:
 - (i) Ability of personnel;
 - (ii) Experience;
 - (iii) Ability to furnish the required services; and
 - (iv) Such other factors as may be determined by the Committee to be applicable to its particular requirements.

The Committee may also choose to consider compensation as a factor. If the Committee establishes compensation as one of the factors, compensation shall not be the sole or predominant factor used to evaluate proposals.

- (4) Public Announcement. After identifying the factors to be used in evaluating the proposals for Auditing Services as set forth in section (3) of this Rule, the Committee shall publicly announce the opportunity to provide Auditing Services. Such public announcement shall include a brief description of the audit and how interested firms can apply for consideration and obtain the RFP. The notice shall appear in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the District and the county in which the District is located. The public announcement shall allow for at least seven (7) days for the submission of proposals.
- (5) Request for Proposals. The Committee shall provide interested firms with a Request for Proposals (“RFP”). The RFP shall provide information on how proposals are to be evaluated and such other information the Committee determines is necessary for the firm to prepare a proposal. The RFP shall state the time and place for submitting proposals.

- (6) Committee's Evaluation of Proposals and Recommendation. The Committee shall meet at a publicly held meeting that is publicly noticed for a reasonable time in advance of the meeting to evaluate all qualified proposals and may, as part of the evaluation, require that each interested firm provide a public presentation where the Committee may conduct discussions with the firm, and where the firm may present information, regarding the firm's qualifications. At the public meeting, the Committee shall rank and recommend in order of preference no fewer than three firms deemed to be the most highly qualified to perform the required services after considering the factors established pursuant to subsection (3)(b) of this Rule. If fewer than three firms respond to the RFP or if no firms respond to the RFP, the Committee shall recommend such firm as it deems to be the most highly qualified. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Committee may recommend that any and all proposals be rejected.
- (7) Board Selection of Auditor.
- (a) Where compensation was not selected as a factor used in evaluating the proposals, the Board shall negotiate with the firm ranked first and inquire of that firm as to the basis of compensation. If the Board is unable to negotiate a satisfactory agreement with the first ranked firm at a price deemed by the Board to be fair, competitive, and reasonable, then negotiations with that firm shall be terminated and the Board shall immediately begin negotiations with the second ranked firm. If a satisfactory agreement with the second ranked firm cannot be reached, those negotiations shall be terminated and negotiations with the third ranked firm shall be undertaken. The Board may reopen formal negotiations with any one of the three top-ranked firms, but it may not negotiate with more than one firm at a time. If the Board is unable to negotiate a satisfactory agreement with any of the selected firms, the Committee shall recommend additional firms in order of the firms' respective competence and qualifications. Negotiations shall continue, beginning with the first-named firm on the list, until an agreement is reached or the list of firms is exhausted.
 - (b) Where compensation was selected as a factor used in evaluating the proposals, the Board shall select the highest-ranked qualified firm or document in its public records the reason for not selecting the highest-ranked qualified firm.
 - (c) In negotiations with firms under this Rule, the Board may allow the District Manager, District Counsel, or other designee to conduct negotiations on its behalf.
 - (d) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board may reject any or all proposals. The Board shall not consider any proposal, or enter into any contract for Auditing Services, unless the proposed agreed-upon compensation is

reasonable to satisfy the requirements of Section 218.39 of the Florida Statutes, and the needs of the District.

- (8) Contract. Any agreement reached under this Rule shall be evidenced by a written contract, which may take the form of an engagement letter signed and executed by both parties. The written contract shall include all provisions and conditions of the procurement of such services and shall include, at a minimum, the following:
- (a) A provision specifying the services to be provided and fees or other compensation for such services;
 - (b) A provision requiring that invoices for fees or other compensation be submitted in sufficient detail to demonstrate compliance with the terms of the contract;
 - (c) A provision setting forth deadlines for the auditor to submit a preliminary draft audit report to the District for review and to submit a final audit report no later than June 30 of the fiscal year that follows the fiscal year for which the audit is being conducted;
 - (d) A provision specifying the contract period, including renewals, and conditions under which the contract may be terminated or renewed. The maximum contract period including renewals shall be five (5) years. A renewal may be done without the use of the auditor selection procedures provided in this Rule but must be in writing.
 - (e) Provisions required by law that require the auditor to comply with public records laws.
- (9) Notice of Award. Once a negotiated agreement with a firm or individual is reached, or the Board authorizes the execution of an agreement with a firm where compensation was a factor in the evaluation of proposals, notice of the intent to award, including the rejection of some or all proposals, shall be provided in writing to all proposers by United States Mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or overnight delivery service. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests regarding the award of contracts under this Rule shall be as provided for in Rule 3.11. No proposer shall be entitled to recover any costs of proposal preparation or submittal from the District.

Specific Authority: Ch. 2024-292(6)(6)(e); (6)(6)(q), Laws of Florida
Law Implemented: §§ 119.0701, 218.33, 218.391, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.3 Purchase of Insurance.

- (1) Scope. The purchases of life, health, accident, hospitalization, legal expense, or annuity insurance, or all of any kinds of such insurance for the officers and employees of the District, and for health, accident, hospitalization, and legal expenses upon a group insurance plan by the District, shall be governed by this Rule. This Rule does not apply to the purchase of any other type of insurance by the District, including but not limited to liability insurance, property insurance, and directors and officers insurance. Nothing in this Rule shall require the District to purchase insurance.
- (2) Procedure. For a purchase of insurance within the scope of these Rules, the following procedure shall be followed:
 - (a) The Board shall cause to be prepared a Notice of Invitation to Bid.
 - (b) Notice of the Invitation to Bid shall be advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation within the District. The notice shall allow at least fourteen (14) days for submittal of bids.
 - (c) The District may maintain a list of persons interested in receiving notices of Invitations to Bid. The District shall make reasonable efforts to provide copies of any notices to such persons, but the failure to do so shall not give such consultants any bid protest or other rights or otherwise disqualify any otherwise valid procurement process.
 - (d) Bids shall be opened at the time and place noted in the Invitation to Bid.
 - (e) If only one (1) response to an Invitation is received, the District may proceed with the purchase. If no response to an Invitation to Bid is received, the District may take whatever steps are reasonably necessary in order to proceed with the purchase.
 - (f) The Board has the right to reject any and all bids and such reservations shall be included in all solicitations and advertisements.
 - (g) Simultaneously with the review of the submitted bids, the District may undertake negotiations with those companies that have submitted reasonable and timely bids and, in the opinion of the District, are fully qualified and capable of meeting all services and requirements. Bid responses shall be evaluated in accordance with the specifications and criteria contained in the Invitation to Bid; in addition, the total cost to the District, the cost, if any, to the District officers, employees, or their dependents, the geographic location of the company's headquarters and offices in relation to the District, and the ability of the company to guarantee premium stability may be considered. A contract to purchase insurance

shall be awarded to that company whose response to the Invitation to Bid best meets the overall needs of the District, its officers, employees, and/or dependents.

- (h) Notice of the intent to award, including rejection of some or all bids, shall be provided in writing to all bidders by United States Mail, by hand delivery, or by overnight delivery service. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's procurement of insurance under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.

Specific Authority: Ch. 2024-292(6)(6)(e); (6)(6)(q), Laws of Florida
Law Implemented: § 112.08, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.4 Pre-qualification

- (1) Scope. In its discretion, the District may undertake a pre-qualification process in accordance with this Rule for vendors to provide construction services, goods, supplies, and materials, Contractual Services, and maintenance services.
- (2) Procedure. When the District seeks to pre-qualify vendors, the following procedures shall apply:
 - (a) The Board shall cause to be prepared a Request for Qualifications.
 - (b) For construction services exceeding the thresholds described in Section 255.20 of the Florida Statutes, the Board must advertise the proposed pre-qualification criteria and procedures and allow at least seven (7) days notice of the public hearing for comments on such pre-qualification criteria and procedures. At such public hearing, potential vendors may object to such pre-qualification criteria and procedures. Following such public hearing, the Board shall formally adopt pre-qualification criteria and procedures prior to the advertisement of the Request for Qualifications for construction services.
 - (c) The Request for Qualifications shall be advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation within the District and within the county in which the District is located. The notice shall allow at least seven (7) days for submittal of qualifications for goods, supplies and materials, Contractual Services, maintenance services, and construction services under two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000). The notice shall allow at least twenty-one (21) days for submittal of qualifications for construction services estimated to cost over two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) and thirty (30) days for construction services estimated to cost over five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).
 - (d) The District may maintain lists of persons interested in receiving notices of Requests for Qualifications. The District shall make a good faith effort to provide written notice, by electronic mail, United States Mail, hand delivery, or facsimile, to persons who provide their name and address to the District Manager for inclusion on the list. However, failure of a person to receive the notice shall not invalidate any pre-qualification determination or contract awarded in accordance with these Rules and shall not be a basis for a protest of any pre-qualification determination or contract award.
 - (e) If the District has pre-qualified vendors for a particular category of purchase, at the option of the District, only those persons who have been pre-qualified will be eligible to submit bids, proposals, replies or responses in response to the applicable Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation.

- (f) In order to be eligible to submit qualifications, a firm or individual must, at the time of receipt of the qualifications:
 - (i) Hold all required applicable state professional licenses in good standing;
 - (ii) Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;
 - (iii) Hold a current and active Florida corporate charter or be authorized to do business in the State of Florida in accordance with Chapter 607 of the Florida Statutes, if the vendor is a corporation; and
 - (iv) Meet any special pre-qualification requirements set forth in the Request for Qualifications.

Evidence of compliance with these Rules must be submitted with the qualifications if required by the District. Failure to submit evidence of compliance when required may be grounds for rejection of the qualifications.

- (g) Qualifications shall be presented to the Board, or a committee appointed by the Board, for evaluation in accordance with the Request for Qualifications and this Rule. Minor variations in the qualifications may be waived by the Board. A variation is minor if waiver of the variation does not create a competitive advantage or disadvantage of a material nature.
- (h) All vendors determined by the District to meet the pre-qualification requirements shall be pre-qualified. To assure full understanding of the responsiveness to the requirements contained in a Request for Qualifications, discussions may be conducted with qualified vendors. Vendors shall be accorded fair treatment prior to the submittal date with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of qualifications. For construction services, any contractor pre-qualified and considered eligible by the Department of Transportation to bid to perform the type of work the project entails shall be presumed to be qualified to perform the project.
- (i) The Board shall have the right to reject all qualifications if there are not enough to be competitive or if rejection is determined to be in the best interest of the District. No vendor shall be entitled to recover any costs of qualification preparation or submittal from the District.
- (j) Notice of intent to pre-qualify, including rejection of some or all qualifications, shall be provided in writing to all vendors by United States Mail, electronic mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or overnight delivery

service. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's pre-qualification decisions under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11; provided however, protests related to the pre-qualification criteria and procedures for construction services shall be resolved in accordance with section (2)(b) of this Rule and Section 255.20(1)(b) of the Florida Statutes.

(3) Suspension, Revocation, or Denial of Qualification

- (a) The District, for good cause, may deny, suspend, or revoke a prequalified vendor's pre-qualified status. A suspension, revocation, or denial for good cause shall prohibit the vendor from bidding on any District construction contract for which qualification is required, shall constitute a determination of non-responsibility to bid on any other District construction or maintenance contract, and shall prohibit the vendor from acting as a material supplier or subcontractor on any District contract or project during the period of suspension, revocation, or denial. Good cause shall include the following:
- i. One of the circumstances specified under Section 337.16(2), Fla. Stat., has occurred.
 - ii. Affiliated contractors submitted more than one proposal for the same work. In this event the pre-qualified status of all of the affiliated bidders will be revoked, suspended, or denied. All bids of affiliated bidders will be rejected.
 - iii. The vendor made or submitted false, deceptive, or fraudulent statements, certifications, or materials in any claim for payment or any information required by any District contract.
 - iv. The vendor or its affiliate defaulted on any contract or a contract surety assumed control of financial responsibility for any contract of the vendor.
 - v. The vendor's qualification to bid is suspended, revoked, or denied by any other public or semi-public entity, or the vendor has been the subject of a civil enforcement proceeding or settlement involving a public or semi-public entity.
 - vi. The vendor failed to comply with contract or warranty requirements or failed to follow District direction in the performance of a contract.
 - vii. The vendor failed to timely furnish all contract documents required by the contract specifications, special provisions, or by any state or federal statutes or regulations. If the vendor fails to furnish any of the subject contract documents by the expiration of the period of suspension,

revocation, or denial set forth above, the vendor's pre-qualified status shall remain suspended, revoked, or denied until the documents are furnished.

- viii. The vendor failed to notify the District within 10 days of the vendor, or any of its affiliates, being declared in default or otherwise not completing work on a contract or being suspended from qualification to bid or denied qualification to bid by any other public or semi-public agency.
 - ix. The vendor did not pay its subcontractors or suppliers in a timely manner or in compliance with contract documents.
 - x. The vendor has demonstrated instances of poor or unsatisfactory performance, deficient management resulting in project delay, poor quality workmanship, a history of payment of liquidated damages, untimely completion of projects, uncooperative attitude, contract litigation, inflated claims or defaults.
 - xi. An affiliate of the vendor has previously been determined by the District to be non-responsible, and the specified period of suspension, revocation, denial, or non-responsibility remains in effect.
 - xii. The vendor or affiliate(s) has been convicted of a contract crime.
 - 1. The term "contract crime" means any violation of state or federal antitrust laws with respect to a public contract or any violation of any state or federal law involving fraud, bribery, collusion, conspiracy, or material misrepresentation with respect to a public contract.
 - 2. The term "convicted" or "conviction" means a finding of guilt or a conviction of a contract crime, with or without an adjudication of guilt, in any federal or state trial court of record as a result of a jury verdict, nonjury trial, or entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere.
- (b) A denial, suspension, or revocation shall prohibit the vendor from being a subcontractor on District work during the period of denial, suspension, or revocation, except when a prime contractor's bid has used prices of a subcontractor who becomes disqualified after the bid, but before the request for authorization to sublet is presented.
- (c) The District shall inform the vendor in writing of its intent to deny, suspend, or revoke its pre-qualified status and inform the vendor of its right to a hearing, the procedure which must be followed, and the applicable time limits. If a hearing is requested within 10 days after the receipt of the notice of intent, the

hearing shall be held within 30 days after receipt by the District of the request for the hearing. The decision shall be issued within 15 days after the hearing.

- (d) Such suspension or revocation shall not affect the vendor's obligations under any preexisting contract.
- (e) In the case of contract crimes, the vendor's pre-qualified status under this Rule shall be revoked indefinitely. For all violations of Rule 3.4(3)(a) other than for the vendor's conviction for contract crimes, the revocation, denial, or suspension of a vendor's pre-qualified status under this Rule shall be for a specific period of time based on the seriousness of the deficiency.

Examples of factors affecting the seriousness of a deficiency are:

- i. Impacts on project schedule, cost, or quality of work;
- ii. Unsafe conditions allowed to exist;
- iii. Complaints from the public;
- iv. Delay or interference with the bidding process;
- v. The potential for repetition;
- vi. Integrity of the public contracting process;
- vii. Effect on the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Specific Authority: Ch. 2024-292(6)(6)(e); (6)(6)(q), Laws of Florida

Law Implemented: Ch. 2024-292(6)(19), Laws of Florida, §§ 255.0525, 255.20, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.5 Construction Contracts, Not Design-Build.

- (1) Scope. All contracts for the construction or improvement of any building, structure, or other public construction works authorized by Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, the costs of which are estimated by the District in accordance with generally accepted cost accounting principles to be in excess of the threshold amount for applicability of Section 255.20 of the Florida Statutes, as that amount may be indexed or amended from time to time, shall be let under the terms of these Rules and the procedures of Section 255.20 of the Florida Statutes, as the same may be amended from time to time. A project shall not be divided solely to avoid the threshold bidding requirements.
- (2) Procedure. When a purchase of construction services is within the scope of this Rule, the following procedures shall apply:
 - (a) The Board shall cause to be prepared an Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation.
 - (b) Notice of the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation shall be advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the District and in the county in which the District is located. The notice shall also include the amount of the bid bond, if one is required. The notice shall allow at least twenty-one (21) days for submittal of sealed bids, proposals, replies, or responses, unless the Board, for good cause, determines a shorter period of time is appropriate. Any project projected to cost more than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) must be noticed at least thirty (30) days prior to the date for submittal of bids, proposals, replies, or responses. If the Board has previously pre-qualified contractors pursuant to Rule 3.4 and determined that only the contractors that have been pre-qualified will be permitted to submit bids, proposals, replies, and responses, the Notice of Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation need not be published. Instead, the Notice of Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation shall be sent to the pre-qualified contractors by United States Mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or overnight delivery service.
 - (c) The District may maintain lists of persons interested in receiving notices of Invitations to Bid, Requests for Proposals, Invitations to Negotiate, and Competitive Solicitations. The District shall make a good faith effort to provide written notice, by electronic mail, United States Mail, hand delivery, or facsimile, to persons who provide their name and address to the District Manager for inclusion on the list. However, failure of a person to receive the notice shall not invalidate any contract awarded in accordance with this Rule and shall not be a basis for a protest of any contract award.

- (d) If the District has pre-qualified providers of construction services, then, at the option of the District, only those persons who have been pre-qualified will be eligible to submit bids, proposals, replies, or responses to Invitations to Bid, Requests for Proposals, Invitations to Negotiate, and Competitive Solicitations.
- (e) In order to be eligible to submit a bid, proposal, reply, or response, a firm or individual must, at the time of receipt of the bids, proposals, replies, or responses:
 - (i) Hold all required applicable state professional licenses in good standing;
 - (ii) Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;
 - (iii) Hold a current and active Florida corporate charter or be authorized to do business in the State of Florida in accordance with Chapter 607 of the Florida Statutes, if the bidder is a corporation; and
 - (iv) Meet any special pre-qualification requirements set forth in the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation.

Any contractor that has been found guilty by a court of any violation of federal labor or employment tax laws regarding subjects including but not limited to, reemployment assistance, safety, tax withholding, worker's compensation, unemployment tax, social security and Medicare tax, wage or hour, or prevailing rate laws within the past 5 years may be considered ineligible by the District to submit a bid, response, or proposal for a District project.

Evidence of compliance with these Rules must be submitted with the bid, proposal, reply, or response, if required by the District. Failure to submit evidence of compliance when required may be grounds for rejection of the bid, proposal, reply, or response.

- (f) Bids, proposals, replies, and responses, or the portions of which that include the price, shall be publicly opened at a meeting noticed in accordance with Rule 1.3, and at which at least one district representative is present. The name of each bidder and the price submitted in the bid shall be announced at such meeting and shall be made available upon request. Minutes should be taken at the meeting and maintained by the District. Bids, proposals, replies, and responses shall be evaluated in accordance with the respective Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation and these Rules. Minor variations in the bids,

proposals, replies, or responses may be waived by the Board. A variation is minor if waiver of the variation does not create a competitive advantage or disadvantage of a material nature. Mistakes in arithmetic extension of pricing may be corrected by the Board. Bids and proposals may not be modified or supplemented after opening; provided however, additional information may be requested and/or provided to evidence compliance, make non-material modifications, clarifications, or supplementations, and as otherwise permitted by Florida law.

- (g) The lowest Responsive Bid submitted by a Responsive and Responsible Bidder in response to an Invitation to Bid shall be accepted. In relation to a Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, the Board shall select the Responsive Proposal, Reply, or Response submitted by a Responsive and Responsible Vendor which is most advantageous to the District. To assure full understanding of the responsiveness to the solicitation requirements contained in a Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, discussions may be conducted with qualified vendors. Vendors shall be accorded fair treatment prior to the submittal date with respect to any opportunity for discussion, preparation, and revision of bids, proposals, replies, and responses.
- (h) The Board shall have the right to reject all bids, proposals, replies, or responses because they exceed the amount of funds budgeted for the purchase, if there are not enough to be competitive, or if rejection is determined to be in the best interest of the District. No contractor shall be entitled to recover any costs of bid, proposal, response, or reply preparation or submittal from the District.
- (i) The Board may require potential contractors to furnish bid bonds, performance bonds, and/or other bonds with a responsible surety to be approved by the Board.
- (j) Notice of intent to award, including rejection of some or all bids, proposals, replies, or responses, shall be provided in writing to all contractors by United States Mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or overnight delivery service. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's purchase of construction services under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.
- (k) If less than three (3) Responsive Bids, Proposals, Replies, or Responses are received, the District may purchase construction services or may reject the bids, proposals, replies, or responses for a lack of competitiveness. If no Responsive Bid, Proposal, Reply, or Response is received, the District may

proceed with the procurement of construction services, in the manner the Board determines is in the best interests of the District, which may include but is not limited to a direct purchase of the construction services without further competitive selection processes.

- (3) Sole Source; Government. Construction services that are only available from a single source are exempt from this Rule. Construction services provided by governmental agencies are exempt from this Rule. This Rule shall not apply to the purchase of construction services, which may include goods, supplies, or materials, that are purchased under a federal, state, or local government contract that has been competitively procured by such federal, state, or local government in a manner consistent with the material procurement requirements of these Rules. A contract for construction services is exempt from this Rule if state or federal law prescribes with whom the District must contract or if the rate of payment is established during the appropriation process.
- (4) Contracts; Public Records. In accordance with Florida law, each contract entered into pursuant to this Rule shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws.
- (5) Emergency Purchases. The District may make an Emergency Purchase without complying with these rules. The fact that an Emergency Purchase has occurred or is necessary shall be noted in the minutes of the next Board Meeting.
- (6) Exceptions. This Rule is inapplicable when:
 - (a) The project is undertaken as repair or maintenance of an existing public facility;
 - (b) The funding source of the project will be diminished or lost because the time required to competitively award the project after the funds become available exceeds the time within which the funding source must be spent;
 - (c) The District has competitively awarded a project and the contractor has abandoned the project or the District has terminated the contract; or
 - (d) The District, after public notice, conducts a public meeting under Section 286.011 of the Florida Statutes, and finds by a majority vote of the Board that it is in the public's best interest to perform the project using its own services, employees, and equipment.

Specific Authority: Ch. 2024-292(6)(6)(e); (6)(6)(q), Laws of Florida

Law Implemented: Ch. 2024-292(6)(19), Laws of FL, §§ 119.0701, 189.053, 255.0518, 255.0525, 255.20, 287.055, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.6 Construction Contracts, Design-Build.

- (1) Scope. The District may utilize Design-Build Contracts for any public construction project for which the Board determines that use of such contract is in the best interest of the District. When letting a Design-Build Contract, the District shall use the following procedure:
- (2) Procedure.
 - (a) The District shall utilize a Design Criteria Professional meeting the requirements of Section 287.055(2)(k) of the Florida Statutes, when developing a Design Criteria Package, evaluating the proposals and qualifications submitted by Design-Build Firms, and determining compliance of the project construction with the Design Criteria Package. The Design Criteria Professional may be an employee of the District, may be the District Engineer selected by the District pursuant to Section 287.055 of the Florida Statutes, or may be retained pursuant to Rule 3.1. The Design Criteria Professional is not eligible to render services under a Design-Build Contract executed pursuant to the Design Criteria Package.
 - (b) A Design Criteria Package for the construction project shall be prepared and sealed by the Design Criteria Professional. If the project utilizes existing plans, the Design Criteria Professional shall create a Design Criteria Package by supplementing the plans with project specific requirements, if any.
 - (c) The Board may either choose to award the Design-Build Contract pursuant to the competitive proposal selection process set forth in Section 287.055(9) of the Florida Statutes, or pursuant to the qualifications-based selection process pursuant to Rule 3.1.
 - (i) Qualifications-Based Selection. If the process set forth in Rule 3.1 is utilized, subsequent to competitive negotiations, a guaranteed maximum price and guaranteed completion date shall be established.
 - (ii) Competitive Proposal-Based Selection. If the competitive proposal selection process is utilized, the Board, in consultation with the Design Criteria Professional, shall establish the criteria, standards and procedures for the evaluation of Design-Build Proposals based on price, technical, and design aspects of the project, weighted for the project. After a Design Criteria Package and the standards and procedures for evaluation of proposals have been developed, competitive proposals from qualified firms shall be solicited pursuant to the design criteria by the following procedure:

1. A Request for Proposals shall be advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the District is located. The notice shall allow at least twenty-one (21) days for submittal of sealed proposals, unless the Board, for good cause, determines a shorter period of time is appropriate. Any project projected to cost more than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) must be noticed at least thirty (30) days prior to the date for submittal of proposals.
2. The District may maintain lists of persons interested in receiving notices of Requests for Proposals. The District shall make a good faith effort to provide written notice, by electronic mail, United States Mail, hand delivery, or facsimile, to persons who provide their name and address to the District Manager for inclusion on the list. However, failure of a person to receive the notice shall not invalidate any contract awarded in accordance with this Rule and shall not be a basis for a protest of any contract award.
3. In order to be eligible to submit a proposal, a firm must, at the time of receipt of the proposals:
 - a. Hold the required applicable state professional licenses in good standing, as defined by Section 287.055(2)(h) of the Florida Statutes;
 - b. Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;
 - c. Hold a current and active Florida corporate charter or be authorized to do business in the State of Florida in accordance with Chapter 607 of the Florida Statutes, if the proposer is a corporation;
 - d. Meet any special pre-qualification requirements set forth in the Request for Proposals and Design Criteria Package.

Any contractor that has been found guilty by a court of any violation of federal labor or employment tax laws regarding subjects including but not limited to reemployment assistance, safety, tax withholding, worker's compensation, unemployment tax, social security and Medicare tax, wage or hour, or prevailing rate laws within the past 5 years may be considered ineligible by the District to submit a bid, response, or proposal for a District project.

Evidence of compliance with these Rules must be submitted with the proposal if required by the District. Failure to submit evidence of compliance when required may be grounds for rejection of the proposal.

4. The proposals, or the portions of which that include the price, shall be publicly opened at a meeting noticed in accordance with Rule 1.3, and at which at least one district representative is present. The name of each bidder and the price submitted in the bid shall be announced at such meeting and shall be made available upon request. Minutes should be taken at the meeting and maintained by the District. In consultation with the Design Criteria Professional, the Board shall evaluate the proposals received based on evaluation criteria and procedures established prior to the solicitation of proposals, including but not limited to qualifications, availability, and past work of the firms and the partners and members thereof. The Board shall then select no fewer than three (3) Design-Build Firms as the most qualified.
5. The Board shall have the right to reject all proposals if the proposals are too high, or rejection is determined to be in the best interest of the District. No vendor shall be entitled to recover any costs of proposal preparation or submittal from the District.
6. If less than three (3) Responsive Proposals are received, the District may purchase design-build services or may reject the proposals for lack of competitiveness. If no Responsive Proposals are received, the District may proceed with the procurement of design-build services in the manner the Board determines is in the best interests of the District, which may include but is not limited to a direct purchase of the design-build services without further competitive selection processes.
7. Notice of the rankings adopted by the Board, including the rejection of some or all proposals, shall be provided in writing to all consultants by United States Mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or overnight delivery service. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the

District's rankings under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.

8. The Board shall negotiate a contract with the firm ranking the highest based on the evaluation standards and shall establish a price which the Board determines is fair, competitive and reasonable. Should the Board be unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the firm considered to be the most qualified at a price considered by the Board to be fair, competitive, and reasonable, negotiations with that firm must be terminated. The Board shall then undertake negotiations with the second most qualified firm, based on the ranking by the evaluation standards. Should the Board be unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the firm considered to be the second most qualified at a price considered by the Board to be fair, competitive, and reasonable, negotiations with that firm must be terminated. The Board shall then undertake negotiations with the third most qualified firm. Should the Board be unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the firm considered to be the third most qualified at a price considered by the Board to be fair, competitive, and reasonable, negotiations with that firm must be terminated. Should the Board be unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with any of the selected firms, the Board shall select additional firms in order of their rankings based on the evaluation standards and continue negotiations until an agreement is reached or the list of firms is exhausted.
 9. After the Board contracts with a firm, the firm shall bring to the Board for approval, detailed working drawings of the project.
 10. The Design Criteria Professional shall evaluate the compliance of the detailed working drawings and project construction with the Design Criteria Package and shall provide the Board with a report of the same.
- (3) Contracts; Public Records. In accordance with Florida law, each contract entered into pursuant to this Rule shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws.
- (4) Emergency Purchase. The Board may, in case of public emergency, declare an emergency and immediately proceed with negotiations with the best qualified Design-Build Firm available at the time. The fact that an Emergency Purchase has occurred shall be noted in the minutes of the next Board meeting.

(5) Exceptions. This Rule is inapplicable when:

- (a) The project is undertaken as repair or maintenance of an existing public facility;
- (b) The funding source of the project will be diminished or lost because the time required to competitively award the project after the funds become available exceeds the time within which the funding source must be spent;
- (c) The District has competitively awarded a project and the contractor has abandoned the project or the District has terminated the contractor; or
- (d) The District, after public notice, conducts a public meeting under Section 286.011 of the Florida Statutes, and finds by a majority vote of the Board that it is in the public's best interest to perform the project using its own services, employees, and equipment.

Specific Authority: Ch. 2024-292(6)(6)(e); (6)(6)(q), Laws of Florida

Law Implemented: Ch. 2024-292(6)(19), Laws of Florida, §§ 119.07, 189.053, 255.0518, 255.0525, 255.20, 287.055, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.7 Payment and Performance Bonds.

- (1) Scope. This Rule shall apply to contracts for the construction of a public building, for the prosecution and completion of a public work, or for repairs upon a public building or public work and shall be construed in addition to terms prescribed by any other Rule that may also apply to such contracts.
- (2) Required Bond. Upon entering into a contract for any of the services described in section (1) of this Rule in excess of \$200,000, the Board should require that the contractor, before commencing the work, execute and record a payment and performance bond in an amount equal to the contract price. Notwithstanding the terms of the contract or any other law, the District may not make payment to the contractor until the contractor has provided to the District a certified copy of the recorded bond.
- (3) Discretionary Bond. At the discretion of the Board, upon entering into a contract for any of the services described in section (1) of this Rule for an amount not exceeding \$200,000, the contractor may be exempted from executing a payment and performance bond.

Specific Authority: Ch. 2024-292(6)(6)(e); (6)(6)(q), Laws of Florida
Law Implemented: § 255.05, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.8 Goods, Supplies, and Materials.

- (1) Purpose and Scope. All purchases of goods, supplies, or materials exceeding the amount provided in Section 287.017 of the Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY FOUR, shall be purchased under the terms of this Rule. Contracts for purchases of “goods, supplies, and materials” do not include printing, insurance, advertising, or legal notices. A contract involving goods, supplies, or materials plus maintenance services may, in the discretion of the Board, be treated as a contract for maintenance services. However, a purchase shall not be divided solely in order to avoid the threshold bidding requirements.
- (2) Procedure. When a purchase of goods, supplies, or materials is within the scope of this Rule, the following procedures shall apply:
 - (a) The Board shall cause to be prepared an Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation.
 - (b) Notice of the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation shall be advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation within the District and within the county in which the District is located. The notice shall also include the amount of the bid bond, if one is required. The notice shall allow at least seven (7) days for submittal of bids, proposals, replies, or responses.
 - (c) The District may maintain lists of persons interested in receiving notices of Invitations to Bid, Requests for Proposals, Invitations to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitations. The District shall make a good faith effort to provide written notice, by electronic mail, United States Mail, hand delivery, or facsimile, to persons who provide their name and address to the District Manager for inclusion on the list. However, failure of a person to receive the notice shall not invalidate any contract awarded in accordance with this Rule and shall not be a basis for a protest of any contract award.
 - (d) If the District has pre-qualified suppliers of goods, supplies, and materials, then, at the option of the District, only those persons who have been pre-qualified will be eligible to submit bids, proposals, replies, or responses.
 - (e) In order to be eligible to submit a bid, proposal, reply, or response, a firm or individual must, at the time of receipt of the bids, proposals, replies, or responses:
 - (i) Hold all required applicable state professional licenses in good standing;
 - (ii) Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;

- (iii) Hold a current and active Florida corporate charter or be authorized to do business in the State of Florida in accordance with Chapter 607 of the Florida Statutes, if the vendor is a corporation; and
- (iv) Meet any special pre-qualification requirements set forth in the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation.

Evidence of compliance with these Rules must be submitted with the bid, proposal, reply or response if required by the District. Failure to submit evidence of compliance when required may be grounds for rejection of the bid, proposal, reply, or response.

Any firm or individual whose principal place of business is outside the State of Florida must also submit a written opinion of an attorney at law licensed to practice law in that foreign state, as to the preferences, if any or none, granted by the law of that foreign state to business entities whose principal places of business are in that foreign state, in the letting of any or all public contracts. Failure to submit such a written opinion or submission of a false or misleading written opinion may be grounds for rejection of the bid, proposal, reply, or response.

- (f) Bids, proposals, replies, and responses shall be publicly opened at the time and place noted on the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation. Bids, proposals, replies, and responses shall be evaluated in accordance with the respective Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, and this Rule. Minor variations in the bids, proposals, replies, or responses may be waived by the Board. A variation is minor if waiver of the variation does not create a competitive advantage or disadvantage of a material nature. Mistakes in arithmetic extension of pricing may be corrected by the Board. Bids and proposals may not be modified or supplemented after opening; provided however, additional information may be requested and/or provided to evidence compliance, make non-material modifications, clarifications, or supplementations, and as otherwise permitted by Florida law.
- (g) The lowest Responsive Bid, after taking into account the preferences provided for in this subsection, submitted by a Responsive and Responsible Bidder in response to an Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation shall be accepted. If the lowest Responsive Bid is submitted by a Responsive and Responsible Bidder whose principal place of business is located in a foreign state which does not grant a preference in competitive purchase to businesses whose principal place of business are in that foreign state, the lowest Responsible and Responsive Bidder whose principal place of business is in the State of

Florida shall be awarded a preference of five (5) percent. If the lowest Responsive Bid is submitted by a Responsive and Responsible Bidder whose principal place of business is located in a foreign state which grants a preference in competitive purchase to businesses whose principal place of business are in that foreign state, the lowest Responsive and Responsible Bidder whose principal place of business is in the State of Florida shall be awarded a preference equal to the preference granted by such foreign state.

To assure full understanding of the responsiveness to the solicitation requirements contained in an Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, discussions may be conducted with qualified vendors. Vendors shall be accorded fair treatment prior to the submittal date with respect to any opportunity for discussion, preparation, and revision of bids, proposals, replies, and responses.

- (h) The Board shall have the right to reject all bids, proposals, replies, or responses because they exceed the amount of funds budgeted for the purchase, if there are not enough to be competitive, or if rejection is determined to be in the best interest of the District. No vendor shall be entitled to recover any costs of bid, proposal, reply, or response preparation or submittal from the District.
 - (i) The Board may require bidders and proposers to furnish bid bonds, performance bonds, and/or other bonds with a responsible surety to be approved by the Board.
 - (j) Notice of intent to award, including rejection of some or all bids, proposals, replies, or responses shall be provided in writing to all vendors by United States Mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or overnight delivery service. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's purchase of goods, supplies, and materials under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.
 - (k) If less than three (3) Responsive Bids, Proposals, Replies, or Responses are received, the District may purchase goods, supplies, or materials, or may reject the bids, proposals, replies, or responses for a lack of competitiveness. If no Responsive Bid, Proposal, Reply, or Response is received, the District may proceed with the procurement of goods, supplies, and materials, in the manner the Board determines is in the best interests of the District, which may include but is not limited to a direct purchase of the goods, supplies, and materials without further competitive selection processes.
- (3) Goods, Supplies, and Materials included in a Construction Contract Awarded Pursuant to Rule 3.5 or 3.6. There may be occasions where the District has

undergone the competitive purchase of construction services which contract may include the provision of goods, supplies, or materials. In that instance, the District may approve a change order to the contract and directly purchase the goods, supplies, and materials. Such purchase of goods, supplies, and materials deducted from a competitively purchased construction contract shall be exempt from this Rule.

- (4) Exemption. Goods, supplies, and materials that are only available from a single source are exempt from this Rule. Goods, supplies, and materials provided by governmental agencies are exempt from this Rule. A contract for goods, supplies, or materials is exempt from this Rule if state or federal law prescribes with whom the District must contract or if the rate of payment is established during the appropriation process. This Rule shall not apply to the purchase of goods, supplies or materials that are purchased under a federal, state, or local government contract that has been competitively procured by such federal, state, or local government in a manner consistent with the material procurement requirements of these Rules.
- (5) Renewal. Contracts for the purchase of goods, supplies, and/or materials subject to this Rule may be renewed for a maximum period of five (5) years.
- (6) Emergency Purchases. The District may make an Emergency Purchase without complying with these rules. The fact that an Emergency Purchase has occurred or is necessary shall be noted in the minutes of the next Board meeting.

Specific Authority: Ch. 2024-292(6)(6)(e); (6)(6)(q), Laws of Florida

Law Implemented: Ch. 2024-292(6)(19), Laws of Florida, §§ 189.053, 287.017, 287.084, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.9 Maintenance Services.

- (1) Scope. All contracts for maintenance of any District facility or project shall be set under the terms of this Rule if the cost exceeds the amount provided in Section 287.017 of the Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY FOUR. A contract involving goods, supplies, and materials plus maintenance services may, in the discretion of the Board, be treated as a contract for maintenance services. However, a purchase shall not be divided solely in order to avoid the threshold bidding requirements.
- (2) Procedure. When a purchase of maintenance services is within the scope of this Rule, the following procedures shall apply:
 - (a) The Board shall cause to be prepared an Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation.
 - (b) Notice of the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation shall be advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation within the District and within the county in which the District is located. The notice shall also include the amount of the bid bond, if one is required. The notice shall allow at least seven (7) days for submittal of bids, proposals, replies, or responses.
 - (c) The District may maintain lists of persons interested in receiving notices of Invitations to Bid, Requests for Proposals, Invitations to Negotiate, and Competitive Solicitations. The District shall make a good faith effort to provide written notice, by electronic mail, United States Mail, hand delivery, or facsimile, to persons who provide their name and address to the District Manager for inclusion on the list. However, failure of a person to receive the notice shall not invalidate any contract awarded in accordance with this Rule and shall not be a basis for a protest of any contract award.
 - (d) If the District has pre-qualified suppliers of maintenance services, then, at the option of the District, only those persons who have been pre-qualified will be eligible to submit bids, proposals, replies, and responses.
 - (e) In order to be eligible to submit a bid, proposal, reply, or response, a firm or individual must, at the time of receipt of the bids, proposals, replies, or responses:
 - (i) Hold all required applicable state professional licenses in good standing;
 - (ii) Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;

- (iii) Hold a current and active Florida corporate charter or be authorized to do business in the State of Florida in accordance with Chapter 607 of the Florida Statutes, if the vendor is a corporation; and
- (iv) Meet any special pre-qualification requirements set forth in the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation.

Evidence of compliance with these Rules must be submitted with the bid, proposal, reply, or response if required by the District. Failure to submit evidence of compliance when required may be grounds for rejection of the bid, proposal, reply, or response.

- (f) Bids, proposals, replies, and responses shall be publicly opened at the time and place noted on the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation. Bids, proposals, replies, and responses shall be evaluated in accordance with the respective Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, and these Rules. Minor variations in the bids, proposals, replies, and responses may be waived by the Board. A variation is minor if waiver of the variation does not create a competitive advantage or disadvantage of a material nature. Mistakes in arithmetic extension of pricing may be corrected by the Board. Bids and proposals may not be modified or supplemented after opening; provided however, additional information may be requested and/or provided to evidence compliance, make non-material modifications, clarifications, or supplementations, and as otherwise permitted by Florida law.
- (g) The lowest Responsive Bid submitted in response to an Invitation to Bid by a Responsive and Responsible Bidder shall be accepted. In relation to a Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate or Competitive Solicitation the Board shall select the Responsive Proposal, Reply, or Response submitted by a Responsive and Responsible Vendor which is most advantageous to the District. To assure full understanding of the responsiveness to the solicitation requirements contained in a Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, discussions may be conducted with qualified vendors. Vendors shall be accorded fair treatment prior to the submittal date with respect to any opportunity for discussion, preparation, and revision of bids, proposals, replies, or responses.
- (h) The Board shall have the right to reject all bids, proposals, replies, or responses because they exceed the amount of funds budgeted for the purchase, if there are not enough to be competitive, or if rejection is determined to be in the best interest of the District. No Vendor shall be

entitled to recover any costs of bid, proposal, reply, or response preparation or submittal from the District.

- (i) The Board may require bidders and proposers to furnish bid bonds, performance bonds, and/or other bonds with a responsible surety to be approved by the Board.
 - (j) Notice of intent to award, including rejection of some or all bids, proposals, replies, or responses shall be provided in writing to all vendors by United States Mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or overnight delivery service. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's procurement of maintenance services under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.
 - (k) If less than three (3) Responsive Bids, Proposals, Replies, or Responses are received, the District may purchase the maintenance services or may reject the bids, proposals, replies, or responses for a lack of competitiveness. If no Responsive Bid, Proposal, Reply, or Response is received, the District may proceed with the procurement of maintenance services, in the manner the Board determines is in the best interests of the District, which may include but is not limited to a direct purchase of the maintenance services without further competitive selection processes.
- (3) Exemptions. Maintenance services that are only available from a single source are exempt from this Rule. Maintenance services provided by governmental agencies are exempt from this Rule. A contract for maintenance services is exempt from this Rule if state or federal law prescribes with whom the District must contract or if the rate of payment is established during the appropriation process.
 - (4) Renewal. Contracts for the purchase of maintenance services subject to this Rule may be renewed for a maximum period of five (5) years.
 - (5) Contracts; Public Records. In accordance with Florida law, each contract entered into pursuant to this Rule shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws.
 - (6) Emergency Purchases. The District may make an Emergency Purchase without complying with these rules. The fact that an Emergency Purchase has occurred or is necessary shall be noted in the minutes of the next Board meeting.

Specific Authority: Ch. 2024-292(6)(6)(e), (6)(6)(q), and (6)(19), Laws of Florida

Law Implemented: Ch. 2024-292(6)(19), Laws of Florida, §§ 119.0701, 287.017, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.10 Contractual Services.

- (1) Exemption from Competitive Purchase. Pursuant to Chapter 2024-292(6)(19)(c), Laws of Florida, Contractual Services shall not be subject to competitive purchasing requirements. If an agreement is predominantly for Contractual Services, but also includes maintenance services or the purchase of goods and services, the contract shall not be subject to competitive purchasing requirements. Regardless of whether an advertisement or solicitation for Contractual Services is identified as an Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, no rights or remedies under these Rules, including but not limited to protest rights, are conferred on persons, firms, or vendors proposing to provide Contractual Services to the District.
- (2) Contracts; Public Records. In accordance with Florida law, each contract for Contractual Services shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws.

Specific Authority: Ch. 2024-292(6)(6)(e); (6)(6)(q), Laws of Florida

Law Implemented: Ch. 2024-292(6)(6)(c) and (6)(19), Laws of Florida, § 119.07, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.11 Protests with Respect to Proceedings under Rules 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8, and 3.9.

The resolution of any protests with respect to proceedings under Rules 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8, and 3.9 shall be in accordance with this Rule.

(1) Filing.

- (a) With respect to a protest regarding qualifications, specifications, documentation, or other requirements contained in a Request for Qualifications, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Bid, or Competitive Solicitation issued by the District, the notice of protest shall be filed in writing within seventy-two (72) calendar hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays) after the first advertisement of the Request for Qualifications, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Bid, or Competitive Solicitation. A formal protest setting forth with particularity the facts and law upon which the protest is based shall be filed within seven (7) calendar days (including Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays) after the initial notice of protest was filed. For purposes of this Rule, wherever applicable, filing will be perfected and deemed to have occurred upon receipt by the District. Failure to file a notice of protest shall constitute a waiver of all rights to protest the District's intended decision. Failure to file a formal written protest shall constitute an abandonment of the protest proceedings and shall automatically terminate the protest proceedings.
- (b) Except for those situations covered by subsection (1)(a) of this Rule, any firm or person who is affected adversely by a District's ranking or intended award under Rules 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8, or 3.9 and desires to contest the District's ranking or intended award, shall file with the District a written notice of protest within seventy-two (72) calendar hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays) after receipt of the notice of the District's ranking or intended award. A formal protest setting forth with particularity the facts and law upon which the protest is based shall be filed within seven (7) calendar days (including Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays) after the initial notice of protest was filed. For purposes of this Rule, wherever applicable, filing will be perfected and deemed to have occurred upon receipt by the District. Failure to file a notice of protest shall constitute a waiver of all rights to protest the District's ranking or intended award. Failure to file a formal written protest shall constitute an abandonment of the protest proceedings and shall automatically terminate the protest proceedings.
- (c) If the requirement for the posting of a protest bond and the amount of the protest bond, which may be expressed by a percentage of the contract to be awarded or a set amount, is disclosed in the District's competitive solicitation documents for a particular purchase under Rules 3.1, 3.2, 3.3,

3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8, or 3.9, any person who files a notice of protest must post the protest bond. The amount of the protest bond shall be determined by District staff after consultation with the Board and within the limits, if any, imposed by Florida law. In the event the protest is successful, the protest bond shall be refunded to the protestor. In the event the protest is unsuccessful, the protest bond shall be applied towards the District's costs, expenses, and attorney's fees associated with hearing and defending the protest. In the event the protest is settled by mutual agreement of the parties, the protest bond shall be distributed as agreed to by the District and protestor.

- (d) The District does not accept documents filed by electronic mail or facsimile transmission. Filings are only accepted during normal business hours.
- (2) Contract Execution. Upon receipt of a notice of protest which has been timely filed, the District shall not execute the contract under protest until the subject of the protest is resolved. However, if the District sets forth in writing particular facts and circumstances showing that delay incident to protest proceedings will jeopardize the funding for the project, will materially increase the cost of the project, or will create an immediate and serious danger to the public health, safety, or welfare, the contract may be executed.
- (3) Informal Proceeding. If the Board determines a protest does not involve a disputed issue of material fact, the Board may, but is not obligated to, schedule an informal proceeding to consider the protest. Such informal proceeding shall be at a time and place determined by the Board. Notice of such proceeding shall be sent via facsimile, United States Mail, or hand delivery to the protestor and any substantially affected persons or parties not less than three (3) calendar days prior to such informal proceeding. Within thirty (30) calendar days following the informal proceeding, the Board shall issue a written decision setting forth the factual, legal, and policy grounds for its decision.
- (4) Formal Proceeding. If the Board determines a protest involves disputed issues of material fact or if the Board elects not to use the informal proceeding process provided for in section (3) of this Rule, the District shall schedule a formal hearing to resolve the protest. The Chairperson shall designate any member of the Board (including the Chairperson), District Manager, District Counsel, or other person as a hearing officer to conduct the hearing. The hearing officer may:
 - (a) Administer oaths and affirmations;
 - (b) Rule upon offers of proof and receive relevant evidence;
 - (c) Regulate the course of the hearing, including any pre-hearing matters;
 - (d) Enter orders; and

- (e) Make or receive offers of settlement, stipulation, and adjustment.

The hearing officer shall, within thirty (30) days after the hearing or receipt of the hearing transcript, whichever is later, file a recommended order which shall include a caption, time and place of hearing, appearances entered at the hearing, statement of the issues, findings of fact and conclusions of law, separately stated, and a recommendation for final District action. The District shall allow each party fifteen (15) days in which to submit written exceptions to the recommended order. The District shall issue a final order within sixty (60) days after the filing of the recommended order.

- (5) Intervenors. Other substantially affected persons may join the proceedings as intervenors on appropriate terms which shall not unduly delay the proceedings.
- (6) Rejection of all Qualifications, Bids, Proposals, Replies and Responses after Receipt of Notice of Protest. If the Board determines there was a violation of law, defect, or an irregularity in the competitive solicitation process, the Bids, Proposals, Replies, and Responses are too high, or if the Board determines it is otherwise in the District's best interest, the Board may reject all qualifications, bids, proposals, replies, and responses and start the competitive solicitation process anew. If the Board decides to reject all qualifications, bids, proposals, replies, and responses and start the competitive solicitation process anew, any pending protests shall automatically terminate.
- (7) Settlement. Nothing herein shall preclude the settlement of any protest under this Rule at any time.

Specific Authority: Ch. 2024-292(6)(6)(e); (6)(6)(q), Laws of Florida

Law Implemented: Ch. 2024-292(6)(19), Laws of Florida

Rule 4.0 Effective Date.

These Rules shall be effective _____, 2024, except that no election of officers required by these Rules shall be required until after the next regular election for the Board.

Specific Authority: Ch. 2024-292(6)(6)(e); (6)(6)(q), Laws of Florida

Law Implemented: Ch. 2024-292(6)(6)(e); (6)(6)(q), Laws of Florida

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

7QII

**NOTICE OF RULE DEVELOPMENT BY THE
STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

In accord with Chapter 120, Florida Statutes and Chapter 2024-292, Laws of the Florida, the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (“**District**”) hereby gives notice of its intention to develop Rules of Procedure to govern the operations of the District.

The Rules of Procedure will address such areas as the Board of Supervisors, officers and voting, district offices, public information and inspection of records, policies, public meetings, hearings and workshops, rulemaking proceedings and competitive purchase including procedure under the Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act, procedure regarding auditor selection, purchase of insurance, pre-qualification, construction contracts, goods, supplies and materials, maintenance services, contractual services and protests with respect to proceedings, as well as any other area of the general operation of the District.

The purpose and effect of the Rules of Procedure is to provide for efficient and effective District operations and to ensure compliance with recent changes to Florida law. The legal authority for the adoption of the proposed Rules of Procedure includes Chapter 2024-292(6)(6)(e), (6)(6)(q) and (6)(20), Laws of Florida. The specific laws implemented in the Rules of Procedure include, but are not limited to, Sections 112.08, 112.3143, 122.31446, 112.3145, 119.07, 119.0701, 189.053, 189.069(2)(a)16, 218.33, 218.391, 255.05, 255.0518, 255.0525, 255.20, 286.0105, 286.011, 286.0113, 286.0114, 287.017, 287.055 and 287.084, Florida Statutes (2022), Chapter 2024-292(5), (6)(1)-(4), (6)(6)(c), (6)(6)(e), (6)(6)(q), (6)(19), (6)(20), Laws of Florida.

A copy of the proposed Rules of Procedure may be obtained by contacting the District Manager at Wrathell, Hunt & Associates, LLC, 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431 (561) 571-0010.

District Manager

Run Date: _____, 2024

PUBLISH: [AT LEAST 29 DAYS PRIOR TO ADOPTION DATE; AT LEAST ONE DAY PRIOR TO NOTICE OF RULEMAKING]

**NOTICE OF RULEMAKING REGARDING THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE STAR FARMS
VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

A public hearing will be conducted by the Board of Supervisors of the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District ("District") on _____, 2024 at _____.m. at _____.

In accord with Chapter 120, Florida Statutes and Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, the District hereby gives the public notice of its intent to adopt its proposed Rules of Procedure. The purpose and effect of the proposed Rules of Procedure is to provide for efficient and effective District operations and to ensure compliance with recent changes to Florida law. Prior notice of rule development was published in the _____ on _____, 2024.

The Rules of Procedure may address such areas as the Board of Supervisors, officers and voting, district offices, public information and inspection of records, policies, public meetings, hearings and workshops, rulemaking proceedings and competitive purchase including procedure under the Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act, procedure regarding auditor selection, purchase of insurance, pre-qualification, construction contracts, goods, supplies and materials, maintenance services, contractual services and protests with respect to proceedings, as well as any other area of the general operation of the District.

The legal authority for the adoption of the proposed Rules of Procedure includes Chapter 2024-292(6)(6)(e), (6)(6)(q) and (6)(20), Laws of Florida. The specific laws implemented in the Rules of Procedure include, but are not limited to, Sections 112.08, 112.3143, 122.31446, 112.3145, 119.07, 119.0701, 189.053, 189.069(2)(a)16, 218.33, 218.391, 255.05, 255.0518, 255.0525, 255.20, 286.0105, 286.011, 286.0113, 286.0114, 287.017, 287.055 and 287.084, Florida Statutes (2022), Chapter 2024-292(5), (6)(1)-(4), (6)(6)(c), (6)(6)(e), (6)(6)(q), (6)(19), (6)(20), Laws of Florida.

A copy of the proposed Rules of Procedure may be obtained by contacting the District Manager's Office at Wrathell, Hunt & Associates, LLC, 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431, (561) 571-0010.

Any person who wishes to provide the District with a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative as provided by Section 120.541(1), Florida Statutes, must do so in writing within twenty-one (21) days after publication of this notice to the District Manager's Office.

This public hearing may be continued to a date, time, and place to be specified on the record at the hearing without additional notice. If anyone chooses to appeal any decision of the Board with respect to any matter considered at a public hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and should accordingly ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which includes the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based. At the hearing, staff or Supervisors may participate in the public hearing by speaker telephone.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations at this meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the District Manager's Office at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8771 or 1-800-955-8770 for aid in contacting the District Office.

District Manager

Run Date: _____

PUBLISH: [AT LEAST 28 DAYS PRIOR TO ADOPTION DATE]

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

7R

RESOLUTION 2024-16

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT ADOPTING THE ANNUAL MEETING
SCHEDULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE
DATE**

WHEREAS, the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (the “District”) is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida and Chapter 189, Florida Statutes, being situated entirely within the City of North Port, Sarasota County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the District is required by Section 189.015, *Florida Statutes*, to file quarterly, semi-annually, or annually a schedule (including date, time, and location) of its regular meetings with local governing authorities; and

WHEREAS, further, in accordance with the above-referenced statute, the District shall also publish quarterly, semi-annually, or annually the District’s regular meeting schedule in a newspaper of general paid circulation in the county in which the District is located; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to adopt the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 annual meeting schedule attached as **Exhibit A**.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR
FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:**

SECTION 1. The Fiscal Year 2024/2025 annual meeting schedule attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein as **Exhibit A** is hereby approved and shall be published in accordance with the requirements of Florida law and also provided to applicable governing authorities.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

Exhibit A: Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Annual Meeting Schedule

EXHIBIT “A”

STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT		
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024 MEETING SCHEDULE		
LOCATION		
TBD		
DATE	POTENTIAL DISCUSSION/FOCUS	TIME
October __, 2024	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
November __, 2024	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
December __, 2024	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
January __, 2025	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
February __, 2025	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
March __, 2025	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
April __, 2025	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
May __, 2025	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
June __, 2025	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
July __, 2025	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
August __, 2025	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
September __, 2025	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

7S

RESOLUTION 2024-17

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT, SARASOTA COUNTY, STATE OF FLORIDA, APPROVING THE FLORIDA STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the State Emergency Management Act, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, authorizes the state and its political subdivisions to develop and enter into mutual aid agreements for reciprocal emergency aid and assistance in case of emergencies too extensive to be dealt with unassisted; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2024, the Board of Supervisors of the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District desired to move forward and approve an agreement with the State of Florida, Division of Emergency Management, concerning the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity requires an independent special district to participate in the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement to be eligible for funds under Administrative Rule 9G-1.9, Base Funding for County Emergency Management Agencies and Municipal Competitive Grant and Loan Programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT THAT:

Section 1: The foregoing **“WHEREAS”** clauses are true and correct and are hereby ratified and confirmed by the Board of Supervisors.

Section 2: That execution of the attached Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement is hereby authorized, and the Agreement is hereby approved.

Section 3: This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District this 10th day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

Exhibit A

Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement



STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis, Governor

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director

STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT - 2023

This Agreement is an acknowledgment of receipt by the Florida Division of Emergency Management ("the Division") and the local government ("Participating Party") signing this Agreement. Execution of this agreement replaces all previous iterations and is active until a new agreement is drafted and requested by The Division.

This Agreement is based on the existence of the following conditions:

- A. The State of Florida is vulnerable to a wide range of emergencies and disasters that are likely to cause the disruption of essential services and the destruction of the infrastructure needed to deliver those services.
- B. Such emergencies and disasters often exceed the emergency response and recovery capabilities of any one county or local government.
- C. Such incidents may also give rise to unusual and unanticipated physical and technical needs which a local government cannot meet with existing resources, but that other local governments within the State of Florida may be able to provide.
- D. The Emergency Management Act, chapter 252, *Florida Statutes*, provides each local government of the state the authority to develop and enter into mutual aid agreements within the state for reciprocal emergency aid in case of emergencies too extensive to be dealt with unassisted, and through such agreements ensure the timely reimbursement of costs incurred by the local governments which render such assistance.
- E. Pursuant to chapter 252.32, *Florida Statutes*, the Division renders mutual aid among the political subdivisions of the state to carry out emergency management functions and responsibilities.
- F. Pursuant to chapter 252, *Florida Statutes*, the Division has the authority to coordinate and direct emergency management assistance between local governments and concentrate available resources where needed.

Based on the existence of the foregoing conditions, the Parties agree to the following articles:

ARTICLE I: DEFINITIONS

As used in this Agreement, the following expressions shall have the following meanings:

- A. The "Agreement" is this Agreement, which shall be referred to as the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement ("SMAA").



STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis, Governor

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director

- B. The “Division” is the Florida Division of Emergency Management.
- C. A “Requesting Party” to this Agreement is a Participating Party who requests assistance under this agreement.
- D. An “Assisting Party” to this Agreement is a Participating Party who provides assistance to a Requesting Party under this agreement.
- E. The “Period of Assistance” is the time during which an Assisting Party renders assistance to a Requesting Party under this agreement and includes the time necessary for the resources and personnel of the Assisting Party to travel to the place specified by the Requesting Party and the time necessary to return to their place of origin.
- F. A “Mission” is a documented emergency response activity performed during a Period of Assistance, usually in reference to one operational function or activity.
- G. A “local government” is any educational district, special district, or any entity that is a “local governmental entity” within the meaning of section 11.45(1)(g), *Florida Statutes*.
- H. An “educational district” is any school district within the meaning of section 1001.30, *Florida Statutes*, and any Florida College System Institution or State University within the meaning of section 1000.21, *Florida Statutes*.
- I. A “special district” is any local or regional governmental entity which is an independent special district within the meaning of section 189.012(3), *Florida Statutes*, established by local, special, or general act, or by rule, ordinance, resolution, or interlocal agreement.
- J. A “tribal council” is the respective governing bodies of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Miccosukee Tribe of Indians recognized as special improvement district by section 285.18(1), *Florida Statutes*.
- K. An “interlocal agreement” is any agreement between local governments within the meaning of section 163.01(3)(a), *Florida Statutes*.
- L. A “Resource Support Agreement” as used in this Agreement refers to a supplemental agreement of support between a Requesting Party and an Assisting Party.
- M. “Proof of work” as used in this Agreement refers to original and authentic documentation of a single individual or group of individuals’ emergency response activity at a tactical level.



STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis, Governor

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director

- N. "Proof of payment" as used in this Agreement refers to original and authentic documentation of an emergency response expenditure made by an Assisting Party.
- O. A "Reimbursement Package" as used in this Agreement refers to a full account of mission response documentation supported by proof of work and proof of payment.
- P. Any expressions not assigned definitions elsewhere in this Agreement shall have the definitions assigned them by the Emergency Management Act, Chapter 252, *Florida Statutes*.

ARTICLE II: APPLICABILITY OF THE AGREEMENT

Any Participating Party, including the Division, may request assistance under this Agreement for a "major disaster" or "catastrophic disaster" as defined in section 252.34, *Florida Statutes*, minor disasters, and other such emergencies as lawfully determined by a Participating Party.

ARTICLE III: INVOCATION OF THE AGREEMENT

In the event of an emergency or anticipated emergency, a Participating Party may request assistance under this Agreement from any other Participating Party or the Division if, in the judgement of the Requesting Party, its own resources are inadequate to meet the needs of the emergency or disaster.

- A. Any request for assistance under this Agreement may be oral, but within five (5) calendar days must be confirmed in writing by the Requesting Party. All requests for assistance under this Agreement shall be transmitted by the Requesting Party to another Participating Party or the Division. If the Requesting Party transmits its request for Assistance directly to a Participating Party other than the Division, the Requesting Party and Assisting Party shall keep the Division advised of their activities.
- B. The Division shall relay any requests for assistance under this Agreement to such other Participating Parties as it may deem appropriate and coordinate the activities of the Assisting Parties to ensure timely assistance to the Requesting Party. All such activities shall be carried out in accordance with the State's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

ARTICLE IV: RESPONSIBILITIES OF REQUESTING PARTIES

To the extent practicable, all Requesting Parties shall provide the following information to their respective county emergency management agency, the Division, and the intended Assisting Party or Parties. In providing such information, Requesting Parties should utilize Section I of the



STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis, Governor

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director

Resource Support Agreement (RSA) Form, available via the [Division approved documents SharePoint site](#)¹.

- A. A description of the Mission to be performed by the Assisting Party;
- B. A description of the resources and capabilities needed to complete the Mission successfully;
- C. The location, date, and time personnel and resources from the Assisting Party should arrive at the incident site, staging area, facility, or other location designated by the Requesting Party;
- D. A description of the health, safety, and working conditions expected for deploying personnel;
- E. Lodging and meal availability;
- F. Any logistical requirements;
- G. A description of any location or facility outside the territorial jurisdiction of the Requesting Party needed to stage incoming resources and personnel;
- H. The location date, and time for personnel of the Requesting Party to meet and receive the personnel and equipment of the Assisting Party; and
- I. A technical description of any communications equipment needed to ensure effective information sharing between the Requesting Party, any Assisting Parties, and all relevant responding entities.

ARTICLE V: RESPONSIBILITIES OF ASSISTING PARTIES

Each Party shall render assistance under this Agreement to any Requesting Party to the extent practicable that its personnel, equipment, resources, and capabilities can render assistance. If upon receiving a request for assistance under this Agreement a Party determines that it has the capacity to render some or all of such assistance, it shall provide the following information without delay to the Requesting Party, the Division, and the Assisting Party's County emergency management agency. In providing such information, the Assisting Party should utilize the Section II of the Resource Support Agreement (RSA) Form, available via the [Division approved documents SharePoint site](#).

¹ FDEM approved documents such as activity logs and mutual aid forms can be found at:
https://portal.floridadisaster.org/projects/FROC/FROC_Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?View=%7B6F3CF7BD%2DC0A4%2D4BE2%2DB809%2DC8009D7D0686%7D



STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis, Governor

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director

- A. A description of the personnel, equipment, supplies, services and capabilities it has available, together with a description of the qualifications of any skilled personnel;
- B. An estimate of the time such personnel, equipment, supplies, and services will continue to be available;
- C. An estimate of the time it will take to deliver such personnel, equipment, supplies, and services to the location(s) specified by the Requesting Party;
- D. A technical description of any communications and telecommunications equipment available for timely communications with the Requesting Party and other Assisting Parties;
- E. The names and contact information of all personnel whom the Assisting Party has designated as team leaders or supervisors; and
- F. An estimated cost for the provision of assistance.

ARTICLE VI: RENDITION OF ASSISTANCE

The Requesting Party shall afford the emergency response personnel of all Assisting Parties, while operating within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Requesting Party, the same powers, duties, rights, and privileges, except that of arrest unless specifically authorized by the Requesting Party, as are afforded the equivalent emergency response personnel of the Requesting Party. Emergency response personnel of the Assisting Party will remain under the command and control of the Assisting Party, but during the Period of Assistance, the resources and responding personnel of the Assisting Party will perform response activities under the operational and tactical control of the Requesting Party.

- A. Unless otherwise agreed upon between the Requesting and Assisting Party, the Requesting Party shall be responsible for providing food, water, and shelter to the personnel of the Assisting Party. For Missions performed in areas where there are insufficient resources to support responding personnel and equipment throughout the Period of Assistance, the Assisting Party shall, to the fullest extent practicable, provide their emergency response personnel with the equipment, fuel, supplies, and technical resources necessary to make them self-sufficient throughout the Period of Assistance. When requesting assistance, the Requesting Party may specify that Assisting Parties send only self-sufficient personnel and resources but must specify the length of time self-sufficiency should be maintained.



STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis, Governor

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director

- B. Unless the Requesting Party has specified the contrary, it shall, to the fullest extent practicable, coordinate all communications between its personnel and the responding personnel of the Assisting Parties, and shall determine and share the frequencies and other technical specifications of all communications equipment to be used, as appropriate, with the deployed personnel of the Assisting Parties.
- C. Personnel of the Assisting Party who render assistance under this Agreement shall receive the usual wages, salaries, and other compensation as are normally afforded to personnel for emergency response activities within their home jurisdiction, and shall have all the immunities, rights, interests, and privileges applicable to their normal employment. If personnel of the Assisting Party hold local licenses or certifications limited to the jurisdiction of issue, then the Requesting Party shall recognize and honor those licenses or certifications for the duration of the Period of Assistance.

ARTICLE VII: REIMBURSEMENT

After the Period of Assistance has ended, the Assisting Party shall have 45 days to develop a full reimbursement package for services rendered and resources supplied during the Period of Assistance. All expenses claimed to the Requesting Party must have been incurred in direct response to the emergency as requested by the Requesting Party and must be supported by proof of work and proof of payment.

To guide the proper documentation and accountability of expenses, the Assisting Party should utilize the Claim Summary Form, available via the [Division approved documents SharePoint site](#) as a guide and summary of expense to collect information to then be formally submitted for review by the Requesting Party.

To receive reimbursement for assistance provided under this agreement, the Assisting Party shall provide, at a minimum, the following supporting documentation to the Requesting Party unless otherwise agreed upon between the Requesting and Assisting Parties:

- A. A complete and authentic description of expenses incurred by the Assisting Party during the Period of Assistance;
- B. Copy of a current and valid Internal Revenue Service W-9 Form;
- C. Copies of all relevant payment and travel policies in effect during the Period of Assistance;
- D. Daily personnel activity logs demonstrating emergency response activities performed for all time claimed (for FDEM reimbursement Division approved activity logs will be required for personnel activity claims);



STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis, Governor

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director

- E. Official payroll and travel reimbursement records for all claimed personnel expenses;
- F. Neat and comprehensive fringe benefit calculations for each position class or category of claimed personnel;
- G. Written justification for all additional expenses/purchases incurred during the Period of Assistance;
- H. Proof of payment for additional/miscellaneous expenses incurred during the Period of Assistance
- I. Equipment activity logs demonstrating equipment use and operation in support of emergency response activities for all time claimed (for FDEM reimbursement Division approved forms will be required for equipment activity claims);
- J. Proof of reimbursement to all employees who incurred emergency response expenses with personal money;
- K. Justification for equipment repair expenses; and
- L. Copies of any applicable supporting agreements or contracts with justification.

If a dispute or disagreement regarding the eligibility of any expense arises, the Requesting Party, Assisting Party, or the Division may elect binding arbitration. If binding arbitration is elected, the Parties must select as an arbitrator any elected official of another Participating Party, or any other official of another Participating Party whose normal duties include emergency management, and the other Participating Party shall also select such an official as an arbitrator, and the arbitrators thus chosen shall select another such official as a third arbitrator.

The three (3) arbitrators shall convene by teleconference or videoconference within thirty (30) calendar days to consider any documents and any statements or arguments by the Division, the Requesting Party, or the Assisting Party concerning the protest, and shall render a decision in writing not later than ten (10) business days after the close of the hearing. The decision of a majority of the arbitrators shall bind the parties and shall be final.

If the Participating Parties do not elect binding arbitration, this agreement and any disputes arising thereunder shall be governed by the laws of the State of Florida and venue shall be in Leon County, Florida. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create an employer-employee relationship or a partnership or joint venture between the participating parties. Furthermore, nothing contained herein shall constitute a waiver by either Party of its sovereign immunity or the provisions of section 768.28, Florida Statutes. Nothing herein shall be construed as consent by either Party to be sued by third parties.



STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis, Governor

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director

ARTICLE VIII: COST ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT

The costs incurred by the Assisting Party under this Agreement shall be reimbursed as needed to make the Assisting Party whole to the fullest extent practicable.

- A. Employees of the Assisting Party who render assistance under this Agreement shall be entitled to receive from the Assisting Party all their usual wages, salaries, and any and all other compensation for mobilization, hours worked, and demobilization. Such compensation shall include any and all contributions for insurance and retirement, and such employees shall continue to accumulate seniority at the usual rate. As between the employees and the Assisting Party, the employees shall have all the duties, responsibilities, immunities, rights, interests, and privileges incident to their usual employment. The Requesting Party shall reimburse the Assisting Party for these costs of employment.
- B. The costs of equipment supplied by the Assisting Party shall be reimbursed at the rental rate established in FEMA' s Schedule of Equipment, or at any other rental rate agreed to by the Requesting Party. In order to be eligible for reimbursement, equipment must be in actual operation performing eligible work. The labor costs of the operator are not included in the rates and should be approved separately from equipment costs. The Assisting Party shall pay for fuels, other consumable supplies, and repairs to its equipment as needed to keep the equipment in a state of operational readiness. Rent for the equipment shall be deemed to include the cost of fuel and other consumable supplies, maintenance, service, repairs, and ordinary wear and tear. With the consent of the Assisting Party, the Requesting Party may provide fuels, consumable supplies, maintenance, and repair services for such equipment at the site. In that event, the Requesting Party may deduct the actual costs of such fuels, consumable supplies, maintenance, and services from the total costs otherwise payable to the Assisting Party. If the equipment is damaged while in use under this Agreement and the Assisting Party receives payment for such damage under any contract of insurance, the Requesting Party may deduct such payment from any item or items billed by the Assisting Party for any of the costs for such damage that may otherwise be payable.
- C. The Requesting Party shall pay the total costs for the use and consumption of any and all consumable supplies delivered by the Assisting Party for the Requesting Party under this Agreement. In the case of perishable supplies, consumption shall be deemed to include normal deterioration, spoilage, and damage notwithstanding the exercise of reasonable care in its storage and use. Supplies remaining unused shall be returned to the Assisting Party in usable condition upon the close of the Period of Assistance, and the Requesting Party may deduct the cost of such returned supplies from the total costs billed by the Assisting Party for such supplies. If the Assisting Party agrees, the Requesting Party may also replace any and all used consumable supplies with like



STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis, Governor

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director

supplies in usable condition and of like grade, quality and quantity within the time allowed for reimbursement under this Agreement.

- D. The Assisting Party shall keep records to document all assistance rendered under this Agreement. Such records shall present information sufficient to meet the audit requirements specified in the regulations of FEMA and any applicable circulars issued by the State of Florida. Upon reasonable notice, the Assisting Party shall make its records available the Requesting Party for inspection or duplication between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on all weekdays, except for official holidays.

ARTICLE IX: INSURANCE

Each Participating Party shall determine for itself what insurance to procure, if any. With the exceptions in this Article, nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to require any Participating Party to procure insurance.

- A. Each Participating Party shall procure employers' insurance meeting the requirements of the Workers' Compensation Act, as amended, affording coverage for any of its employees who may be injured while performing any activities under the authority of this Agreement, and shall be provided to each Participating Party.
- B. Participating Parties may elects additional insurance affording liability coverage for any activities that may be performed under the authority of this Agreement .
- C. Subject to the limits of such liability insurance as any Participating Party may elect to procure, nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to waive, in whole or in part, any immunity any Participating Party may have in any judicial or quasi-judicial proceeding.
- D. Each Participating Party which renders assistance under this Agreement shall be deemed to stand in the relation of an independent contractor to all other Participating Parties and shall not be deemed to be the agent of any other Participating Party.
- E. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to relieve any Participating Party of liability for its own conduct and that of its employees.
- F. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to obligate any Participating Party to indemnify any other Participating Party from liability to third parties.



STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis, Governor

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director

ARTICLE X: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary elsewhere in this Agreement, all Participating Parties shall be subject to the following requirements in the performance of this Agreement:

- A. All Participating Parties shall allow public access to all documents, papers, letters, or other materials subject to the requirements of the Public Records Act, as amended, and made or received by any Participating Party in conjunction with this Agreement.
- B. No Participating Party may hire employees in violation of the employment restrictions in the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended.
- C. No costs reimbursed under this Agreement may be used directly or indirectly to influence legislation or any other official action by the Legislature of the State of Florida or any of its agencies.
- D. Any communication to the Division under this Agreement shall be sent via either email, the Division of Emergency Managements Enterprise System (DEMES), or mail to the Response Bureau, Florida Division of Emergency Management, 2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100.
- E. Any communication to a Participating Party shall be sent to the official or officials specified by that Participating Party. For the purpose of this section, any such communication may be sent by the U.S. Mail, e-mail, or other electronic platforms.

ARTICLE XI: EFFECTS OF AGREEMENT

Upon its execution by a Participating Party, this Agreement shall have the following effect with respect to that Participating Party:

- A. The execution of this Agreement by any Participating Party which is a signatory to the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement of 1994 shall terminate the rights, interests, duties, responsibilities, and obligations of that Participating Party under the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement of 1994, but such termination shall not affect the liability of the Participating Party for the reimbursement of any costs due under the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement of 1994, regardless of whether such costs are billed or unbilled.
- B. The execution of this Agreement by any Participating Party which is a signatory to the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement shall terminate the rights, interests, duties, responsibilities and obligations of that Participating Party under the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement, but such termination shall not affect the liability of the Participating Party for the reimbursement of any costs due under the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement,



STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis, Governor

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director

regardless of whether such costs are billed or unbilled.

- C. Upon the activation of this Agreement by the Requesting Party, this Agreement shall supersede any other existing agreement between it and any Assisting Party to the extent that the former may be inconsistent with the latter.
- D. Upon its execution by any Participating Party, this Agreement will continue in effect for one (1) year from its date of execution by that Participating Party, and it shall automatically renew each year after its execution, unless within sixty (60) calendar days before the renewal date the Participating Party notifies the Division, in writing, of its intent to withdraw from the Agreement.
- E. The Division shall transmit any amendment to this Agreement by sending the amendment to all Participating Parties not later than five (5) business days after its execution by the Division. Such amendment shall take effect not later than sixty (60) calendar days after the date of its execution by the Division and shall then be binding on all Participating Parties. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, any Participating Party who objects to the amendment may withdraw from the Agreement by notifying the Division in writing of its intent to do so within that time in accordance with section E of this Article.
- F. A Participating Party may rescind this Agreement at will after providing the other Participating Party a written SMAA withdrawal notice. Such notice shall be provided at least 30 days prior to the date of withdrawal. This 30-day withdrawal notice must be: written, signed by an appropriate authority, duly authorized on the official letterhead of the Participating Party, and must be sent via email, the Division of Emergency Managements Enterprise System (DEMES), or certified mail.

ARTICLE XII: INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION OF AGREEMENT

The interpretation and application of this Agreement shall be governed by the following conditions:

- A. The obligations and conditions resting upon the Participating Parties under this Agreement are not independent, but dependent.
- B. Time shall be of the essence of this Agreement, and of the performance of all conditions, obligations, duties, responsibilities, and promises under it.
- C. This Agreement states all the conditions, obligations, duties, responsibilities, and promises of the Participating Parties with respect to the subject of this Agreement, and there are no conditions, obligations, duties, responsibilities, or promises other than those expressed in this Agreement.



STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis, Governor

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director

- D. If any sentence, clause, phrase, or other portion of this Agreement is ruled unenforceable or invalid, every other sentence, clause, phrase, or other portion of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect, it being the intent of the Division and the other Participating Parties that every portion of the Agreement shall be severable from every other portion to the fullest extent practicable. The Division reserves the right, at its sole and absolute discretion, to change, modify, add, or remove portions of any sentence, clause, phrase, or other portion of this Agreement that conflicts with state law, regulation, or policy. If the change is minor, the Division will notify the Participating Party of the change and such changes will become effective immediately; therefore, please check these terms periodically for changes. If the change is substantive, the Participating Parties may be required to execute the Agreement with the adopted changes. Any continued or subsequent use of this Agreement following the posting of minor changes to this Agreement shall signify implied acceptance of such changes.
- E. The waiver of any obligation or condition in this Agreement by a Participating Party shall not be construed as a waiver of any other obligation or condition in this Agreement.

NOTE: This iteration of the State of Florida Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement will replace all previous versions.

The Division shall provide reimbursement to Assisting Parties in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in this Article for missions performed at the direct request of the Division. Division reimbursement eligible expenses must be in direct response to the emergency as requested by the State of Florida. All required cost estimations and claims must be executed through the DEMES Mutual Aid Portal and assisting agencies must use all required [FDEM forms](#) for documentation and cost verification. If a Requesting Party has not forwarded a request through the Division, or if an Assisting Party has rendered assistance without being requested to do so by the Division, the Division shall not be liable for the costs of any such assistance.

FDEM reserves the right to deny individual reimbursement requests if deemed to not be in direct response to the incident for which asset was requested.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have duly executed this Agreement on the date specified below:



STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis, Governor

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director

FOR ADOPTION BY A COUNTY

STATE OF FLORIDA
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

By: _____ Date: _____

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director or
Ian Guidicelli, Authorized Designee

ATTEST:
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF _____ COUNTY,
STATE OF FLORIDA

By: _____

Clerk or Deputy Clerk

By: _____

Chairman

Date: _____

Approved as to Form:

By: _____

County Attorney



STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis, Governor

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director

FOR ADOPTION BY A CITY

STATE OF FLORIDA
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

By: _____ Date: _____

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director or
Ian Guidicelli, Authorized Designee

ATTEST:
CITY CLERK

CITY OF _____
STATE OF FLORIDA

By: _____

By: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Approved as to Form:

By: _____

City Attorney



STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis, Governor

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director

FOR ADOPTION BY A COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

STATE OF FLORIDA
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

By: _____ Date: _____

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director or
Ian Guidicelli, Authorized Designee

COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, STATE OF FLORIDA

By: _____ By: _____

Title: _____ Title: _____

Date: _____

Approved as to Form:

By: _____

Attorney for Entity



STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis, Governor

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director

FOR ADOPTION BY A COUNTY OR CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT/DISTRICT OFFICE

STATE OF FLORIDA
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

By: _____ Date: _____

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director or
Ian Guidicelli, Authorized Designee

COUNTY OR CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT/DISTRICT, STATE OF FLORIDA

By: _____ By: _____

Title: _____ Title: _____

Date: _____

Approved as to Form:

By: _____

Attorney for Entity



STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis, Governor

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director

FOR ADOPTION BY AN EDUCATIONAL DISTRICT

STATE OF FLORIDA
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

By: _____ Date: _____

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director or
Ian Guidicelli, Authorized Designee

_____ SCHOOL DISTRICT, STATE OF FLORIDA

By: _____ By: _____

Title: _____ Title: _____

Date: _____

Approved as to Form:

By: _____

Attorney for District



STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis, Governor

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director

FOR ADOPTION BY COMMUNITY COLLEGE OR STATE UNIVERSITY

STATE OF FLORIDA
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

By: _____ Date: _____

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director or
Ian Guidicelli, Authorized Designee

ATTEST:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF _____
COMMUNITY COLLEGE,
STATE OF FLORIDA

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF _____
UNIVERSITY,
STATE OF FLORIDA

By: _____

Clerk

By: _____

Chairman

Date: _____

Approved as to Form:

By: _____

Attorney for Board



STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis, Governor

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director

FOR ADOPTION BY A SPECIAL DISTRICT

STATE OF FLORIDA
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

By: _____ Date: _____

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director or
Ian Guidicelli, Authorized Designee

STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT SPECIAL DISTRICT, STATE OF FLORIDA
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

By: _____ By: _____

Title: _____ Title: _____

Date: **09/10/2024**

Approved as to Form:

By: _____

Attorney for District



STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis, Governor

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director

FOR ADOPTION BY AN AUTHORITY

STATE OF FLORIDA
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

By: _____ Date: _____

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director or
Ian Guidicelli, Authorized Designee

ATTEST:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF _____
AUTHORITY,
STATE OF FLORIDA

By: _____

Clerk

By: _____

Chairman

Date: _____

Approved as to Form:

By: _____

Attorney for Board



STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis, Governor

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director

FOR ADOPTION BY A NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBE

STATE OF FLORIDA
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

By: _____ Date: _____

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director or
Ian Guidicelli, Authorized Designee

ATTEST:

TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE
_____ TRIBE OF FLORIDA

By: _____

Council Clerk

By: _____

Chairman

Date: _____

Approved as to Form:

By: _____

Attorney for Council



STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis, Governor

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director

FOR ADOPTION BY A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

STATE OF FLORIDA
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

By: _____ Date: _____

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director or
Ian Guidicelli, Authorized Designee

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, STATE OF FLORIDA

By: _____ By: _____

Title: _____ Title: _____

Date: _____

Approved as to Form:

By: _____

Attorney for District



STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis, Governor

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director

SAMPLE AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION OF STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, the State of Florida Emergency Management Act, Chapter 252, authorizes the State and its political subdivisions to provide emergency aid and assistance in the event of a disaster or emergency; and

WHEREAS the statutes also authorize the State to coordinate the provision of any equipment, services, or facilities owned or organized by the State or its political subdivisions for use in the affected area upon the request of the duly constituted authority of the area; and

WHEREAS this Resolution authorizes the request, provision, and receipt of interjurisdictional mutual assistance in accordance with the Emergency Management Act, Chapter 252, among political subdivisions within the State; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by _____

_____ that in order to maximize the prompt, full and effective use of resources of all participating governments in the event of an emergency or disaster we hereby adopt the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

ADOPTED BY: _____

DATE: _____

I certify that the foregoing is an accurate copy of the Resolution adopted by

_____ on _____.

BY: _____

TITLE: _____

DATE: _____

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

7T

Memorandum

To: Board of Supervisors

From: District Management

Date: September 10, 2024

RE: HB7013 - Special Districts Performance Measures and Standards Reporting

To enhance accountability and transparency, new regulations were established for all special districts, by the Florida Legislature, during their 2024 legislative session. Starting on October 1, 2024, or by the end of the first full fiscal year after its creation (whichever comes later), each special district must establish goals and objectives for each program and activity, as well as develop performance measures and standards to assess the achievement of these goals and objectives. Additionally, by December 1 each year (initial report due on December 1, 2025), each special district is required to publish an annual report on its website, detailing the goals and objectives achieved, the performance measures and standards used, and any goals or objectives that were not achieved.

District Management has identified the following key categories to focus on for Fiscal Year 2025 and develop statutorily compliant goals for each:

- Community Communication and Engagement
- Infrastructure and Facilities Maintenance
- Financial Transparency and Accountability

Additionally, special districts must provide an annual reporting form to share with the public that reflects whether the goals & objectives were met for the year. District Management has streamlined these requirements into a single document that meets both the statutory requirements for goal/objective setting and annual reporting.

The proposed goals/objectives and the annual reporting form are attached as exhibit A to this memo. District Management recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt these goals and objectives to maintain compliance with HB7013 and further enhance their commitment to the accountability and transparency of the District.

Exhibit A: Goals, Objectives and Annual Reporting Form

**START FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT
Performance Measures/Standards & Annual Reporting Form
October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025**

1. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Goal 1.1 Public Meetings Compliance

Objective: Hold at least two (2) regular Board of Supervisor meetings per year to conduct District related business and discuss community needs.

Measurement: Number of public board meetings held annually as evidenced by meeting minutes and legal advertisements.

Standard: A minimum of two (2) regular board meetings was held during the fiscal year.

Achieved: Yes ☐ No ☐

Goal 1.2 Notice of Meetings Compliance

Objective: Provide public notice of each meeting at least seven days in advance, as specified in establishment documents, using at least two communication methods.

Measurement: Timeliness and method of meeting notices as evidenced by posting to District website, publishing in local newspaper and via electronic communication.

Standard: 100% of meetings were advertised with 7 days' notice per statute on at least two mediums (i.e., newspaper, District website, electronic communications).

Achieved: Yes ☐ No ☐

Goal 1.3 Access to Records Compliance

Objective: Ensure that meeting minutes and other public records are readily available and easily accessible to the public

by completing monthly District website checks.

Measurement: Monthly website reviews will be completed to ensure meeting minutes and other public records are up to date as evidenced by District Management's records.

Standard: 100% of monthly website checks were completed by District Management.

Achieved: Yes ☐ No ☐

2. **INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE**

Goal 2.1 District Infrastructure and Facilities Inspections

Objective: District Engineer will conduct an annual inspection of the District's infrastructure and related systems.

Measurement: A minimum of one (1) inspection completed per year as evidenced by district engineer's report related to district's infrastructure and related systems.

Standard: Minimum of one (1) inspection was completed in the Fiscal Year by the district's engineer.

Achieved: Yes ☐ No ☐

3. **FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

Goal 3.1 Annual Budget Preparation

Objective: Prepare and approve the annual proposed budget by July 15 and final budget was adopted by September 30 each year.

Measurement: Proposed budget was approved by the Board before July 15 and final budget was adopted by September 30 as evidenced by meeting minutes and budget documents listed on District website and/or within district records.

Standard: 100% of budget approval and adoption were completed by the statutory deadlines and posted to the District website.

Achieved: Yes ☐ No ☐

Goal 3.2 Financial Reports

Objective: Publish to the District website the most recent versions of the following documents: annual audit, current fiscal year budget with any amendments, and most recent financials within the latest agenda package.

Measurement: Annual audit, previous years' budgets, and financials are accessible to the public as evidenced by corresponding documents on the District website.

Standard: District website contains 100% of the following information: most recent annual audit, most recently adopted/amended fiscal year budget, and most recent agenda package with updated financials.

Achieved: Yes ☐ No ☐

Goal 3.3 Annual Financial Audit

Objective: Conduct an annual independent financial audit per statutory requirements and publish the results to the District website for public inspection and transmit said results to the State of Florida.

Measurement: Timeliness of audit completion and publication as evidenced by meeting minutes showing board approval and annual audit is available on the District website and transmitted to the State of Florida.

Standard: Audit was completed by an independent auditing firm per statutory requirements and results were posted to the District website and transmitted to the State of Florida.

Achieved: Yes ☐ No ☐

District Manager

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

Print Name

Print Name

Date

Date

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

8A

RESOLUTION 2024-18

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT DESIGNATING A PUBLIC DEPOSITORY FOR FUNDS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (“**District**”) is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, being situated within the City of North Port, Sarasota County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the District’s Board of Supervisors (“**Board**”) is statutorily authorized to select a depository as defined in Section 280.02, *Florida Statutes*, which meets all the requirements of Chapter 280 and has been designated by the State Treasurer as a qualified public depository; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to designate a public depository for the District funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT THAT:

SECTION 1. _____ is hereby designated as the public depository for District funds.

SECTION 2. In accordance with Section 280.17(4), *Florida Statutes*, the District’s Secretary is directed to furnish to the State Treasurer prior to the deposit of any public funds, the District’s official name, address, federal employer identification number, and the name of the person or persons responsible for establishing accounts.

SECTION 3. The District’s Treasurer, upon assuming responsibility for handling the District funds, is directed to furnish to the State Treasurer annually the information required in accordance with Section 280.17(3), *Florida Statutes*.

SECTION 4. This Resolution shall take effect upon its passage and shall remain in effect unless rescinded or repealed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

ACTIVE QUALIFIED PUBLIC DEPOSITORY LIST

The following Qualified Public Depositories (QPDs) are authorized to hold public deposits. The cities and states listed are the home office locations. QPDs marked with an asterisk have limited the amount of public deposits they will administer. QPDs having a date beside their name are in the process of withdrawing from the program and shall not receive or retain public deposits after the date shown. They may, however, have certain obligations to the program after that date with which they must comply before concluding the withdrawal process.

FEIN	INSTITUTION	HOME OFFICE LOCATION
591846933	AMERANT BANK, N.A.	CORAL GABLES, FL
161764661	AMERICAN MOMENTUM BANK	COLLEGE STATION, TX
592430369	AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK	OAKLAND PARK, FL
581111076	AMERIS BANK	MOULTRIE, GA
202502516	ANCHOR BANK	JUNO BEACH, FL
720218544	ANTHEM BANK & TRUST	PLAQUEMINE, LA
651066544	APOLLO BANK	MIAMI, FL
591008568	AXIOM BANK, N.A.	MAITLAND, FL
591485307	BAC FLORIDA BANK	CORAL GABLES, FL
640117230	BANCORPSOUTH BANK	TUPELO, MS
202768792	BANESCO USA	CORAL GABLES, FL
132614394	BANK LEUMI USA	NEW YORK, NY
941687665	BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.	CHARLOTTE, NC
591024375	BANK OF BELLE GLADE	BELLE GLADE, FL
208376899	BANK OF CENTRAL FLORIDA	LAKELAND, FL
591447189	BANK OF TAMPA, THE	TAMPA, FL
591050700	BANK OF THE SOUTH	PENSACOLA, FL
270217289	BANKUNITED, N.A.	MIAMI LAKES, FL
630476286	BBVA USA	BIRMINGHAM, AL
593672784	BEACH COMMUNITY BANK	FORT WALTON BEACH, FL
362085229	BMO HARRIS BANK, N.A.	CHICAGO, IL
590153930	BRANNEN BANK	INVERNESS, FL
370613731	BUSEY BANK	CHAMPAIGN, IL
640156695	CADENCE BANK, N.A.	ATLANTA, GA
593277398	CAPITAL CITY BANK	TALLAHASSEE, FL
630258819	CCB COMMUNITY BANK	ANDALUSIA, AL
710009885	CENTENNIAL BANK	CONWAY, AR
592979916	CENTERSTATE BANK, N.A.	WINTER HAVEN, FL
205909064	CENTRAL BANK	TAMPA, FL
592664950	CHARLOTTE STATE BANK & TRUST	PORT CHARLOTTE, FL
135266470	CITIBANK, N.A.	SIOUX FALLS, SD
590193780	CITIZENS BANK AND TRUST	FROSTPROOF, FL
590557762	CITIZENS BANK OF FLORIDA	OVIEDO, FL
593018034	CITIZENS FIRST BANK	THE VILLAGES, FL
591297458	CITY NATIONAL BANK OF FLORIDA	MIAMI, FL
590201970	COLUMBIA BANK	LAKE CITY, FL
640154830	COMMUNITY BANK OF MISSISSIPPI	FOREST, MS
593611444	COMMUNITY BANK OF THE SOUTH	MERRITT ISLAND, FL
590795359	COMMUNITY STATE BANK	STARKE, FL
591451065	CREWS BANK & TRUST	ARCADIA, FL
592976493	DRUMMOND COMMUNITY BANK	CHIEFLAND, FL
591259357	EASTERN NATIONAL BANK	MIAMI, FL
650765849	EDISON NATIONAL BANK	FORT MYERS, FL

ACTIVE QUALIFIED PUBLIC DEPOSITORY LIST

The following Qualified Public Depositories (QPDs) are authorized to hold public deposits. The cities and states listed are the home office locations. QPDs marked with an asterisk have limited the amount of public deposits they will administer. QPDs having a date beside their name are in the process of withdrawing from the program and shall not receive or retain public deposits after the date shown. They may, however, have certain obligations to the program after that date with which they must comply before concluding the withdrawal process.

FEIN	INSTITUTION	HOME OFFICE LOCATION
611433431	ENGLEWOOD BANK & TRUST	ENGLEWOOD, FL
591387466	EXECUTIVE NATIONAL BANK	MIAMI, FL
310676865	FIFTH THIRD BANK	CINCINNATI, OH
208075599	FINEMARK NATIONAL BANK & TRUST	FORT MYERS, FL
590242465	FIRST BANK	CLEWISTON, FL
202945754	FIRST BANK OF THE PALM BEACHES	WEST PALM BEACH, FL
593528089	FIRST CITRUS BANK	TAMPA, FL
590612190	FIRST CITY BANK OF FLORIDA *	FORT WALTON BEACH, FL
261462549	FIRST COLONY BANK OF FLORIDA	MAITLAND, FL
590969721	FIRST FEDERAL BANK	LAKE CITY, FL
208397856	FIRST FLORIDA INTEGRITY BANK	NAPLES, FL
593526917	FIRST HOME BANK	ST. PETERSBURG, FL
620201385	FIRST HORIZON BANK	MEMPHIS, TN
592312147	FIRST NATIONAL BANK NORTHWEST FLORIDA	PANAMA CITY, FL
590242830	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF MOUNT DORA, THE	MOUNT DORA, FL
592648115	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF PASCO	DADE CITY, FL
590675658	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH MIAMI	SOUTH MIAMI, FL
590877517	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF WAUCHULA	WAUCHULA, FL
580379465	FIRST SOUTHERN BANK	WAYCROSS, GA
650790413	FIRST STATE BANK OF THE FLORIDA KEYS	KEY WEST, FL
660183103	FIRSTBANK PUERTO RICO	SAN JUAN, PR
650980079	FLAGLER BANK	WEST PALM BEACH, FL
202472079	FLAGSHIP BANK	CLEARWATER, FL
592475686	FLORIDA CAPITAL BANK, N.A.	JACKSONVILLE, FL
590788761	FNBT BANK	FORT WALTON BEACH, FL
590199400	GROVE BANK & TRUST	MIAMI, FL
640169065	HANCOCK WHITNEY BANK	GULFPORT, MS
593584666	HEARTLAND NATIONAL BANK	SEBRING, FL
580659995	HERITAGE SOUTHEAST BANK	JONESBORO, GA
720218470	IBERIABANK	LAFAYETTE, LA
592327185	INTERNATIONAL FINANCE BANK	MIAMI, FL
261783674	INTRACOASTAL BANK	PALM COAST, FL
134994650	JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A.	COLUMBUS, OH
590549169	LAFAYETTE STATE BANK	MAYO, FL
204694103	LEGACY BANK OF FLORIDA	BOCA RATON, FL
593559141	MADISON COUNTY COMMUNITY BANK	MADISON, FL
200235207	MAINSTREET COMMUNITY BANK OF FLORIDA	DELAND, FL
650644585	MARINE BANK & TRUST COMPANY	VERO BEACH, FL
420335350	MIDWESTONE BANK	IOWA CITY, IA
361561860	NORTHERN TRUST COMPANY, THE	CHICAGO, IL
592237280	OCEAN BANK	MIAMI, FL
010914314	ONE FLORIDA BANK	ORLANDO, FL
042764211	ONEUNITED BANK	BOSTON, MA

ACTIVE QUALIFIED PUBLIC DEPOSITORY LIST

The following Qualified Public Depositories (QPDs) are authorized to hold public deposits. The cities and states listed are the home office locations. QPDs marked with an asterisk have limited the amount of public deposits they will administer. QPDs having a date beside their name are in the process of withdrawing from the program and shall not receive or retain public deposits after the date shown. They may, however, have certain obligations to the program after that date with which they must comply before concluding the withdrawal process.

FEIN	INSTITUTION	HOME OFFICE LOCATION
592437764	PACIFIC NATIONAL BANK	MIAMI, FL
203037095	PARADISE BANK	BOCA RATON, FL
591510993	PEOPLES BANK OF GRACEVILLE	GRACEVILLE, FL
581171935	PEOPLESSOUTH BANK	COLQUITT, GA
592689717	PILOT BANK	TAMPA, FL
580137310	PINELAND BANK	ALMA, GA
592648364	PNB COMMUNITY BANK	NICEVILLE, FL
221146430	PNC BANK, N.A.	WILMINGTON, DE
522126008	POPULAR BANK	NEW YORK, NY
260474086	PRIME MERIDIAN BANK	TALLAHASSEE, FL
580163257	PRIMESOUTH BANK	BLACKSHEAR, GA
262155465	PROFESSIONAL BANK	CORAL GABLES, FL
261740755	PROGRESS BANK AND TRUST	HUNTSVILLE, AL
593244348	RAYMOND JAMES BANK, N.A.	ST. PETERSBURG, FL
630371391	REGIONS BANK	BIRMINGHAM, AL
640220550	RENASANT BANK	TUPELO, MS
610197400	REPUBLIC BANK & TRUST COMPANY	LOUISVILLE, KY
590193820	SEACOAST NATIONAL BANK	STUART, FL
203341252	SEASIDE NATIONAL BANK & TRUST	ORLANDO, FL
202451671	SERVISFIRST BANK	HOMESWOOD, AL
204091629	SMARTBANK	PIGEON FORGE, TN
580214350	SOUTHEASTERN BANK	DARIEN, GA
650878433	SUNSTATE BANK	MIAMI, FL
590580845	SURETY BANK	DELAND, FL
580201800	SYNOVUS BANK	COLUMBUS, GA
010137770	TD BANK, N.A.	WILMINGTON, DE
592532510	TERRABANK	MIAMI, FL
640878155	THE FIRST, A NATIONAL BANKING ASSOCIATION	HATTIESBURG, MS
593531592	TIAA, FSB DBA EVERBANK	JACKSONVILLE, FL
561074313	TRUIST BANK	CHARLOTTE, NC
140578631	TRUSTCO BANK	GLENVILLE, NY
640180810	TRUSTMARK NATIONAL BANK	JACKSON, MS
310841368	U.S. BANK N.A.	CINCINNATI, OH
522371258	U.S. CENTURY BANK	DORAL, FL
630838750	UNITED BANK	ATMORE, AL
590489540	UNITED SOUTHERN BANK	UMATILLA, FL
221186387	VALLEY NATIONAL BANK	PASSAIC, NJ
590500870	WAUCHULA STATE BANK	WAUCHULA, FL
941347393	WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.	SIOUX FALLS, SD
821914784	WINTER PARK NATIONAL BANK	WINTER PARK, FL

Updated February 3, 2020

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

8B

RESOLUTION 2024-19

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT DIRECTING THE DISTRICT MANAGER TO APPOINT SIGNORS ON THE LOCAL BANK ACCOUNT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (“**District**”) is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, being situated within the City of North Port, Sarasota County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the District’s Board of Supervisors desires to appoint District Chair, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer as signors on the account.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT THAT:

1. **DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED SIGNATORIES.** The District Chair, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall be appointed as signors on the local bank account.
2. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Resolution shall take effect upon its passage and shall remain in effect unless rescinded or repealed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

9A

RESOLUTION 2024-20

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT APPROVING THE PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024 AND FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025 AND SETTING PUBLIC HEARINGS THEREON PURSUANT TO FLORIDA LAW; ADDRESSING TRANSMITTAL, POSTING AND PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (“District”) is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, which became effective on June 14, 2024, and being situated entirely within the City of North Port, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the District Manager has heretofore prepared and submitted to the Board of Supervisors (“Board”) the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year 2023/2024, which concludes September 30, 2024 (the “Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget”) and the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year 2024/2025, which begins October 1, 2024 and concludes September 30, 2025 (the “Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget”); and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the proposed budgets and desires to set the required public hearings thereon.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. APPROVAL OF PROPOSED BUDGETS. The proposed budgets prepared by the District Manager for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and Fiscal Year 2024/2025 attached hereto as **Exhibit B** are hereby approved as the basis for conducting public hearings to adopt said proposed budgets.

SECTION 2. SETTING PUBLIC HEARINGS. The public hearings on said approved proposed budgets are hereby declared and set for the following date, time and location, and District staff is directed to provide notice of the same in accordance with Florida law:

DATE: _____, 2024

TIME: _____

LOCATION: _____

SECTION 3. TRANSMITTAL OF PROPOSED BUDGETS TO LOCAL GENERAL-PURPOSE GOVERNMENTS. The District Manager is hereby directed to submit a copy of the proposed budgets to the City of North Port and Sarasota County at least 60 days prior to the hearing set above.

SECTION 4. POSTING OF PROPOSED BUDGETS. In accordance with Section 189, Florida Statutes, the District’s Secretary is further directed to post the approved proposed budgets on the District’s website at least two (2) days before the budget hearing date as set forth in Section 2, and shall remain on the website for at least 45 days.

Section 5. SEVERABILITY. The invalidity or unenforceability of any one or more provisions of this Resolution shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining portions of this Resolution, or any part thereof.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

Attest:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

Exhibit A: Proposed FY 2023/2024 Budget

Exhibit B: Proposed FY 2024/2025 Budget

Exhibit A: Proposed FY 2023/2024 Budget

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT
PROPOSED BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2024**

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Page Number(s)</u>
General Fund Budget	1
Definitions of General Fund Expenditures	2

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT
GENERAL FUND BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2024**

	Proposed Budget
REVENUES	
Landowner contribution	\$ 30,374
Total revenues	<u>30,374</u>
EXPENDITURES	
Professional & administrative	
Supervisors	-
Management/accounting/recording**	2,000
Legal	15,000
Engineering	2,000
Audit	-
Arbitrage rebate calculation*	-
Dissemination agent*	-
Trustee*	-
Debt service fund accounting*	-
Telephone	17
Postage	500
Printing & binding	42
Legal advertising	2,500
Annual special district fee	175
Insurance	5,500
Contingencies/bank charges	750
Website hosting & maintenance	1,680
Website ADA compliance	210
Total expenditures	<u>30,374</u>
Excess/(deficiency) of revenues over/(under) expenditures	-
Fund balance - beginning (unaudited)	-
Fund balance - ending (projected)	-
Unassigned	-
Fund balance - ending	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>

*These items will be realized when bonds are issued.

**WHA will charge a reduced management fee of \$2,000 per month until bonds are issued.

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT
DEFINITIONS OF GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES**

EXPENDITURES

Professional & administrative

Supervisors	\$ -
Statutorily set at \$200 for each meeting of the Board of Supervisors not to exceed \$4,800 for each fiscal year.	
Management/accounting/recording**	2,000
Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC (WHA), specializes in managing community development districts by combining the knowledge, skills and experience of a team of professionals to ensure compliance with all of the District's governmental requirements. WHA develops financing programs, administers the issuance of tax exempt bond financings, operates and maintains the assets of the community.	
Legal	15,000
General counsel and legal representation, which includes issues relating to public finance, public bidding, rulemaking, open meetings, public records, real property dedications, conveyances and contracts.	
Engineering	2,000
The District's Engineer will provide construction and consulting services, to assist the District in crafting sustainable solutions to address the long term interests of the community while recognizing the needs of government, the environment and maintenance of the District's facilities.	
Audit	-
Statutorily required for the District to undertake an independent examination of its books, records and accounting procedures.	
Arbitrage rebate calculation*	-
To ensure the District's compliance with all tax regulations, annual computations are necessary to calculate the arbitrage rebate liability.	
Dissemination agent*	-
The District must annually disseminate financial information in order to comply with the requirements of Rule 15c2-12 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Wrathell, Hunt & Associates serves as dissemination agent.	
Trustee*	-
Debt service fund accounting*	-
Telephone	17
Postage	500
Telephone and fax machine.	
Printing & binding	42
Mailing of agenda packages, overnight deliveries, correspondence, etc.	
Legal advertising	2,500
Letterhead, envelopes, copies, agenda packages	
Annual special district fee	175
The District advertises for monthly meetings, special meetings, public hearings, public bids, etc.	
Insurance	5,500
Annual fee paid to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.	
Contingencies/bank charges	750
Bank charges and other miscellaneous expenses incurred during the year and automated AP routing etc.	
Website hosting & maintenance	1,680
Website ADA compliance	210
Total expenditures	<u><u>\$ 30,374</u></u>

*These items will be realized when bonds are issued.

**WHA will charge a reduced management fee of \$2,000 per month until bonds are issued.

Exhibit B: Proposed FY 2024/2025 Budget

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT
PROPOSED BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2025**

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Page Number(s)</u>
General Fund Budget	1
Definitions of General Fund Expenditures	2

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT
GENERAL FUND BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2025**

	Proposed Budget
REVENUES	
Landowner contribution	\$ 86,540
Total revenues	<u>86,540</u>
EXPENDITURES	
Professional & administrative	
Supervisors	-
Management/accounting/recording**	42,000
Legal	25,000
Engineering	2,000
Audit	-
Arbitrage rebate calculation*	-
Dissemination agent*	1,500
Trustee*	-
Telephone	200
Postage	500
Printing & binding	500
Legal advertising	7,500
Annual special district fee	175
Insurance	5,500
Contingencies/bank charges	750
Website hosting & maintenance	705
Website ADA compliance	210
Total expenditures	<u>86,540</u>
Excess/(deficiency) of revenues over/(under) expenditures	-
Fund balance - beginning (unaudited)	-
Fund balance - ending (projected)	-
Unassigned	-
Fund balance - ending	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>

*These items will be realized when bonds are issued.

**WHA will charge a reduced management fee of \$2,000 per month until bonds are issued.

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT
DEFINITIONS OF GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES**

EXPENDITURES

Professional & administrative

Supervisors	\$ -
Statutorily set at \$200 for each meeting of the Board of Supervisors not to exceed \$4,800 for each fiscal year.	
Management/accounting/recording**	42,000
Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC (WHA), specializes in managing community development districts by combining the knowledge, skills and experience of a team of professionals to ensure compliance with all of the District's governmental requirements. WHA develops financing programs, administers the issuance of tax exempt bond financings, operates and maintains the assets of the community.	
Legal	25,000
General counsel and legal representation, which includes issues relating to public finance, public bidding, rulemaking, open meetings, public records, real property dedications, conveyances and contracts.	
Engineering	2,000
The District's Engineer will provide construction and consulting services, to assist the District in crafting sustainable solutions to address the long term interests of the community while recognizing the needs of government, the environment and maintenance of the District's facilities.	
Audit	-
Statutorily required for the District to undertake an independent examination of its books, records and accounting procedures.	
Arbitrage rebate calculation*	-
To ensure the District's compliance with all tax regulations, annual computations are necessary to calculate the arbitrage rebate liability.	
Dissemination agent*	1,500
The District must annually disseminate financial information in order to comply with the requirements of Rule 15c2-12 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Wrathell, Hunt & Associates serves as dissemination agent.	
Trustee*	-
Debt service fund accounting*	-
Telephone	200
Postage	500
Telephone and fax machine.	
Printing & binding	500
Mailing of agenda packages, overnight deliveries, correspondence, etc.	
Legal advertising	7,500
Letterhead, envelopes, copies, agenda packages	
Annual special district fee	175
The District advertises for monthly meetings, special meetings, public hearings, public bids, etc.	
Insurance	5,500
Contingencies/bank charges	750
Bank charges and other miscellaneous expenses incurred during the year and automated AP routing etc.	
Website hosting & maintenance	705
Website ADA compliance	210
Total expenditures	<u><u>\$ 86,540</u></u>

*These items will be realized when bonds are issued.

**WHA will charge a reduced management fee of \$2,000 per month until bonds are issued.

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

9BI

BUDGET FUNDING AGREEMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2024

This Agreement ("**Agreement**") is made and entered into effective as of _____, 2024, by and between:

Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District, a local unit of special-purpose government established pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, and located in the City of North Port, Florida, with a mailing address of 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431 ("**District**"), and

Forestar (USA) Real Estate Group LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, and the owner and/or developer of property located within the boundaries of the District with a mailing address of 4042 Park Oaks Blvd., Suite 200, Tampa, Florida 33610 ("**Developer**," and together with the District, the "**Parties**"). For purposes of this Agreement, the term "**Property**" shall refer to that certain property within the CDD owned by the Developer on the Effective Date of this Agreement.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, the District was established for the purpose of planning, financing, constructing, operating and/or maintaining certain infrastructure, and is authorized to levy such taxes, special assessments, fees, and other charges as may be necessary in furtherance of the District's activities and services; and

WHEREAS, Developer presently owns and/or is developing the Property within the District, which Property will benefit from the timely construction and acquisition of the District's facilities, activities, and services and from the continued operations of the District; and

WHEREAS, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024 ("**FY 2024**"), the Board of Supervisors ("**Board**") of the District adopted its general fund budget ("**Budget**") attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, the Parties recognize the Budget may be amended from time to time in the sole discretion of the District; and

WHEREAS, the District has the option of levying non-ad valorem assessments on all lands within the District benefitting from the activities, operations and services set forth in the Budget, including the Property, or utilizing such other revenue sources as may be available to it; and

WHEREAS, in lieu of levying assessments on the Property, the Developer is willing to provide such funds as are necessary to allow the District to proceed with its operations as described in the Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Developer agrees that the activities, operations and services provide a special and peculiar benefit to the Property equal to or in excess of the costs reflected in the Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Developer agreed to enter into this Agreement in lieu of having the District levy and collect any non-ad valorem assessments as authorized by law against the lands within the District, including the Property, for the activities, operations, and services set forth in the Budget; and

WHEREAS, Developer and District agree such Budget funding obligation by the Developer may be secured and collection enforced pursuant to the methods provided herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, based upon good and valuable consideration and the mutual covenants of the parties, the receipt of which and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

1. **FUNDING.** The Developer agrees to make available to the District the monies (“**Funding Obligation**”) necessary for the operation of the District as called for in the Budget attached hereto as **Exhibit A** within thirty (30) days of written request by the District. **Exhibit A** attached hereto may be amended from time to time pursuant to Florida law, subject to the Developer’s consent to such amendments to incorporate them herein; provided however, that amendments adopted by the Board at a duly noticed meeting shall have the effect of amending this Agreement without further action of the Parties. As a point of clarification, the District shall only request as part of the Funding Obligation that the Developer fund the actual expenses of the District, and the Developer is not required to fund the total general fund Budget in the event that actual expenses are less than the projected total general fund Budget, as may be amended as provided herein. The funds shall be placed in the District’s general checking account. In the event the Developer sells any of the Property during the term of this Agreement, the Developer’s rights and obligations under this Agreement shall remain the same.

2. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.** The District hereby finds, and the Developer acknowledges and agrees, that the activities, operations and services set forth in the Budget provide a special and peculiar benefit to the Property, which benefit is initially allocated on an equal developable acreage basis. These payments are made by the Developer in lieu of taxes, fees, or assessments which might otherwise be levied or imposed by the District. Nothing contained herein shall constitute or be construed as a waiver of the District’s right to levy assessments, including on the Property, in the event of a funding deficit.

3. **COLLECTION METHODS.** The District may enforce the collection of funds due under this Agreement using one or more of the following collection methods:

- a. *[Contractual Lien]*. The District shall have the right to file a continuing lien (“**Lien**”) upon all or a portion of the Property, which Lien shall be effective as of the date and time of the recording of a “Notice of Lien” in the public records of the County.
- b. *[Enforcement Action]* The District shall have the right to file an action against the Developer in the appropriate judicial forum in and for the County.
- c. *[Uniform Method; Direct]* The District may certify amounts due hereunder as a non-ad valorem assessment on all or any part of the Property for collection, either through the Uniform Method of Collection set forth in Chapter 197, Florida Statutes, or under any method of direct bill and collection authorized by Florida law.

The enforcement of the collection of funds in any of the above manners, including which method(s) to utilize, shall be in the sole discretion of the District Manager on behalf of the District, without the need of further Board action authorizing or directing such.

4. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT; AMENDMENTS.** This instrument shall constitute the final and complete expression of the agreement among the Parties relating to the subject matter of this Agreement.

Amendments to and waivers of the provisions contained in this Agreement may be made only by an instrument in writing which is executed by both of the Parties hereto.

5. **AUTHORIZATION.** The execution of this Agreement has been duly authorized by the appropriate body or official of all Parties hereto, each Party has complied with all of the requirements of law, and each Party has full power and authority to comply with the terms and provisions of this instrument.

6. **ASSIGNMENT.** This Agreement may be assigned, in whole or in part, by either party only upon the written consent of the other. Any purported assignment without such consent shall be void.

7. **DEFAULT.** A default by either Party under this Agreement shall entitle the other to all remedies available at law or in equity, which shall include, but not be limited to, the right of damages, injunctive relief and/or specific performance.

8. **ENFORCEMENT.** In the event that any party is required to enforce this Agreement by court proceedings or otherwise, then the parties agree that the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover from the other all costs incurred, including interest accrued on an unsatisfied Funding Obligation, reasonable fees and costs incurred by the District incident to the collection of the Funding Obligation or for enforcement of the Lien, or reasonable attorneys' fees and costs for trial, alternative dispute resolution, or appellate proceedings.

9. **THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES.** This Agreement is solely for the benefit of the formal Parties herein and no right or cause of action shall accrue upon or by reason hereof, to or for the benefit of any third party not a formal party hereto. Nothing in this Agreement expressed or implied is intended or shall be construed to confer upon any person or corporation other than the Parties hereto any right, remedy or claim under or by reason of this Agreement or any provisions or conditions hereof; and all of the provisions, representations, covenants and conditions herein contained shall inure to the sole benefit of and shall be binding upon the Parties hereto and their respective representatives, successors and assigns.

10. **CHOICE OF LAW.** This Agreement and the provisions contained herein shall be construed, interpreted and controlled according to the laws of the State of Florida.

11. **ARM'S LENGTH.** This Agreement has been negotiated fully among the Parties as an arm's length transaction. The Parties participated fully in the preparation of this Agreement with the assistance of their respective counsel. In the case of a dispute concerning the interpretation of any provision of this Agreement, the Parties are each deemed to have drafted, chosen and selected the language, and the doubtful language will not be interpreted or construed against any Party.

[SIGNATURES ON NEXT PAGE]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties execute this Agreement the day and year first written above.

Attest:

**Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship
District**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

By: _____
Its: _____

Forestar (USA) Real Estate Group LLC

Witness

By: _____
Its: _____

EXHIBIT A: FY 2024 Budget

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

9B11

BUDGET FUNDING AGREEMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2025

This Agreement ("**Agreement**") is made and entered into effective as of October 1, 2024, by and between:

Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District, a local unit of special-purpose government established pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, and located in the City of North Port, Florida, with a mailing address of 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431 ("**District**"), and

Forestar (USA) Real Estate Group LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, and the owner and/or developer of property located within the boundaries of the District with a mailing address of 4042 Park Oaks Blvd., Suite 200, Tampa, Florida 33610 ("**Developer**," and together with the District, the "**Parties**"). For purposes of this Agreement, the term "**Property**" shall refer to that certain property within the CDD owned by the Developer on the Effective Date of this Agreement.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, the District was established for the purpose of planning, financing, constructing, operating and/or maintaining certain infrastructure, and is authorized to levy such taxes, special assessments, fees, and other charges as may be necessary in furtherance of the District's activities and services; and

WHEREAS, Developer presently owns and/or is developing the Property within the District, which Property will benefit from the timely construction and acquisition of the District's facilities, activities, and services and from the continued operations of the District; and

WHEREAS, for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024 ending September 30, 2025 ("**FY 2025**"), the Board of Supervisors ("**Board**") of the District adopted its general fund budget ("**Budget**") attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, the Parties recognize the Budget may be amended from time to time in the sole discretion of the District; and

WHEREAS, the District has the option of levying non-ad valorem assessments on all lands within the District benefitting from the activities, operations and services set forth in the Budget, including the Property, or utilizing such other revenue sources as may be available to it; and

WHEREAS, in lieu of levying assessments on the Property, the Developer is willing to provide such funds as are necessary to allow the District to proceed with its operations as described in the Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Developer agrees that the activities, operations and services provide a special and peculiar benefit to the Property equal to or in excess of the costs reflected in the Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Developer agreed to enter into this Agreement in lieu of having the District levy and collect any non-ad valorem assessments as authorized by law against the lands within the District, including the Property, for the activities, operations, and services set forth in the Budget; and

WHEREAS, Developer and District agree such Budget funding obligation by the Developer may be secured and collection enforced pursuant to the methods provided herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, based upon good and valuable consideration and the mutual covenants of the parties, the receipt of which and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

1. **FUNDING.** The Developer agrees to make available to the District the monies (“**Funding Obligation**”) necessary for the operation of the District as called for in the Budget attached hereto as **Exhibit A** within thirty (30) days of written request by the District. **Exhibit A** attached hereto may be amended from time to time pursuant to Florida law, subject to the Developer’s consent to such amendments to incorporate them herein; provided however, that amendments adopted by the Board at a duly noticed meeting shall have the effect of amending this Agreement without further action of the Parties. As a point of clarification, the District shall only request as part of the Funding Obligation that the Developer fund the actual expenses of the District, and the Developer is not required to fund the total general fund Budget in the event that actual expenses are less than the projected total general fund Budget, as may be amended as provided herein. The funds shall be placed in the District’s general checking account. In the event the Developer sells any of the Property during the term of this Agreement, the Developer’s rights and obligations under this Agreement shall remain the same.

2. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.** The District hereby finds, and the Developer acknowledges and agrees, that the activities, operations and services set forth in the Budget provide a special and peculiar benefit to the Property, which benefit is initially allocated on an equal developable acreage basis. These payments are made by the Developer in lieu of taxes, fees, or assessments which might otherwise be levied or imposed by the District. Nothing contained herein shall constitute or be construed as a waiver of the District’s right to levy assessments, including on the Property, in the event of a funding deficit.

3. **COLLECTION METHODS.** The District may enforce the collection of funds due under this Agreement using one or more of the following collection methods:

- a. *[Contractual Lien]*. The District shall have the right to file a continuing lien (“**Lien**”) upon all or a portion of the Property, which Lien shall be effective as of the date and time of the recording of a “Notice of Lien” in the public records of the County.
- b. *[Enforcement Action]* The District shall have the right to file an action against the Developer in the appropriate judicial forum in and for the County.
- c. *[Uniform Method; Direct]* The District may certify amounts due hereunder as a non-ad valorem assessment on all or any part of the Property for collection, either through the Uniform Method of Collection set forth in Chapter 197, Florida Statutes, or under any method of direct bill and collection authorized by Florida law.

The enforcement of the collection of funds in any of the above manners, including which method(s) to utilize, shall be in the sole discretion of the District Manager on behalf of the District, without the need of further Board action authorizing or directing such.

4. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT; AMENDMENTS.** This instrument shall constitute the final and complete expression of the agreement among the Parties relating to the subject matter of this Agreement.

Amendments to and waivers of the provisions contained in this Agreement may be made only by an instrument in writing which is executed by both of the Parties hereto.

5. **AUTHORIZATION.** The execution of this Agreement has been duly authorized by the appropriate body or official of all Parties hereto, each Party has complied with all of the requirements of law, and each Party has full power and authority to comply with the terms and provisions of this instrument.

6. **ASSIGNMENT.** This Agreement may be assigned, in whole or in part, by either party only upon the written consent of the other. Any purported assignment without such consent shall be void.

7. **DEFAULT.** A default by either Party under this Agreement shall entitle the other to all remedies available at law or in equity, which shall include, but not be limited to, the right of damages, injunctive relief and/or specific performance.

8. **ENFORCEMENT.** In the event that any party is required to enforce this Agreement by court proceedings or otherwise, then the parties agree that the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover from the other all costs incurred, including interest accrued on an unsatisfied Funding Obligation, reasonable fees and costs incurred by the District incident to the collection of the Funding Obligation or for enforcement of the Lien, or reasonable attorneys' fees and costs for trial, alternative dispute resolution, or appellate proceedings.

9. **THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES.** This Agreement is solely for the benefit of the formal Parties herein and no right or cause of action shall accrue upon or by reason hereof, to or for the benefit of any third party not a formal party hereto. Nothing in this Agreement expressed or implied is intended or shall be construed to confer upon any person or corporation other than the Parties hereto any right, remedy or claim under or by reason of this Agreement or any provisions or conditions hereof; and all of the provisions, representations, covenants and conditions herein contained shall inure to the sole benefit of and shall be binding upon the Parties hereto and their respective representatives, successors and assigns.

10. **CHOICE OF LAW.** This Agreement and the provisions contained herein shall be construed, interpreted and controlled according to the laws of the State of Florida.

11. **ARM'S LENGTH.** This Agreement has been negotiated fully among the Parties as an arm's length transaction. The Parties participated fully in the preparation of this Agreement with the assistance of their respective counsel. In the case of a dispute concerning the interpretation of any provision of this Agreement, the Parties are each deemed to have drafted, chosen and selected the language, and the doubtful language will not be interpreted or construed against any Party.

[SIGNATURES ON NEXT PAGE]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties execute this Agreement the day and year first written above.

Attest:

**Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship
District**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

By: _____
Its: _____

Forestar (USA) Real Estate Group LLC

Witness

By: _____
Its: _____

EXHIBIT A: FY 2025 Budget

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

9C

RESOLUTION 2024-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT, ADOPTING INVESTMENT GUIDELINES FOR INVESTING PUBLIC FUNDS IN EXCESS OF AMOUNTS NEEDED TO MEET CURRENT OPERATING EXPENSES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 218.415(17), FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (“**District**”) is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, being situated within the City of North Port, Sarasota County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the District’s Board of Supervisors (the “**Board**”) is required to adopt investment guidelines in accordance with Section 218.415, *Florida Statutes*; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to adopt investment guidelines for the investment of public funds in excess of amounts needed to meet current operating expenses, in accordance with Section 218.415, *Florida Statutes*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:

Section 1. ADOPTION OF ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT GUIDELINES. The District hereby adopts the alternative investment guidelines for the investment of public funds in excess of the amounts needed to meet current operating expenses, in accordance with Section 218.415(17), *Florida Statutes*. The District may invest in the following instruments and may divest itself of investments, at prevailing prices or rates:

- a. The Local Government Surplus Trust Fund, or any intergovernmental investment pool authorized pursuant to the Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act, as provided in Section 163.01, *Florida Statutes*.
- b. Securities and Exchange Commission registered money market funds with the highest quality rating from a nationally recognized rating agency.
- c. Interest-bearing time deposits or savings accounts in qualified public depositories, as defined in Section 280.02, *Florida Statutes*.
- d. Direct obligations of the U.S. Treasury.

Securities listed in paragraphs c. and d. shall be invested to provide sufficient liquidity to pay obligations as they come due.

Section 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption, and any provisions of any previous resolutions in conflict with the provisions hereof are hereby superseded.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

9D

RESOLUTION 2024-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT AUTHORIZING THE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FOR PAYMENT OF CERTAIN CONTINUING EXPENSES WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; AUTHORIZING THE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FOR PAYMENT OF CERTAIN NON-CONTINUING EXPENSES WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; PROVIDING FOR A MONETARY THRESHOLD; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District ("**District**") is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, being situated within the City of North Port, Sarasota County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, authorizes the District to adopt resolutions that may be necessary for the conduct of District business; and

WHEREAS, the District's Board of Supervisors ("**Board**") meets as necessary to conduct the business of the District, including authorizing the payment of District operating and maintenance expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Board may establish monthly, quarterly or other meeting dates not on a monthly basis, or may cancel scheduled meetings from time to time; and

WHEREAS, to conduct the business of the District in an efficient manner, recurring, non-recurring and other disbursements for goods and services must be processed and paid in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, the Board determines this Resolution is in the best interest of the District and is necessary for the efficient conduct of District business; the health, safety, and welfare of the residents within the District; and the preservation of District assets or facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:

1. CONTINUING EXPENSES. The Board hereby authorizes the payment of invoices of continuing expenses, which meet the following requirements:

- a) The invoices must be due on or before the next scheduled meeting of the Board.
- b) The invoice must be pursuant to a contract or agreement authorized by the Board.
- c) The total amount paid under such contract or agreement, including the current invoice, must be equal to or less than the amount specified in the contract or agreement.

- d) The invoice amount will not cause payments to exceed the adopted budget of the District.

2. NON-CONTINUING EXPENSES. The Board hereby authorizes the disbursement of funds for payment of invoices of non-continuing expenses which are (i) required to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the residents within the District; or (ii) required to repair, control, or maintain a District facility or asset beyond the normal, usual, or customary maintenance required for such facility or assets, or (iii) are necessary to avoid an unnecessary expense that may be imposed on the District in connection with a District project; or (iv) are for routine services performed on an annual basis and the amount of such services is reflected in the District's annual budget, or (v) are otherwise for an emergency circumstance, pursuant to the following schedule:

- a) Non-Continuing Expenses Not Exceeding \$5,000 - with approval of the District Manager; and
- b) Non-Continuing Expenses Exceeding \$5,000 - with approval of the District Manager and Chairperson of the Board (or Vice Chairperson in the Chairperson's absence).

3. BOARD RATIFICATION. Any payment made pursuant to the Resolution shall be submitted to the Board at the next scheduled meeting for approval and ratification.

4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

9E

RESOLUTION 2024-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT ADOPTING A POLICY FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF DISTRICT TRAVEL EXPENSES; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (the “District”) is a local unit of special purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Law of Florida, and Chapter 189, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 189, Florida Statutes, authorizes the District to adopt resolutions as may be necessary for the conduct of district business; and

WHEREAS, Section 112.061, Florida Statutes, establishes standard travel reimbursement rates, procedures and limitations applicable to all public officers, employees and authorized persons whose travel is authorized and paid for by a public agency; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to adopt a Policy for Reimbursement of District Travel Expenses (the “Travel Reimbursement Policy”) pursuant to the provisions of Section 112.061, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that it is in the best interests of the District to adopt by resolution the Travel Reimbursement Policy for immediate use and application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. The District hereby adopts the Travel Reimbursement Policy, attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

SECTION 2. If any provision of this Resolution or the Travel Reimbursement Policy is held to be illegal or invalid, the other provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall become effective upon its passage and shall remain in effect unless rescinded or repealed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

EXHIBIT A

STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT POLICY FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF DISTRICT TRAVEL EXPENSES

1.0 GENERAL PROVISIONS.

- 1.1** The usual, ordinary, and incidental travel expenditures necessarily incurred by the District board members, employees, consultants, or advisors in the performance of their official duties shall be reimbursed by the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (the “**District**”).
- 1.2** Except as otherwise provided, prior authorization for travel is not required, but reimbursable expenses will be limited to those expenses incurred in the performance of official duties undertaken in connection with such public purposes as the District has been authorized by law to perform.
- 1.3** All claims submitted for reimbursement must be accompanied by a written statement that they are true and correct as to every material matter.

2.0 TRANSPORTATION.

- 2.1** All travel must be by a reasonably direct or usually traveled route. In the event a person travels by an indirect route for his/her own convenience, any additional cost shall be borne by the traveler and reimbursement for expenses shall be based on the usually traveled route.
- 2.2** Commercial travel shall be by the most economical method, tourist or coach class. First class rates will be paid only in the event that a statement is attached to the claim certifying that tourist or coach seating was unavailable.
- 2.3** When available without penalty for cancellation, travelers should take advantage of discount fares.
- 2.4** Transportation by common carrier when traveling on official business and paid for by the traveler shall be substantiated by a receipt.
- 2.5** Rental car expenses shall be substantiated by a copy of the rental agreement.
- 2.6** Whenever travel is by a privately-owned vehicle, the traveler shall be entitled to a mileage allowance based on the standard mileage rate for business travel established by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Should the IRS increase the mileage allowance, the District shall, without further action, be permitted to

reimburse travelers at the increased rate. As of January 1, 2024, the mileage rate is 67 cents per mile.

- 2.7** All mileage shall be from point of origin to point of destination. When travel commences from a location other than the traveler's official headquarters, mileage shall be calculated on the basis of the distance from the headquarters city to the point of destination, unless the actual distance is shorter. Vicinity mileage necessary for conduct of official business is allowable, but must be identified as a separate item on the claim for reimbursement of expenses.
- 2.8** No traveler shall be allowed either mileage or transportation expense when he/she is gratuitously transported by another person, or when he/she is transported by another traveler who is entitled to mileage or transportation expense. However, a traveler on a private aircraft shall be reimbursed the actual amount charged and paid for his/her fare for such transportation up to the cost of a commercial airline ticket for the same flight if one is available, even though the owner or pilot of the aircraft is also entitled to transportation expense for the same flight.

3.0 INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

- 3.1** Reasonable travel-related expenses for meals, lodging, gratuities, taxi fares, tolls, parking fees, and business-related telephone, telegraph, and facsimile charges shall also be reimbursed if substantiated by receipts.
- 3.2** Registration fees and other actual and necessary expenses for conventions, conferences and seminars which will serve a direct public purpose related to District activities will be considered reimbursable if persons attending such meetings receive prior approval. In the event room or meal expenses are included in the registration fee, reimbursement for these expenses will be reduced accordingly.

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

9F

RESOLUTION 2024-24

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT ADOPTING PROMPT PAYMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 218, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (“District”) is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, and Chapter 189, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 218, Florida Statutes, requires timely payment to vendors and contractors providing certain goods and/or services to the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the District (the “Board”) accordingly finds that it is in the best interests of the District to establish by resolution the Prompt Payment Policies and Procedures attached hereto as **Exhibit A** for immediate use and application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. The Prompt Payment Policies and Procedures attached hereto as **Exhibit A** are hereby adopted pursuant to this resolution as necessary for the conduct of District business. The Prompt Payment Policies and Procedures shall remain in full force and effect until such time as the Board may amend them; provided, however, that as the provisions of Chapter 218, Florida Statutes, are amended from time to time, the attached Prompt Payment Policies and Procedures shall automatically be amended to incorporate the new requirements of law without any further action by the Board.

SECTION 2. If any provision of this Resolution is held to be illegal or invalid, the other provisions shall remain in full force and effect. All District resolutions, policies or parts thereof in actual conflict with this Resolution are, to the extent of such conflict, superseded and repealed, except as noted below.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall become effective upon its passage and shall remain in effect unless rescinded or repealed.

[signatures appear on the following page]

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

Attest:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

Exhibit A: Prompt Payment Policies and Procedures

STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

**Prompt Payment Policies and Procedures
In Accordance With the Local Government Prompt Payment Act
Chapter 218, Part VII, Florida Statutes**

September 10, 2024

Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District
Prompt Payment Policies and Procedures

Table of Contents

I.	Purpose	1
II.	Scope	1
III.	Definitions	1
	A. Agent	1
	B. Construction Services	1
	C. Contractor or Provider of Construction Services	1
	D. Date Stamped	1
	E. Improper Invoice	2
	F. Improper Payment Request	2
	G. Non-Construction Goods and Services.....	2
	H. Proper Invoice	2
	I. Proper Payment Request	2
	J. Provider	2
	K. Purchase	2
	L. Vendor	2
IV.	Proper Invoice/Payment Request Requirements	3
	A. General	3
	B. Sales Tax	3
	C. Federal Identification and Social Security Numbers	3
	D. Proper Invoice for Non-Construction Goods and Services	3
	E. Proper Payment Request Requirements for Construction Services	4
V.	Submission of Invoices and Payment Requests	4
VI.	Calculation of Payment Due Date	5
	A. Non-Construction Goods and Services Invoices	5
	B. Payment Requests for Construction Services	6
VII.	Resolution of Disputes	7
	A. Dispute Between the District and a Contractor	7
	B. Dispute Resolution Procedures	7
VIII.	Purchases Involving Federal Funds or Bond Funds	8
IX.	Requirements for Construction Services Contracts – Project Completion; Retainage	8
X.	Late Payment Interest Charges	9
	A. Related to Non-Construction Goods and Services	9
	B. Related to Construction Services	9
	C. Report of Interest	10

I. Purpose

In accordance with the Local Government Prompt Payment Act (Chapter 218, Part VII, Florida Statutes) ("PPA"), the purpose of the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District ("District") Prompt Payment Policies and Procedures ("Policies & Procedures") is to provide a specific policy to ensure timely payment to Vendors and Contractors (both hereinafter defined) providing goods and/or services to the District and ensure the timely receipt by the District of goods and/or services contemplated at the time of contracting. Please note that the PPA, like any statute or law, may be amended from time to time by legislative action. These Policies & Procedures are based on the statutory requirements as of the date identified on the cover page of this document. By this reference, as applicable statutory provisions subsequently change, these Policies & Procedures shall automatically be amended to incorporate the new requirements of law. These Policies & Procedures are adopted by the District to provide guidance in contracting matters. Failure by the District to comply with these Policies & Procedures shall not expand the rights or remedies of any Provider (hereinafter defined) against the District under the PPA. Nothing contained herein shall be interpreted as more restrictive on the District than what is provided for in the PPA.

II. Scope

These Policies & Procedures apply to all operations of the District, including Construction Services and Non-Construction Goods and Services, as applicable.

III. Definitions

A. Agent

The District-contracted architect, District-contracted engineer, District Manager, or other person, acting on behalf of the District, which is required by law or contract to review invoices or payment requests from Providers (hereinafter defined). Such individuals/entities must be identified in accordance with §218.735 (1), Fla. Stat., and further identified in the relevant agreement between the District and the Provider.

B. Construction Services

All labor, services, and materials provided in connection with the construction, alteration, repair, demolition, reconstruction, or other improvement to real property that require a license under parts I and II of Chapter 489, Fla. Stat.

C. Contractor or Provider of Construction Services

The entity or individual that provides Construction Services through direct contract with the District.

D. Date Stamped

Each original and revised invoice or payment request received by the District shall be marked electronically or manually, by use of a date stamp or other method,

which date marking clearly indicates the date such invoice or payment request is first delivered to the District through its Agent. In the event that the Agent receives an invoice or payment request, but fails to timely or physically mark on the document the date received, "Date Stamped" shall mean the date of actual receipt by the Agent.

E. Improper Invoice

An invoice that does not conform to the requirements of a Proper Invoice.

F. Improper Payment Request

A request for payment for Construction Services that does not conform to the requirements of a Proper Payment Request.

G. Non-Construction Goods and Services

All labor, services, goods and materials provided in connection with anything other than construction, alteration, repair, demolition, reconstruction, or other improvements to real property.

H. Proper Invoice

An invoice that conforms to all statutory requirements, all requirements of these Policies and Procedures not expressly waived by the District and any additional requirements included in the agreement for goods and/or services for which the invoice is submitted not expressly waived by the District.

I. Proper Payment Request

A request for payment for Construction Services which conforms to all statutory requirements, all requirements of these Policies & Procedures not expressly waived by the District and any additional requirements included in the Construction Services agreement for which the Payment Request is submitted not expressly waived by the District.

J. Provider

Includes any Vendor, Contractor or Provider of Construction Services, as defined herein.

K. Purchase

The purchase of goods, materials, services, or Construction Services; the purchase or lease of personal property; or the lease of real property by the District.

L. Vendor

Any person or entity that sells goods or services, sells or leases personal property, or leases real property directly to the District, not including Construction Services.

IV. Proper Invoice/Payment Request Requirements

A. General

Prior to Provider receiving payment from the District, Non-Construction Goods and Services and Construction Services, as applicable, shall be received and performed in accordance with contractual or other specifications or requirements to the satisfaction of the District. Provision or delivery of Non-Construction Goods and Services to the District does not constitute acceptance for the purpose of payment. Final acceptance and authorization of payment shall be made only after delivery and inspection by the Agent and the Agent's confirmation that the Non-Construction Goods and Services or Construction Services meet contract specifications and conditions. Should the Non-Construction Goods and Services or Construction Services differ in any respect from the specifications, payment may be withheld until such time as the Provider takes necessary corrective action. Certain limited exceptions which require payment in advance are permitted when authorized by the District Board of Supervisors ("Board") or when provided for in the applicable agreement.

B. Sales Tax

Providers should not include sales tax on any invoice or payment request. The District's current tax-exempt number is _____. A copy of the tax-exempt form will be supplied to Providers upon request.

C. Federal Identification and Social Security Numbers

Providers are paid using either a Federal Identification Number or Social Security Number. To receive payment, Providers should supply the District with the correct number as well as a proper Internal Revenue Service W-9 Form. The District Manager shall treat information provided in accordance with Florida law.

Providers should notify the District Manager when changes in data occur (telephone (561) 571-0010, email adamsc@whhassociates.com, Fax (561) 571-0013).

D. Proper Invoice for Non-Construction Goods and Services

All Non-Construction Goods and Services invoiced must be supplied or performed in accordance with the applicable purchase order (including any bid/proposal provided, if applicable) or agreement and such Non-Construction Goods and Services quantity and quality must be equal to or better than what is required by such terms. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable agreement, invoices should contain all of the following minimum information in order to be considered a Proper Invoice:

1. Name of Vendor
2. Remittance address

3. Invoice Date
4. Invoice number
5. The "Bill To" party must be the District or the Board, or other entity approved in writing by the Board of the District Manager
6. Project name (if applicable)
7. In addition to the information required in Section IV.D.1-6 above, invoices involving the purchase of goods should also contain:
 - a. A complete item description
 - b. Quantity purchased
 - c. Unit price(s)
 - d. Total price (for each item)
 - e. Total amount of invoice (all items)
 - f. The location and date(s) of delivery of the goods to the District
8. In addition to the information required in Section IV.D.1-6 above, invoices involving the purchase of services should also contain:
 - a. Itemized description of services performed
 - b. The location and date of delivery of the services to the District
 - c. Billing method for services performed (i.e., approved hourly rates, percentage of completion, cost plus fixed fee, direct/actual costs, etc.)
 - d. Itemization of other direct, reimbursable costs (including description and amount)
 - e. Copies of invoices for other direct, reimbursable costs (other than incidental costs such as copying) and one (1) of the following:
 - i. Copy of both sides of a cancelled check evidencing payment for costs submitted for reimbursement
 - ii. Paid receipt
 - iii. Waiver/lien release from subcontractor (if applicable)
9. Any applicable discounts
10. Any other information or documentation, which may be required or specified under the terms of the purchase order or agreement

E. Proper Payment Request Requirements for Construction Services

Payment Requests must conform to all requirements of Section IV.A.-D., above, unless otherwise specified in the terms of the applicable agreement or purchase order between the District and the Contractor.

V. Submission of Invoices and Payment Requests

The Provider shall submit all Invoices and Payment Requests for both Construction Services and Non-Construction Goods and Services to the District's Agent as provided in the purchase order or agreement, as applicable, and to the District Manager as follows:

Submit the invoice and/or payment request, with required additional material and in conformance with these Policies and Procedures, by mail, by hand delivery, or

via email (Note: mail is the preferred method for receipt of Non-Construction Goods and Services invoices).

1. Mailing and Drop Off Address

Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District
c/o Wrathell, Hunt & Associates, LLC
2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W
Boca Raton, Florida 33431

2. Email Address

StarFarmsVillageAtNorthPortSD@DistrictAP.com

VI. Calculation of Payment Due Date

A. Non-Construction Goods and Services Invoices

1. Receipt of Proper Invoice

Payment is due from the District forty-five (45) days from the date on which a Proper Invoice is Date Stamped.

2. Receipt of Improper Invoice

If an Improper Invoice is received, a required invoice is not received, or invoicing of a request for payment is not required, the time when payment is due from the District is forty-five (45) days from the latest date of the following:

- a. On which delivery of personal property is fully accepted by the District;
- b. On which services are completed and accepted by the District;
- c. On which the contracted rental period begins (if applicable); or
- d. On which the District and the Vendor agree in a written agreement that provides payment due dates.

3. Rejection of an Improper Invoice

The District may reject an Improper Invoice. Within ten (10) days of receipt of the Improper Invoice by the District, the Vendor must be notified that the invoice is improper and be given an opportunity to correct the deficient or missing information, remedy the faulty work, replace the defective goods, or take other necessary, remedial action.

The District's rejection of an Improper Invoice must:

1. Be provided in writing;
2. Specify any and all known deficiencies; and
3. State actions necessary to correct the Improper Invoice.

If the Vendor submits a corrected invoice, which corrects the deficiencies specified in the District's written rejection, the District must pay the corrected invoice within the later of: (a) ten (10) business days after date the corrected invoice is Date Stamped; or (b) forty-five (45) days after the date the Improper Invoice was Date Stamped.

If the Vendor submits an invoice in response to the District's written rejection which fails to correct the deficiencies specified or continues to be an Improper Invoice, the District must reject that invoice as stated herein.

4. Payment of Undisputed Portion of Invoice

If the District disputes a portion of an invoice, the undisputed portion shall be paid in a timely manner and in accordance with the due dates for payment as specified in these Policies & Procedures.

B. Payment Requests for Construction Services

1. Receipt of Proper Payment Request

The time at which payment is due for Construction Services from the District is as follows:

a. If an Agent must approve the payment request before it is submitted to the District Manager, payment (whether full or partial) is due twenty-five (25) business days after the payment request is Date Stamped. The Contractor may send the District an overdue notice. If the payment request is not rejected within four (4) business days after Date Stamp of the overdue notice, the payment request shall be deemed accepted, except for any portion of the payment request that is fraudulent, misleading or is the subject of dispute.

The agreement between the District and the Contractor shall identify the Agent to which the Contractor shall submit its payment request, or shall be provided by the District through a separate written notice no later than ten (10) days after contract award or notice to proceed, whichever is later. Contractor's submission of a payment request to the Agent shall be Date Stamped, which shall commence the time periods for payment or rejection of a payment request or invoice as provided in this section.

b. If, pursuant to contract, an Agent is not required to approve the payment request submitted to the District, payment is due twenty (20) business days after the payment request is Date Stamped unless such payment request includes fraudulent or misleading information or is the subject of dispute.

2. Receipt and Rejection of Improper Payment Request

a. If an Improper Payment Request is received, the District must reject the Improper Payment Request within twenty (20) business days after the date on which the payment request is Date Stamped.

b. The District's rejection of the Improper Payment Request must:

1. Be provided in writing;
2. Specify any and all known deficiencies; and
3. State actions necessary to correct the Improper Invoice.

c. If a Contractor submits a payment request which corrects the deficiency specified in the District's written rejection, the District must pay or reject the corrected submission no later than ten (10) business days after the date the corrected payment request is Date Stamped.

3. Payment of Undisputed Portion of Payment Request

If the District disputes a portion of a payment request, the undisputed portion shall be paid in a timely manner and in accordance with the due dates for payment as specified in this section.

VII. Resolution of Disputes

If a dispute arises between a Provider and the District concerning payment of an invoice or payment request, the dispute shall be resolved as set forth in § 218.735, Fla. Stat., for Construction Services, and § 218.76, Fla. Stat. for Non-Construction Goods and Services.

A. Dispute between the District and a Contractor

If a dispute between the District and a Contractor cannot be resolved following resubmission of a payment request by the Contractor, the dispute must be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedure prescribed in the construction contract, if any. In the absence of a prescribed procedure in the contract, the dispute must be resolved by the procedures specified below.

B. Dispute Resolution Procedures

1. If an Improper Payment Request or Improper Invoice is submitted, and the Provider refuses or fails to submit a revised payment request or invoice as contemplated by the PPA and these Policies and Procedures, the Provider shall, not later than thirty (30) days after the date on which the last payment request or invoice was Date Stamped, submit a written statement via certified mail to the Agent, copying the District Manager, specifying the basis upon which the Provider contends the last submitted payment request or invoice was proper.

2. Within forty-five (45) days of receipt by the Agent and District Manager of the disputed, last-submitted payment request or invoice, the Agent and/or District Manager shall commence investigation of the dispute and render a final decision on the matter no later than sixty (60) days after the date on which the last-submitted payment request or invoice is Date Stamped.
3. Absent a written agreement to the contrary, if the Provider refuses or fails to provide the written statement required above, the Agent and/or District Manager is not required to contact the Provider in the investigation. In addition, and absent a written agreement to the contrary, if such written statement is not provided, the District may immediately contract with third parties to provide the goods and services subject to the dispute and deduct the costs of such third party purchases from amounts owed to the Provider.
4. The Board shall approve any decision of the District Manager to contract with a third party which would result in: 1) an expenditure above what is budgeted for the Construction Services or Non-Construction Services; or 2) an expenditure which exceeds the original contract amount for the Construction Services or Non-Construction Services by more than ten percent (10%) or Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000).
5. A written explanation of the final decision shall be sent to the Provider, via certified mail, within five (5) business days from the date on which such final decision is made. A copy of the written explanation of the final decision shall be provided to the Chair of the Board simultaneously with the certified mailing to the Provider.
6. If a Provider does not accept in writing the final decision within five (5) days after receipt by the Provider, the District may immediately contract with third parties to provide the goods and services subject to the dispute and deduct the costs of such third party purchases from amounts owed to the Provider. If the costs of the third party purchases exceed the amount the District owes to the Provider, the District may seek to recover such excess from the Provider in a court of law or as otherwise provided in an agreement between the District and the Provider. Nothing contained herein shall limit or affect the District's ability to enforce all of its legal and contractual rights and remedies against the Provider.

VIII. Purchases Involving Federal Funds or Bond Funds

When the District intends to pay for a purchase with federal funds or bond funds, the District shall make such purchases only upon reasonable assurances that federal funds or bond funds sufficient to cover the cost will be received. When payment is contingent

upon the receipt of bond funds, federal funds or federal approval, the public procurement documents and any agreement with a Provider shall clearly state such contingency. (§ 218.77, Fla. Stat.).

IX. Requirements for Construction Services Contracts – Project Completion; Retainage

The District intends to follow the PPA requirements for construction project completion and retainage, including, but not limited to, § 218.735 (7) and (8), Fla. Stat.

X. Late Payment Interest Charges

Failure on the part of the District to make timely payments may result in District responsibility for late payment interest charges. No agreement between the District and a Provider may prohibit the collection of late payment interest charges allowable under the PPA as mandatory interest. (§218.75, Fla. Stat.).

A. Related to Non-Construction Goods and Services

All payments due from the District, and not made within the time specified within this policy, will bear interest, from thirty (30) days after the due date, at the rate of one percent (1%) per month on the unpaid balance. The Vendor must submit a Proper Invoice to the District for any interest accrued in order to receive the interest payment. (§ 218.74 (4), Fla. Stat.).

An overdue period of less than one (1) month is considered as one (1) month in computing interest. Unpaid interest is compounded monthly. The term one (1) month means a period beginning on any day of a month and ending on the same day of the following month.

B. Related to Construction Services

All payments for Construction Services that are not made within the time periods specified within the applicable statute, shall bear interest from thirty (30) days after the due date, at the rate of one percent (1%) per month, or the rate specified by agreement, whichever is greater. The Contractor must submit a Proper Payment Request to the District for any interest accrued in order to receive the interest payment. An overdue period of less than one (1) month is considered as one (1) month in computing interest. (§ 218.735 (8)(i), Fla. Stat.).

Unpaid interest is compounded monthly. The term one (1) month means a period beginning on any day of a month and ending on the same day of the following month.

C. Report of Interest

If the total amount of interest paid during the preceding fiscal year exceeds \$250, the District Manager is required to submit a report to the Board during December of each year, stating the number of interest payments made and the total amount of such payments. (§ 218.78, Fla. Stat.).

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

9G

RESOLUTION 2024-25

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT ADOPTING AN INTERNAL CONTROLS POLICY CONSISTENT WITH SECTION 218.33, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (the “District”) is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, and Chapter 189, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Section 218.33, Florida Statutes, the District is statutorily required to establish and maintain internal controls designed to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse as defined in Section 11.45(1), Florida Statutes; promote and encourage compliance with applicable laws, rules, contracts, grant agreements, and best practices; support economical and efficient operations; ensure reliability of financial records and reports; and safeguard assets; and

WHEREAS, to demonstrate compliance with Section 218.33, Florida Statutes, the District desires to adopt by resolution the Internal Controls Policy attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. The attached Internal Controls Policy attached hereto as **Exhibit A** is hereby adopted pursuant to this Resolution.

SECTION 2. If any provision of this Resolution is held to be illegal or invalid, the other provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall become effective upon its passage and shall remain in effect unless rescinded or repealed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

EXHIBIT "A"

STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT INTERNAL CONTROLS POLICY

1. Purpose.

- 1.1. The purpose of this internal controls policy is to establish and maintain internal controls for the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District.
- 1.2. Consistent with Section 218.33(3), Florida Statutes, the internal controls adopted herein are designed to:
 - 1.2.1. Prevent and detect Fraud, Waste, and Abuse (as hereinafter defined).
 - 1.2.2. Promote and encourage compliance with applicable laws, rules, contracts, grant agreements, and best practices.
 - 1.2.3. Support economical and efficient operations.
 - 1.2.4. Ensure reliability of financial records and reports.
 - 1.2.5. Safeguard Assets (as hereinafter defined).

2. Definitions.

- 2.1. "Abuse" means behavior that is deficient or improper when compared with behavior that a prudent person would consider a reasonable and necessary operational practice given the facts and circumstances. The term includes the misuse of authority or position for personal gain.
- 2.2. "Assets" means District assets such as cash or other financial resources, supplies, inventories, equipment and other fixed assets, real property, intellectual property, or data.
- 2.3. "Auditor" means the independent auditor (and its employees) retained by the District to perform the annual audit required by state law.
- 2.4. "Board" means the Board of Supervisors for the District.
- 2.5. "District Management" means (i) the independent contractor (and its employees) retained by the District to provide professional district management services to the District and (ii) any other independent contractor (and its employees) separately

retained by the District to provide amenity management services, provided said services include a responsibility to safeguard and protect Assets.

- 2.6. “Fraud” means obtaining something of value through willful misrepresentation, including, but not limited to, intentional misstatements or intentional omissions of amounts or disclosures in financial statements to deceive users of financial statements, theft of an entity’s assets, bribery, or the use of one’s position for personal enrichment through the deliberate misuse or misapplication of an organization’s resources.
- 2.7. “Internal Controls” means systems and procedures designed to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse; promote and encourage compliance with applicable laws, rules, contracts, grant agreements, and best practices; support economical and efficient operations; ensure reliability of financial records and reports; and safeguard assets.
- 2.8. “Risk” means anything that could negatively impact the District’s ability to meet its goals and objectives. The term includes strategic, financial, regulatory, reputational, and operational risks.
- 2.9. “Waste” means the act of using or expending resources unreasonably, carelessly, extravagantly, or for no useful purpose.

3. Control Environment.

3.1. Ethical and Honest Behavior.

- 3.1.1. District Management is responsible for maintaining a work environment that promotes ethical and honest behavior on the part of all employees, contractors, vendors and others.
- 3.1.2. Managers at all levels must behave ethically and communicate to employees and others that they are expected to behave ethically.
- 3.1.3. Managers must demonstrate through words and actions that unethical behavior will not be tolerated.

4. Risk Assessment.

- 4.1. Risk Assessment. District Management is responsible for assessing Risk to the District. District Management’s Risk assessments shall include, but not be limited to:
 - 4.1.1. Identifying potential hazards.

4.1.2. Evaluating the likelihood and extent of harm.

4.1.3. Identifying cost-justified precautions and implementing those precautions.

5. Control Activities.

5.1. Minimum Internal Controls. The District hereby establishes the following minimum Internal Controls to prevent and detect Fraud, Waste, and Abuse:

5.1.1. Preventive controls designed to forestall errors or irregularities and thereby avoid the cost of corrections. Preventive control activities shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

5.1.1.1. Identifying and segregating incompatible duties and/or implementing mitigating controls.

5.1.1.2. Performing accounting functions in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) standards.

5.1.1.3. Requiring proper authorizations to access and/or modify accounting software.

5.1.1.4. Implementing computerized accounting techniques (e.g. to help identify coding errors, avoid duplicate invoices, etc.).

5.1.1.5. Maintaining a schedule of the District's material fixed Assets.

5.1.1.6. Maintaining physical control over the District's material and vulnerable Assets (e.g. lock and key, computer passwords, network firewalls, etc.).

5.1.1.7. Retaining and restricting access to sensitive documents.

5.1.1.8. Performing regular electronic data backups.

5.1.2. Detective controls designed to measure the effectiveness of preventive controls and to detect errors or irregularities when they occur. Detective control activities shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 5.1.2.1. Preparing financial reports in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) standards.
- 5.1.2.2. Reviewing financial statements and investigating any material variances between budgeted expenses and actual expenses.
- 5.1.2.3. Establishing and implementing periodic reconciliations of bank, trust, and petty cash accounts.
- 5.1.2.4. Establishing an internal protocol for reporting and investigating known or suspected acts of Fraud, Waste, or Abuse.
- 5.1.2.5. Engaging in periodic physical inventory counts and comparisons with inventory records.
- 5.1.2.6. Monitoring all ACH (electronic) transactions and the sequencing of checks.

5.2. Implementation. District Management shall implement the minimum Internal Controls described herein. District Management may also implement additional Internal Controls that it deems advisable or appropriate for the District. The specific ways District Management implements these minimum Internal Controls shall be consistent with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and otherwise conform to Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) standards and norms.

6. Information and Communication.

- 6.1. Information and Communication. District Management shall communicate to its employees (needing to know) information relevant to the Internal Controls, including but not limited to any changes to the Internal Controls and/or changes to laws, rules, contracts, grant agreements, and best practices.
- 6.2. Training. District Management shall regularly train its employees (needing the training) in connection with the Internal Controls described herein and promote and encourage compliance with applicable laws, rules, contracts, grant agreements, and best practices.

7. Monitoring Activities.

- 7.1. Internal Reviews. District Management shall internally review the District's Internal Controls at least once per year. In connection with this internal review, District Management shall:
- 7.1.1.1. Review its operational processes.
 - 7.1.1.2. Consider the potential risk of Fraud, Waste, or Abuse inherent in each process.
 - 7.1.1.3. Identify the controls included in the process, or controls that could be included, that would result in a reduction in the inherent risk.
 - 7.1.1.4. Assess whether there are Internal Controls that need to be improved or added to the process under consideration.
 - 7.1.1.5. Implement new controls or improve existing controls that are determined to be the most efficient and effective for decreasing the risk of Fraud, Waste or Abuse.
 - 7.1.1.6. Train its employees on implemented new controls or improvements to existing controls.
- 7.2. External Audits and Other Reviews. Audits and other reviews may be performed on various components of the District's Internal Controls by the Auditor consistent with Government Auditing Standards (GAS). Audits may identify material deficiencies in the Internal Controls and make recommendations to improve them. District Management shall communicate and cooperate with the Board and the Auditor regarding the potential implementation of Auditor recommendations.

Specific Authority: Chapter 2024-292(6)(6)(e), Laws of Florida, § 218.33(3), Florida Statutes
Effective date: September 10, 2024

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

9H

Section 448.095, *Florida Statutes* / E-Verify Requirements

As you may be aware, the Florida Legislature recently enacted Section 448.095, *Florida Statutes*, which, generally speaking, requires that all employers verify employment eligibility using the United States Department of Homeland Security's "E-Verify" system. Specifically, Section 448.095(2)(a) provides:

"Beginning January 1, 2021, every public employer, contractor, and subcontractor shall register with and use the E-Verify system to verify the work authorization status of all newly hired employees. A public employer, contractor, or subcontractor may not enter into a contract unless each party to the contract registers with and uses the E-Verify system."

Section 448.095(1), F.S., defines "public employer" to be any "regional, county, local, or municipal government . . . that employs persons who perform labor or services for that employer in exchange for salary, wages, or other remuneration or that enters or attempts to enter into a contract with a contractor." Because all CDDs and stewardship districts (together, "Special Districts") enter into contracts with contractors (and many Special Districts have employees), all Special Districts are subject to the new E-Verify requirements.

As a District Manager, there are two steps that need to be taken:

1. Enroll your Special Districts on the E-Verify system, at: <https://www.e-verify.gov/>. An E-Verify enrollment checklist is available at <https://www.e-verify.gov/employers/enrolling-in-e-verify/enrollment-checklist>. In order to enroll, all Special Districts must enter into a memorandum of understanding ("MOU") which must be executed by the chairperson of each board. Under the MOU, the responsibilities of the Special Districts include provision of contact information, display of notices to prospective employees, completion of an E-Verify tutorial, familiarization with the E-Verify User Manual, and other obligations. Samples of the MOU and E-Verify User Manual are attached here.
2. On a going forward basis, include the following contract provision in Special District contracts:

E-VERIFY REQUIREMENTS

The Contractor shall comply with and perform all applicable provisions of Section 448.095, *Florida Statutes*. Accordingly, beginning January 1, 2021, to the extent required by Florida Statute, Contractor shall register with and use the United States Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system to verify the work authorization status of all newly hired employees. The District may terminate this Agreement immediately for cause if there is a good faith belief that the Contractor has knowingly violated Section 448.091, Florida Statutes.

If the Contractor anticipates entering into agreements with a subcontractor for the Work, Contractor will not enter into the subcontractor agreement without first receiving an affidavit from the subcontractor regarding compliance with Section 448.095, *Florida Statutes*, and stating that the subcontractor does not employ, contract with, or subcontract with an unauthorized alien. Contractor shall maintain a copy of such affidavit for the duration of the agreement and provide a copy to the District upon request.

In the event that the District has a good faith belief that a subcontractor has knowingly violated Section 448.095, *Florida Statutes*, but the Contractor has otherwise complied with its obligations hereunder, the District shall promptly notify the Contractor. The Contractor agrees to immediately terminate the agreement with the subcontractor upon notice from the District. Further, absent such notification from the District, the Contractor or any subcontractor who has a good faith belief that a person or entity with which it is contracting has knowingly violated s. 448.09(1), *Florida Statutes*, shall promptly terminate its agreement with such person or entity.

By entering into this Agreement, the Contractor represents that no public employer has terminated a contract with the Contractor under Section 448.095(2)(c), *Florida Statutes*, within the year immediately preceding the date of this Agreement.



Company ID Number: _____

THE E-VERIFY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR EMPLOYERS

ARTICLE I PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

The parties to this agreement are the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the _____ (Employer). The purpose of this agreement is to set forth terms and conditions which the Employer will follow while participating in E-Verify.

E-Verify is a program that electronically confirms an employee's eligibility to work in the United States after completion of Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification (Form I-9). This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) explains certain features of the E-Verify program and describes specific responsibilities of the Employer, the Social Security Administration (SSA), and DHS.

Authority for the E-Verify program is found in Title IV, Subtitle A, of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA), Pub. L. 104-208, 110 Stat. 3009, as amended (8 U.S.C. § 1324a note). The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 22.18, "Employment Eligibility Verification" and Executive Order 12989, as amended, provide authority for Federal contractors and subcontractors (Federal contractor) to use E-Verify to verify the employment eligibility of certain employees working on Federal contracts.

ARTICLE II RESPONSIBILITIES

A. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EMPLOYER

1. The Employer agrees to display the following notices supplied by DHS in a prominent place that is clearly visible to prospective employees and all employees who are to be verified through the system:
 - a. Notice of E-Verify Participation
 - b. Notice of Right to Work
2. The Employer agrees to provide to the SSA and DHS the names, titles, addresses, and telephone numbers of the Employer representatives to be contacted about E-Verify. The Employer also agrees to keep such information current by providing updated information to SSA and DHS whenever the representatives' contact information changes.
3. The Employer agrees to grant E-Verify access only to current employees who need E-Verify access. Employers must promptly terminate an employee's E-Verify access if the

employee is separated from the company or no longer needs access to E-Verify.

4. The Employer agrees to become familiar with and comply with the most recent version of the E-Verify User Manual.

5. The Employer agrees that any Employer Representative who will create E-Verify cases will complete the E-Verify Tutorial before that individual creates any cases.

a. The Employer agrees that all Employer representatives will take the refresher tutorials when prompted by E-Verify in order to continue using E-Verify. Failure to complete a refresher tutorial will prevent the Employer Representative from continued use of E-Verify.

6. The Employer agrees to comply with current Form I-9 procedures, with two exceptions:

a. If an employee presents a "List B" identity document, the Employer agrees to only accept "List B" documents that contain a photo. (List B documents identified in 8 C.F.R. § 274a.2(b)(1)(B)) can be presented during the Form I-9 process to establish identity.) If an employee objects to the photo requirement for religious reasons, the Employer should contact E-Verify at 888-464-4218.

b. If an employee presents a DHS Form I-551 (Permanent Resident Card), Form I-766 (Employment Authorization Document), or U.S. Passport or Passport Card to complete Form I-9, the Employer agrees to make a photocopy of the document and to retain the photocopy with the employee's Form I-9. The Employer will use the photocopy to verify the photo and to assist DHS with its review of photo mismatches that employees contest. DHS may in the future designate other documents that activate the photo screening tool.

Note: Subject only to the exceptions noted previously in this paragraph, employees still retain the right to present any List A, or List B and List C, document(s) to complete the Form I-9.

7. The Employer agrees to record the case verification number on the employee's Form I-9 or to print the screen containing the case verification number and attach it to the employee's Form I-9.

8. The Employer agrees that, although it participates in E-Verify, the Employer has a responsibility to complete, retain, and make available for inspection Forms I-9 that relate to its employees, or from other requirements of applicable regulations or laws, including the obligation to comply with the antidiscrimination requirements of section 274B of the INA with respect to Form I-9 procedures.

a. The following modified requirements are the only exceptions to an Employer's obligation to not employ unauthorized workers and comply with the anti-discrimination provision of the INA: (1) List B identity documents must have photos, as described in paragraph 6 above; (2) When an Employer confirms the identity and employment eligibility of newly hired employee using E-Verify procedures, the Employer establishes a rebuttable presumption that it has not violated section 274A(a)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) with respect to the hiring of that employee; (3) If the Employer receives a final nonconfirmation for an employee, but continues to employ that person, the Employer must notify DHS and the Employer is subject to a civil money penalty between \$550 and \$1,100 for each failure to notify DHS of continued employment

following a final nonconfirmation; (4) If the Employer continues to employ an employee after receiving a final nonconfirmation, then the Employer is subject to a rebuttable presumption that it has knowingly employed an unauthorized alien in violation of section 274A(a)(1)(A); and (5) no E-Verify participant is civilly or criminally liable under any law for any action taken in good faith based on information provided through the E-Verify.

b. DHS reserves the right to conduct Form I-9 compliance inspections, as well as any other enforcement or compliance activity authorized by law, including site visits, to ensure proper use of E-Verify.

9. The Employer is strictly prohibited from creating an E-Verify case before the employee has been hired, meaning that a firm offer of employment was extended and accepted and Form I-9 was completed. The Employer agrees to create an E-Verify case for new employees within three Employer business days after each employee has been hired (after both Sections 1 and 2 of Form I-9 have been completed), and to complete as many steps of the E-Verify process as are necessary according to the E-Verify User Manual. If E-Verify is temporarily unavailable, the three-day time period will be extended until it is again operational in order to accommodate the Employer's attempting, in good faith, to make inquiries during the period of unavailability.

10. The Employer agrees not to use E-Verify for pre-employment screening of job applicants, in support of any unlawful employment practice, or for any other use that this MOU or the E-Verify User Manual does not authorize.

11. The Employer must use E-Verify for all new employees. The Employer will not verify selectively and will not verify employees hired before the effective date of this MOU. Employers who are Federal contractors may qualify for exceptions to this requirement as described in Article II.B of this MOU.

12. The Employer agrees to follow appropriate procedures (see Article III below) regarding tentative nonconfirmations. The Employer must promptly notify employees in private of the finding and provide them with the notice and letter containing information specific to the employee's E-Verify case. The Employer agrees to provide both the English and the translated notice and letter for employees with limited English proficiency to employees. The Employer agrees to provide written referral instructions to employees and instruct affected employees to bring the English copy of the letter to the SSA. The Employer must allow employees to contest the finding, and not take adverse action against employees if they choose to contest the finding, while their case is still pending. Further, when employees contest a tentative nonconfirmation based upon a photo mismatch, the Employer must take additional steps (see Article III.B. below) to contact DHS with information necessary to resolve the challenge.

13. The Employer agrees not to take any adverse action against an employee based upon the employee's perceived employment eligibility status while SSA or DHS is processing the verification request unless the Employer obtains knowledge (as defined in 8 C.F.R. § 274a.1(l)) that the employee is not work authorized. The Employer understands that an initial inability of the SSA or DHS automated verification system to verify work authorization, a tentative nonconfirmation, a case in continuance (indicating the need for additional time for the government to resolve a case), or the finding of a photo mismatch, does not establish, and should not be interpreted as, evidence that the employee is not work authorized. In any of such cases, the employee must be provided a full and fair opportunity to contest the finding, and if he or she does so, the employee

may not be terminated or suffer any adverse employment consequences based upon the employee's perceived employment eligibility status (including denying, reducing, or extending work hours, delaying or preventing training, requiring an employee to work in poorer conditions, withholding pay, refusing to assign the employee to a Federal contract or other assignment, or otherwise assuming that he or she is unauthorized to work) until and unless secondary verification by SSA or DHS has been completed and a final nonconfirmation has been issued. If the employee does not choose to contest a tentative nonconfirmation or a photo mismatch or if a secondary verification is completed and a final nonconfirmation is issued, then the Employer can find the employee is not work authorized and terminate the employee's employment. Employers or employees with questions about a final nonconfirmation may call E-Verify at 1-888-464-4218 (customer service) or 1-888-897-7781 (worker hotline).

14. The Employer agrees to comply with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and section 274B of the INA as applicable by not discriminating unlawfully against any individual in hiring, firing, employment eligibility verification, or recruitment or referral practices because of his or her national origin or citizenship status, or by committing discriminatory documentary practices. The Employer understands that such illegal practices can include selective verification or use of E-Verify except as provided in part D below, or discharging or refusing to hire employees because they appear or sound "foreign" or have received tentative nonconfirmations. The Employer further understands that any violation of the immigration-related unfair employment practices provisions in section 274B of the INA could subject the Employer to civil penalties, back pay awards, and other sanctions, and violations of Title VII could subject the Employer to back pay awards, compensatory and punitive damages. Violations of either section 274B of the INA or Title VII may also lead to the termination of its participation in E-Verify. If the Employer has any questions relating to the anti-discrimination provision, it should contact the Immigrant and Employee Rights Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice at 1-800-255-8155 or 1-800-237-2515 (TTY) or go to <https://www.justice.gov/ier>.

15. The Employer agrees that it will use the information it receives from E-Verify only to confirm the employment eligibility of employees as authorized by this MOU. The Employer agrees that it will safeguard this information, and means of access to it (such as PINS and passwords), to ensure that it is not used for any other purpose and as necessary to protect its confidentiality, including ensuring that it is not disseminated to any person other than employees of the Employer who are authorized to perform the Employer's responsibilities under this MOU, except for such dissemination as may be authorized in advance by SSA or DHS for legitimate purposes.

16. The Employer agrees to notify DHS immediately in the event of a breach of personal information. Breaches are defined as loss of control or unauthorized access to E-Verify personal data. All suspected or confirmed breaches should be reported by calling 1-888-464-4218 or via email at E-Verify@dhs.gov. Please use "Privacy Incident – Password" in the subject line of your email when sending a breach report to E-Verify.

17. The Employer acknowledges that the information it receives from SSA is governed by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. § 552a(i)(1) and (3)) and the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1306(a)). Any person who obtains this information under false pretenses or uses it for any purpose other than as provided for in this MOU may be subject to criminal penalties.

18. The Employer agrees to cooperate with DHS and SSA in their compliance monitoring and evaluation of E-Verify, which includes permitting DHS, SSA, their contractors and

other agents, upon reasonable notice, to review Forms I-9 and other employment records and to interview it and its employees regarding the Employer's use of E-Verify, and to respond in a prompt and accurate manner to DHS requests for information relating to their participation in E-Verify.

19. The Employer shall not make any false or unauthorized claims or references about its participation in E-Verify on its website, in advertising materials, or other media. The Employer shall not describe its services as federally-approved, federally-certified, or federally-recognized, or use language with a similar intent on its website or other materials provided to the public. Entering into this MOU does not mean that E-Verify endorses or authorizes your E-Verify services and any claim to that effect is false.

20. The Employer shall not state in its website or other public documents that any language used therein has been provided or approved by DHS, USCIS or the Verification Division, without first obtaining the prior written consent of DHS.

21. The Employer agrees that E-Verify trademarks and logos may be used only under license by DHS/USCIS (see [M-795 \(Web\)](#)) and, other than pursuant to the specific terms of such license, may not be used in any manner that might imply that the Employer's services, products, websites, or publications are sponsored by, endorsed by, licensed by, or affiliated with DHS, USCIS, or E-Verify.

22. The Employer understands that if it uses E-Verify procedures for any purpose other than as authorized by this MOU, the Employer may be subject to appropriate legal action and termination of its participation in E-Verify according to this MOU.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEDERAL CONTRACTORS

1. If the Employer is a Federal contractor with the FAR E-Verify clause subject to the employment verification terms in Subpart 22.18 of the FAR, it will become familiar with and comply with the most current version of the E-Verify User Manual for Federal Contractors as well as the E-Verify Supplemental Guide for Federal Contractors.

2. In addition to the responsibilities of every employer outlined in this MOU, the Employer understands that if it is a Federal contractor subject to the employment verification terms in Subpart 22.18 of the FAR it must verify the employment eligibility of any "employee assigned to the contract" (as defined in FAR 22.1801). Once an employee has been verified through E-Verify by the Employer, the Employer may not create a second case for the employee through E-Verify.

a. An Employer that is not enrolled in E-Verify as a Federal contractor at the time of a contract award must enroll as a Federal contractor in the E-Verify program within 30 calendar days of contract award and, within 90 days of enrollment, begin to verify employment eligibility of new hires using E-Verify. The Employer must verify those employees who are working in the United States, whether or not they are assigned to the contract. Once the Employer begins verifying new hires, such verification of new hires must be initiated within three business days after the hire date. Once enrolled in E-Verify as a Federal contractor, the Employer must begin verification of employees assigned to the contract within 90 calendar days after the date of enrollment or within 30 days of an employee's assignment to the contract, whichever date is later.

b. Employers enrolled in E-Verify as a Federal contractor for 90 days or more at the time of a contract award must use E-Verify to begin verification of employment

eligibility for new hires of the Employer who are working in the United States, whether or not assigned to the contract, within three business days after the date of hire. If the Employer is enrolled in E-Verify as a Federal contractor for 90 calendar days or less at the time of contract award, the Employer must, within 90 days of enrollment, begin to use E-Verify to initiate verification of new hires of the contractor who are working in the United States, whether or not assigned to the contract. Such verification of new hires must be initiated within three business days after the date of hire. An Employer enrolled as a Federal contractor in E-Verify must begin verification of each employee assigned to the contract within 90 calendar days after date of contract award or within 30 days after assignment to the contract, whichever is later.

c. Federal contractors that are institutions of higher education (as defined at 20 U.S.C. 1001(a)), state or local governments, governments of Federally recognized Indian tribes, or sureties performing under a takeover agreement entered into with a Federal agency under a performance bond may choose to only verify new and existing employees assigned to the Federal contract. Such Federal contractors may, however, elect to verify all new hires, and/or all existing employees hired after November 6, 1986. Employers in this category must begin verification of employees assigned to the contract within 90 calendar days after the date of enrollment or within 30 days of an employee's assignment to the contract, whichever date is later.

d. Upon enrollment, Employers who are Federal contractors may elect to verify employment eligibility of all existing employees working in the United States who were hired after November 6, 1986, instead of verifying only those employees assigned to a covered Federal contract. After enrollment, Employers must elect to verify existing staff following DHS procedures and begin E-Verify verification of all existing employees within 180 days after the election.

e. The Employer may use a previously completed Form I-9 as the basis for creating an E-Verify case for an employee assigned to a contract as long as:

- i. That Form I-9 is complete (including the SSN) and complies with Article II.A.6,
- ii. The employee's work authorization has not expired, and
- iii. The Employer has reviewed the Form I-9 information either in person or in communications with the employee to ensure that the employee's Section 1, Form I-9 attestation has not changed (including, but not limited to, a lawful permanent resident alien having become a naturalized U.S. citizen).

f. The Employer shall complete a new Form I-9 consistent with Article II.A.6 or update the previous Form I-9 to provide the necessary information if:

- i. The Employer cannot determine that Form I-9 complies with Article II.A.6,
- ii. The employee's basis for work authorization as attested in Section 1 has expired or changed, or
- iii. The Form I-9 contains no SSN or is otherwise incomplete.

Note: If Section 1 of Form I-9 is otherwise valid and up-to-date and the form otherwise complies with Article II.C.5, but reflects documentation (such as a U.S. passport or Form I-551) that expired after completing Form I-9, the Employer shall

not require the production of additional documentation, or use the photo screening tool described in Article II.A.5, subject to any additional or superseding instructions that may be provided on this subject in the E-Verify User Manual.

g. The Employer agrees not to require a second verification using E-Verify of any assigned employee who has previously been verified as a newly hired employee under this MOU or to authorize verification of any existing employee by any Employer that is not a Federal contractor based on this Article.

3. The Employer understands that if it is a Federal contractor, its compliance with this MOU is a performance requirement under the terms of the Federal contract or subcontract, and the Employer consents to the release of information relating to compliance with its verification responsibilities under this MOU to contracting officers or other officials authorized to review the Employer's compliance with Federal contracting requirements.

C. RESPONSIBILITIES OF SSA

1. SSA agrees to allow DHS to compare data provided by the Employer against SSA's database. SSA sends DHS confirmation that the data sent either matches or does not match the information in SSA's database.

2. SSA agrees to safeguard the information the Employer provides through E-Verify procedures. SSA also agrees to limit access to such information, as is appropriate by law, to individuals responsible for the verification of Social Security numbers or responsible for evaluation of E-Verify or such other persons or entities who may be authorized by SSA as governed by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. § 552a), the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1306(a)), and SSA regulations (20 CFR Part 401).

3. SSA agrees to provide case results from its database within three Federal Government work days of the initial inquiry. E-Verify provides the information to the Employer.

4. SSA agrees to update SSA records as necessary if the employee who contests the SSA tentative nonconfirmation visits an SSA field office and provides the required evidence. If the employee visits an SSA field office within the eight Federal Government work days from the date of referral to SSA, SSA agrees to update SSA records, if appropriate, within the eight-day period unless SSA determines that more than eight days may be necessary. In such cases, SSA will provide additional instructions to the employee. If the employee does not visit SSA in the time allowed, E-Verify may provide a final nonconfirmation to the employer.

Note: If an Employer experiences technical problems, or has a policy question, the employer should contact E-Verify at 1-888-464-4218.

D. RESPONSIBILITIES OF DHS

1. DHS agrees to provide the Employer with selected data from DHS databases to enable the Employer to conduct, to the extent authorized by this MOU:

- a. Automated verification checks on alien employees by electronic means, and
- b. Photo verification checks (when available) on employees.

2. DHS agrees to assist the Employer with operational problems associated with the Employer's participation in E-Verify. DHS agrees to provide the Employer names, titles, addresses, and telephone numbers of DHS representatives to be contacted during the E-Verify process.
3. DHS agrees to provide to the Employer with access to E-Verify training materials as well as an E-Verify User Manual that contain instructions on E-Verify policies, procedures, and requirements for both SSA and DHS, including restrictions on the use of E-Verify.
4. DHS agrees to train Employers on all important changes made to E-Verify through the use of mandatory refresher tutorials and updates to the E-Verify User Manual. Even without changes to E-Verify, DHS reserves the right to require employers to take mandatory refresher tutorials.
5. DHS agrees to provide to the Employer a notice, which indicates the Employer's participation in E-Verify. DHS also agrees to provide to the Employer anti-discrimination notices issued by the Immigrant and Employee Rights Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice.
6. DHS agrees to issue each of the Employer's E-Verify users a unique user identification number and password that permits them to log in to E-Verify.
7. DHS agrees to safeguard the information the Employer provides, and to limit access to such information to individuals responsible for the verification process, for evaluation of E-Verify, or to such other persons or entities as may be authorized by applicable law. Information will be used only to verify the accuracy of Social Security numbers and employment eligibility, to enforce the INA and Federal criminal laws, and to administer Federal contracting requirements.
8. DHS agrees to provide a means of automated verification that provides (in conjunction with SSA verification procedures) confirmation or tentative nonconfirmation of employees' employment eligibility within three Federal Government work days of the initial inquiry.
9. DHS agrees to provide a means of secondary verification (including updating DHS records) for employees who contest DHS tentative nonconfirmations and photo mismatch tentative nonconfirmations. This provides final confirmation or nonconfirmation of the employees' employment eligibility within 10 Federal Government work days of the date of referral to DHS, unless DHS determines that more than 10 days may be necessary. In such cases, DHS will provide additional verification instructions.

ARTICLE III

REFERRAL OF INDIVIDUALS TO SSA AND DHS

A. REFERRAL TO SSA

1. If the Employer receives a tentative nonconfirmation issued by SSA, the Employer must print the notice as directed by E-Verify. The Employer must promptly notify employees in private of the finding and provide them with the notice and letter containing information specific to the employee's E-Verify case. The Employer also agrees to provide both the English and the translated notice and letter for employees with limited English proficiency to employees. The Employer agrees to provide written referral instructions to employees and instruct affected employees to bring the English copy of

the letter to the SSA. The Employer must allow employees to contest the finding, and not take adverse action against employees if they choose to contest the finding, while their case is still pending.

2. The Employer agrees to obtain the employee's response about whether he or she will contest the tentative nonconfirmation as soon as possible after the Employer receives the tentative nonconfirmation. Only the employee may determine whether he or she will contest the tentative nonconfirmation.

3. After a tentative nonconfirmation, the Employer will refer employees to SSA field offices only as directed by E-Verify. The Employer must record the case verification number, review the employee information submitted to E-Verify to identify any errors, and find out whether the employee contests the tentative nonconfirmation. The Employer will transmit the Social Security number, or any other corrected employee information that SSA requests, to SSA for verification again if this review indicates a need to do so.

4. The Employer will instruct the employee to visit an SSA office within eight Federal Government work days. SSA will electronically transmit the result of the referral to the Employer within 10 Federal Government work days of the referral unless it determines that more than 10 days is necessary.

5. While waiting for case results, the Employer agrees to check the E-Verify system regularly for case updates.

6. The Employer agrees not to ask the employee to obtain a printout from the Social Security Administration number database (the Numident) or other written verification of the SSN from the SSA.

B. REFERRAL TO DHS

1. If the Employer receives a tentative nonconfirmation issued by DHS, the Employer must promptly notify employees in private of the finding and provide them with the notice and letter containing information specific to the employee's E-Verify case. The Employer also agrees to provide both the English and the translated notice and letter for employees with limited English proficiency to employees. The Employer must allow employees to contest the finding, and not take adverse action against employees if they choose to contest the finding, while their case is still pending.

2. The Employer agrees to obtain the employee's response about whether he or she will contest the tentative nonconfirmation as soon as possible after the Employer receives the tentative nonconfirmation. Only the employee may determine whether he or she will contest the tentative nonconfirmation.

3. The Employer agrees to refer individuals to DHS only when the employee chooses to contest a tentative nonconfirmation.

4. If the employee contests a tentative nonconfirmation issued by DHS, the Employer will instruct the employee to contact DHS through its toll-free hotline (as found on the referral letter) within eight Federal Government work days.

5. If the Employer finds a photo mismatch, the Employer must provide the photo mismatch tentative nonconfirmation notice and follow the instructions outlined in paragraph 1 of this section for tentative nonconfirmations, generally.

6. The Employer agrees that if an employee contests a tentative nonconfirmation based upon a photo mismatch, the Employer will send a copy of the employee's Form I-551, Form I-766, U.S. Passport, or passport card to DHS for review by:

- a. Scanning and uploading the document, or
- b. Sending a photocopy of the document by express mail (furnished and paid for by the employer).

7. The Employer understands that if it cannot determine whether there is a photo match/mismatch, the Employer must forward the employee's documentation to DHS as described in the preceding paragraph. The Employer agrees to resolve the case as specified by the DHS representative who will determine the photo match or mismatch.

8. DHS will electronically transmit the result of the referral to the Employer within 10 Federal Government work days of the referral unless it determines that more than 10 days is necessary.

9. While waiting for case results, the Employer agrees to check the E-Verify system regularly for case updates.

ARTICLE IV SERVICE PROVISIONS

A. NO SERVICE FEES

1. SSA and DHS will not charge the Employer for verification services performed under this MOU. The Employer is responsible for providing equipment needed to make inquiries. To access E-Verify, an Employer will need a personal computer with Internet access.

ARTICLE V MODIFICATION AND TERMINATION

A. MODIFICATION

1. This MOU is effective upon the signature of all parties and shall continue in effect for as long as the SSA and DHS operates the E-Verify program unless modified in writing by the mutual consent of all parties.

2. Any and all E-Verify system enhancements by DHS or SSA, including but not limited to E-Verify checking against additional data sources and instituting new verification policies or procedures, will be covered under this MOU and will not cause the need for a supplemental MOU that outlines these changes.

B. TERMINATION

1. The Employer may terminate this MOU and its participation in E-Verify at any time upon 30 days prior written notice to the other parties.

2. Notwithstanding Article V, part A of this MOU, DHS may terminate this MOU, and thereby the Employer's participation in E-Verify, with or without notice at any time if deemed necessary because of the requirements of law or policy, or upon a determination by SSA or DHS that there has been a breach of system integrity or security by the Employer, or a failure on the part of the Employer to comply with established E-Verify procedures and/or legal requirements. The Employer understands that if it is a Federal contractor, termination of this MOU by any party for any reason may negatively affect the

performance of its contractual responsibilities. Similarly, the Employer understands that if it is in a state where E-Verify is mandatory, termination of this by any party MOU may negatively affect the Employer's business.

3. An Employer that is a Federal contractor may terminate this MOU when the Federal contract that requires its participation in E-Verify is terminated or completed. In such cases, the Federal contractor must provide written notice to DHS. If an Employer that is a Federal contractor fails to provide such notice, then that Employer will remain an E-Verify participant, will remain bound by the terms of this MOU that apply to non-Federal contractor participants, and will be required to use the E-Verify procedures to verify the employment eligibility of all newly hired employees.

4. The Employer agrees that E-Verify is not liable for any losses, financial or otherwise, if the Employer is terminated from E-Verify.

ARTICLE VI PARTIES

A. Some or all SSA and DHS responsibilities under this MOU may be performed by contractor(s), and SSA and DHS may adjust verification responsibilities between each other as necessary. By separate agreement with DHS, SSA has agreed to perform its responsibilities as described in this MOU.

B. Nothing in this MOU is intended, or should be construed, to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by any third party against the United States, its agencies, officers, or employees, or against the Employer, its agents, officers, or employees.

C. The Employer may not assign, directly or indirectly, whether by operation of law, change of control or merger, all or any part of its rights or obligations under this MOU without the prior written consent of DHS, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. Any attempt to sublicense, assign, or transfer any of the rights, duties, or obligations herein is void.

D. Each party shall be solely responsible for defending any claim or action against it arising out of or related to E-Verify or this MOU, whether civil or criminal, and for any liability wherefrom, including (but not limited to) any dispute between the Employer and any other person or entity regarding the applicability of Section 403(d) of IIRIRA to any action taken or allegedly taken by the Employer.

E. The Employer understands that its participation in E-Verify is not confidential information and may be disclosed as authorized or required by law and DHS or SSA policy, including but not limited to, Congressional oversight, E-Verify publicity and media inquiries, determinations of compliance with Federal contractual requirements, and responses to inquiries under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

F. The individuals whose signatures appear below represent that they are authorized to enter into this MOU on behalf of the Employer and DHS respectively. The Employer understands that any inaccurate statement, representation, data or other information provided to DHS may subject the Employer, its subcontractors, its employees, or its representatives to: (1) prosecution for false statements pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1001 and/or; (2) immediate termination of its MOU and/or; (3) possible debarment or suspension.

G. The foregoing constitutes the full agreement on this subject between DHS and the

Employer.

To be accepted as an E-Verify participant, you should only sign the Employer's Section of the signature page. If you have any questions, contact E-Verify at 1-888-464-4218.

Approved by:

E-Verify Employer	
Name (Please Type or Print)	Title
Signature	Date
Department of Homeland Security – Verification Division	
Name (Please Type or Print)	Title
Signature	Date

Information Required for E-Verify	
Information relating to your Company:	
Company Name:	
Company Facility Address:	
Company Alternate Address:	
County or Parish:	

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

91

RESOLUTION 2024-26

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT AUTHORIZING AN INDIVIDUAL DESIGNATED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO ACT AS THE DISTRICT'S PURCHASING AGENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCURING, ACCEPTING, AND MAINTAINING ANY AND ALL CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS NECESSARY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE OR COMPLETION OF THE DISTRICT'S INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AS PROVIDED IN THE DISTRICT'S ADOPTED IMPROVEMENT PLAN; PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL OF A WORK AUTHORIZATION; PROVIDING FOR PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF MATERIALS; APPROVING THE FORM OF A PURCHASE REQUISITION REQUEST; APPROVING THE FORM OF A PURCHASE ORDER; APPROVING THE FORM OF A CERTIFICATE OF ENTITLEMENT; AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF INSURANCE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (the "District") is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, and Chapter 189, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, authorizes the District to construct, install, operate and/or maintain systems and facilities for certain basic infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the District Board of Supervisors (the "Board"), upon recommendation of the District Engineer, has adopted or will adopt an improvement plan for the construction and installation of certain infrastructure improvements within the District (the "Improvements"); and

WHEREAS, the District has or will enter into various construction contracts for the construction and installation of the Improvements (the "Construction Contracts"); and

WHEREAS, the Construction Contracts allow, or will be amended to allow, for the direct purchase by the District of certain construction materials necessary for those contracts; and

WHEREAS, the District has determined that such direct purchase of construction materials will provide a significant construction cost reduction that is in the best interest of the District; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to have a District representative who is familiar with the project and who is knowledgeable in the area of procuring and handling construction materials act as its representative.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. The District Engineer, the District Manager or another individual as shall be appointed by the Board (the “Purchasing Agent”) shall have the full authority of the District to issue purchase orders or enter into purchase agreements on behalf of the District at such times and intervals as it determines necessary for the timely receipt of construction materials required by the Contractor for the prosecution of the construction project.

SECTION 2. The Purchasing Agent shall purchase on behalf of the District only those materials identified in the Construction Contracts and in amounts not to exceed the cost amount contained therein and as included in the Construction Contracts.

SECTION 3. The Purchasing Agent shall be authorized to purchase on behalf of the District any additional construction materials that are identified in a schedule of values associated with any change order(s) to the Construction Contracts or that of any subcontractor to the Contractor which is approved by the District.

SECTION 4. Should the District Engineer act as the Purchasing Agent for any given Construction Contract, a work authorization of the District Engineer, a form of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, is hereby approved and/or ratified, and the District Engineer shall be paid such reasonable fees, costs and expenses, related to its actions as the District’s Purchasing Agent as provided for in the District Engineer’s agreement with the District.

SECTION 5. The Purchasing Agent is further authorized to take any other administrative actions that are consistent with his/her duties as the District’s Purchasing Agent, including but not limited to, negotiating for lower prices on materials from other suppliers, arranging for the storage, delivery, and protection of purchased materials, and sending and receiving notices and releases as are required by law.

SECTION 6. The District Manager is hereby directed to purchase Builders All Risk Insurance on behalf of the District and with the District as the named insured in such amounts as are necessary to cover the estimated costs of the construction materials pursuant to the Construction Contract.

SECTION 7. The procurement procedures and its exhibits, attached hereto as **Composite Exhibit B** and incorporated herein by reference, are hereby approved and/or ratified, and shall be used by the Purchasing Agent for the purchase of construction materials on behalf of the District.

SECTION 8. The actions of current and prior members of the Board and District staff in effectuating the District’s direct purchase of materials relative to the Construction Contracts, including but not limited to the execution of any documents related therewith, are hereby determined to be in accordance with the prior authorizations of the District’s Chairman, Vice Chair in the Chairman’s absence, and/or the Board, and are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed all respects.

SECTION 9. If any provision of this Resolution is held to be illegal or invalid, the other provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. This Resolution shall become effective upon its passage and shall remain in effect unless rescinded or repealed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

EXHIBIT A

Work Authorization

_____, 2024

Board of Supervisors
Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District
2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W
Boca Raton, Florida 33431

Subject: **Work Authorization Number** ____
Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District

Dear Chairman, Board of Supervisors:

_____ (the "Engineer") is pleased to submit this work authorization to provide engineering services for the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (the "District"). We will provide these services pursuant to our current agreement dated _____ (the "Engineering Agreement") as follows:

I. Scope of Work

The Engineer will act as Purchasing Agent for the District with respect to the direct purchase of construction materials for the District's Improvements in accordance with the procurement procedures adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

II. Compensation

The Engineer will be compensated for this work at the hourly rates established pursuant to the Engineering Agreement.

III. Other Direct Costs

Other direct costs include items such as printing, drawings, travel, deliveries, et cetera, pursuant to the Engineering Agreement.

This work authorization, together with the Engineering Agreement, represents the entire understanding between the District and the Engineer with regard to the referenced services and supersedes any previously executed proposal or agreement related to the provision of such services. If you wish to accept this work authorization, please sign where indicated and return to our office. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED

Sincerely,

By:

Authorized Representative of District

Date:

By: _____

COMPOSITE EXHIBIT B

PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES FOR OWNER PURCHASED MATERIAL

1. Purchase Requisition Request Forms. At least ten (10) calendar days prior to CONTRACTOR ordering construction materials, CONTRACTOR shall prepare and forward to the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (the "OWNER") a separate Purchasing Requisition Request Form for each supplier in the form attached hereto as **Attachment 1**, specifically identifying the construction materials which CONTRACTOR plans to order from each supplier so that OWNER may, in its sole discretion, elect to purchase directly such construction materials.

2. Purchase Orders. After receipt of the Purchasing Requisition Request Form, the OWNER shall prepare Purchase Orders in the form attached hereto as **Attachment 2**, for construction materials which the OWNER wishes to purchase directly. Purchase Orders shall require that the supplier provide required shipping and handling insurance. Purchase Orders shall also require the delivery of the Owner Purchased Materials on the delivery dates provided by the CONTRACTOR in the Purchasing Requisition Request Form. Pursuant to the Purchase Order, the supplier will provide the CONTRACTOR the required quantities of construction material at the price established in the supplier's quote less any associated sales tax.

3. Certificate of Entitlement. The OWNER shall execute a separate Certificate of Entitlement for each Purchase Order in the form attached hereto as **Attachment 3**, and furnish a copy of same to the supplier and to the CONTRACTOR in accordance with Section 4. Each Certificate of Entitlement must have attached thereto the corresponding Purchase Order.

Each Certificate of Entitlement shall acknowledge that if the Department of Revenue determines the purchase is not a tax exempt purchase by a governmental entity, then the governmental entity will be responsible for any tax, penalties and interest determined to be due.

Each Certificate of Entitlement shall affirm that: (1) the attached Purchase Order is being issued directly to the vendor supplying the tangible personal property the CONTRACTOR will use in the identified public works; (2) the vendor's invoice will be issued directly to the governmental entity; (3) payment of the vendor's invoice will be made directly by the governmental entity to the vendor from public funds; (4) the governmental entity will take title to the tangible personal property from the vendor at the time of purchase or of delivery by the vendor; and (5) the governmental entity assumes the risk of damage or loss at the time of purchase or delivery by the vendor.

4. Transmission of Certificate of Entitlement and Attached Purchase Order. At least two (2) calendar days prior to CONTRACTOR placing OWNER'S order for the construction materials, OWNER shall forward each Certificate of Entitlement, together with the attached Purchase Order, to CONTRACTOR and to supplier. Promptly upon receipt of the Owner Purchased Materials specified in each Purchase Order, CONTRACTOR shall verify the purchase of the Owner Purchased Materials

in accordance with the terms of the Purchase Order and in a manner to assure timely delivery of the Owner Purchased Materials.

5. Notice of Reduction in Contract Price. On or about the last business day of each month, OWNER shall deliver to the CONTRACTOR a Notice of Reduction in Contract Price (hereinafter "Notice"). Each Notice shall list all Owner Purchased Materials for the respective month and the total price for all such construction materials, plus all sales taxes which would have been associated with such construction materials had the CONTRACTOR purchased the construction materials. Each Notice may also include the total price and sales tax (had CONTRACTOR purchased) for any previously purchased Owner Purchased Materials which for any reason were not previously deducted from the contract price. The contract price will be reduced automatically and as a ministerial task by the amount set forth in each Notice. Each Notice will also reflect the amended contract balance reflecting the deductions taken in said Notice.

The intent of this provision is to cause the contract price to be reduced automatically by the amount OWNER pays for Owner Purchased Materials plus the amount of applicable sales tax that would have been paid for such construction materials, had the CONTRACTOR or any other non-tax exempt entity purchased the construction materials. All savings of sales taxes shall accrue solely to the benefit of OWNER, and CONTRACTOR shall not benefit whatsoever from savings of any such taxes.

6. Payment for Owner Purchased Materials. In order to arrange for the prompt payment to suppliers, the CONTRACTOR shall provide to the OWNER a list indicating on behalf of the owner of the Owner Purchased Materials within fifteen (15) calendar days of receipt of said Owner Purchased Materials. The list shall include a copy of the applicable Purchase Orders, invoices, delivery tickets, written acceptance of the delivered items, and such other documentation as may be reasonably required by the OWNER. Upon receipt of the appropriate documentation, the OWNER shall prepare a check drawn to the supplier based upon the receipt of data provided. OWNER will make payment to each supplier. The CONTRACTOR agrees to assist the OWNER to immediately obtain appropriate partial or final release of waivers.

OWNER shall be responsible for the full payment of all valid and due invoices for Owner Purchased Materials and shall not be entitled to retain the standard ten (10%) percent amount of the progress payment due to the CONTRACTOR as is otherwise provided for in the contract documents.

CONTRACTOR shall affirm that the vendor supplying the Owner Purchased Materials is not also the installer of the Owner Purchased Materials. CONTRACTOR shall further affirm that the installer of the Owner Purchased Materials did not manufacture, fabricate or furnish the Owner Purchased Materials.

7. CONTRACTOR Responsibilities. CONTRACTOR shall be fully responsible for all matters relating to ordering, storing, protecting, receipt, and handling for all construction materials including Owner Purchased Materials, in accordance with these procedures including, but not limited to,

verifying correct quantities, verifying documents of orders in a timely manner, coordinating purchases, providing and obtaining all warranties and guarantees required by the contract documents, inspection and acceptance on behalf of the owner of the construction materials at the time of delivery, and loss or damage to the construction materials following acceptance of construction materials, due to the negligence of the CONTRACTOR. CONTRACTOR shall serve as bailee with respect to such Owner Purchased Materials. The CONTRACTOR shall coordinate delivery schedules, sequence of delivery, loading orientation, and other arrangements normally required by the CONTRACTOR for the construction materials furnished including Owner Purchased Materials. The CONTRACTOR shall provide all services required for the unloading, handling and storage of construction materials through installation including Owner Purchased Materials. The CONTRACTOR agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the OWNER from any and all claims of whatever nature resulting from non-payment for Owner Purchased Materials arising from CONTRACTOR actions.

7.1 Inspection and Documentation. As Owner Purchased Materials are delivered to the job site, CONTRACTOR shall visually inspect all shipments from the suppliers, and approve the vendor's invoice for construction materials delivered. The CONTRACTOR shall assure that each delivery of Owner Purchased Material is accompanied by documentation adequate to identify the Purchase Order against which the purchase is made. This documentation may consist of a delivery ticket and an invoice from the supplier conforming to the Purchase Order together with such additional information as the OWNER may require. All invoices for Owner Purchase Materials shall include the Owner's consumer certificate of exemption number. The CONTRACTOR will then forward all such invoices to the OWNER. On or about the 15th and last day of each month (or the next succeeding business day), CONTRACTOR shall review all invoices submitted by all suppliers of Owner Purchased Materials delivered to the Project site(s) during that month and either concur or object to the OWNER's issuance of payment to the suppliers, based upon CONTRACTOR's records of Owner Purchased Materials delivered to the site and whether any defects or non-conformities exist in such Owner Purchased Materials.

7.2 Warranties, Guarantees, Repairs and Maintenance. The CONTRACTOR shall be responsible for obtaining and managing on behalf of the Owner all warranties and guarantees for all construction materials as required by the contract documents and shall fully warrant all construction materials including all Owner Purchased Materials. OWNER's purchase of various construction materials shall not in any manner impact or reduce CONTRACTOR's duty to warrant said construction materials. The OWNER may forward all repair, maintenance, non-conforming construction materials calls, or any other issues relating to the construction materials to the CONTRACTOR for resolution with the appropriate supplier, vendor, or subcontractor. The CONTRACTOR shall resolve all such calls or issues.

7.3 Records and Accountings. The CONTRACTOR shall maintain records of all Owner Purchased Materials it incorporates into the work from the stock of Owner Purchased Materials in its possession as bailee. The CONTRACTOR shall account monthly to the OWNER for any Owner Purchased Materials delivered into the CONTRACTOR's possession, indicating portions of all such construction materials which have been incorporated into the work.

7.4 Defective or Non-conforming Construction Materials. The CONTRACTOR shall ensure that Owner Purchased Materials conform to specifications, and determine prior to incorporation into the work if such construction materials are defective or non-conforming, whether such construction materials are identical to the construction materials ordered, and match the description on the bill of lading. If the CONTRACTOR discovers defective or non-conforming Owner Purchased Material upon such visual inspection, the CONTRACTOR shall not utilize such non-conforming or defective construction materials in the work and instead shall promptly notify the OWNER of the defective or non-conforming conditions so repair or replacement of such construction materials can occur without any undue delay or interruption to the Project. If the CONTRACTOR fails to adequately and properly perform such inspection or otherwise incorporates into the Project defective or non-conforming Owner Purchased Materials, the condition of which it either knew or should have known by performance of an inspection, CONTRACTOR shall be responsible for all damages to OWNER resulting from CONTRACTOR's incorporation of such construction materials into the Project, including liquidated or delay damages.

8. Title. Notwithstanding the transfer of Owner Purchased Materials by the OWNER to the CONTRACTOR's possession as bailee for the OWNER, the OWNER shall retain legal and equitable title to any and all Owner Purchased Materials.

9. Insurance and Risk of Loss. The OWNER shall purchase and maintain Builder's Risk Insurance sufficient to protect against any loss or damage to Owner Purchased Materials. Owner shall be the named insured and such insurance shall cover the full value of any Owner Purchased Materials not yet incorporated into the Project during the period between the time the OWNER first takes title to any such Owner Purchased Materials and the time when the last of such Owner Purchased Materials is incorporated into the Project or consumed in the process of completing the Project.

10. No Damages for Delay. The OWNER shall in no way be liable for, and CONTRACTOR waives all claims for, any damages relating to or caused by alleged interruption or delay due to ordering or arrival of Owner Purchased Materials, defects, or other problems of any nature with such construction materials, late payment for such construction materials, or any other circumstance associated with Owner Purchased Materials, regardless of whether OWNER's conduct caused, in whole or in part, such alleged damages. The foregoing waiver by CONTRACTOR includes damages for acceleration and inefficiencies. CONTRACTOR accepts from OWNER as further and specific consideration for the foregoing waivers, OWNER's undertaking to pay for and finance all Owner Purchased Materials.

Attachment 1

PURCHASE REQUISITION REQUEST FORM

1. Contact Person for the material supplier.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

2. Manufacturer or brand, model or specification number of the item.

3. Quantity needed as estimated by CONTRACTOR. _____

4. The price quoted by the supplier for the construction materials identified above.
\$ _____

5. The sales tax associated with the price quote. \$ _____

6. Shipping and handling insurance cost. \$ _____

7. Delivery dates as established by CONTRACTOR. _____

OWNER: Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District

Authorized Signature (Title)

Date

CONTRACTOR: _____

Authorized Signature (Title)

Date

Attachment 2

PURCHASE ORDER

1. **SEE ATTACHED PURCHASE REQUISITION REQUEST FORM DATED _____, 20__.**
2. Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District State of Florida sales tax exemption certificate number: _____

Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District is the Purchaser of the construction materials purchased pursuant to this Purchase Order. Supplier shall provide for the required shipping and handling insurance cost for delivery of the construction materials by the delivery date specified in this Purchase Order.

OWNER: Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District

Authorized Signature (Title)

Date

CONTRACTOR: _____

Authorized Signature (Title)

Date

Attachment 3

CERTIFICATE OF ENTITLEMENT

The undersigned authorized representative of Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (hereinafter "Governmental Entity"), Florida Consumer's Certificate of Exemption Number _____, affirms that the tangible personal property purchased pursuant to Purchase Order Number _____ from _____ (Vendor) on or after _____, 20__ (date) will be incorporated into or become a part of a public facility as part of a public works contract pursuant to Contract # _____ with _____ (Name of Contractor) for the construction of _____.

The Governmental Entity affirms that the purchase of the tangible personal property contained in the attached Purchase Order meets the following exemption requirements contained in Section 212.08(6), F.S., and Rule 12A-1.094, F.A.C.:

You must initial each of the following requirements.

- ____ 1. The attached Purchase Order is issued directly to the vendor supplying the tangible personal property the Contractor will use in the identified public works.
- ____ 2. The vendor's invoice will be issued directly to Governmental Entity.
- ____ 3. Payment of the vendor's invoice will be made directly by Governmental Entity to the vendor from public funds.
- ____ 4. Governmental Entity will take title to the tangible personal property from the vendor at the time of purchase or of delivery by the vendor.
- ____ 5. Governmental Entity assumes the risk of damage or loss at the time of purchase or delivery by the vendor.

The Governmental Entity affirms that if the tangible personal property identified in the attached Purchase Order does not qualify for the exemption provided in Section 212.08(6), F.S., and Rule 12A-1.094, F.A.C., the Governmental Entity will be subject to the tax, interest, and penalties due on the tangible personal property purchased. If the Florida Department of Revenue determines that the tangible personal property purchased tax-exempt by issuing this Certificate does not qualify for the exemption, the Governmental Entity will be liable for any tax, penalty, and interest determined to be due.

I understand that if I fraudulently issue this certificate to evade the payment of sales tax I will be liable for payment of the sales tax plus a penalty of 200% of the tax and may be subject to conviction of a third degree felony. Under the penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing Certificate of Entitlement and the facts stated in it are true.

Signature of Authorized Representative
of Governmental Entity

Title

Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District

Purchaser's Name

Date

Federal Employer Identification Number: _____

Telephone Number: _____

You must attach a copy of the Purchase Order to this Certificate of Entitlement. Do not send to the Florida Department of Revenue. This Certificate of Entitlement must be retained in the Vendor's and the Contractor's books and records.

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

10A

BOND FINANCING TEAM FUNDING AGREEMENT

This Bond Financing Team Funding Agreement (the "Agreement") is made and entered into this 10th day of September, 2024, by and between:

Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District, a local unit of special-purpose government established pursuant to Chapter 204-292, Law of Florida, and located in the City of North Port, Florida, with a mailing address of 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431 ("**District**"), and

_____, a _____ and the developer of the lands in the District with a mailing address of _____ ("**Developer**").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the District was established pursuant to Chapter 204-292, Laws of Florida, for the purpose of planning, financing, constructing, operating and/or maintaining certain infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the District presently expects to access the public bond market to provide for the financing of certain capital improvements, facilities, and services to benefit the lands within the District; and

WHEREAS, the District and the Developer desire to enter into this Agreement to provide funds to enable the District to commence its financing program.

NOW, THEREFORE, based upon good and valuable consideration and the mutual covenants of the parties, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

SECTION 1. PROVISION OF FUNDS. Developer agrees to make available to the District such monies as are necessary to proceed with the issuance of bonds or other indebtedness to fund the District's improvements, facilities and services.

A. Developer agrees to provide to the District any such monies upon receipt of an invoice from the District requesting such funds. Such funds, and all future funds provided pursuant to this Agreement, may be supplied by check, cash, wire transfer or other form of payment deemed satisfactory in the sole discretion of the District as determined by the District Manager. The District agrees to authorize District staff, including the District Engineer, District Manager, and District Counsel to proceed with the work contemplated by this Agreement, and to retain a Bond Counsel and Financial Advisor and other professional assistance as may be necessary to proceed with the work contemplated by this Agreement.

B. Developer and the District agree that all fees, costs or other expenses incurred by the District for the services of the District's Engineer, Counsel, Financial Advisor or other professionals, for the work contemplated by this Agreement shall be paid solely from the funds provided by Developer pursuant to this Agreement. Such payments shall be made in accordance with the District's normal invoice and payment procedures. The District agrees that any funds provided by Developer pursuant to this Agreement shall be used solely for fees, costs, and expenses arising from or related to the work contemplated by this Agreement.

C. The District agrees to provide to Developer, on a monthly basis, copies of all invoices, requisitions, or other bills for which payment is to be made from the funds provided by Developer. The District agrees to provide to Developer, monthly, a statement from the District Manager showing funds on deposit prior to payment, payments made, and funds remaining on deposit with the District.

D. Developer agrees to provide funds within fifteen (15) days of receipt of written notification from the District Manager of the need for such funds.

E. In the event that Developer fails to provide any such funds pursuant to this Agreement, Developer and the District agree the work may be halted until such time as sufficient funds are provided by Developer to ensure payment of the costs, fees or expenses which may be incurred in the performance of such work.

SECTION 2. TERMINATION. Developer and District agree that Developer may terminate this Agreement without cause by providing ten (10) days written notice of termination to the District. Any such termination by Developer is contingent upon Developer's provision of sufficient funds to cover any and all fees, costs or expenses incurred by the District in connection with the work to be performed under this Agreement as of the date by when notice of termination is received. Developer and the District agree that the District may terminate this Agreement due to a failure of Developer to provide funds in accordance with Section 1 of this Agreement, by providing ten (10) days written notice of termination to Developer; provided, however, that the Developer shall be provided a reasonable opportunity to cure any such failure.

SECTION 3. CAPITALIZATION. The parties agree that all funds provided by Developer pursuant to this Agreement may be reimbursable from proceeds of District financing for capital improvements, and that within forty-five (45) days of receipt of the proceeds by the District of bonds or notes for the District's capital projects, the District shall reimburse Developer in full, exclusive of interest, for these advances; provided, however, that in the event Bond Counsel determines that any such monies are not properly reimbursable, such funds shall be deemed paid in lieu of taxes or assessments. In the event that District bonds are not issued within five (5) years of the date of this Agreement, all funds provided by Developer pursuant to this Agreement shall be deemed paid in lieu of taxes or assessments.

SECTION 4. DEFAULT. A default by either party under this Agreement shall entitle the other to all remedies available at law or in equity, which may include, but not be limited to, the right of damages, injunctive relief and/or specific performance.

SECTION 5. ENFORCEMENT OF AGREEMENT. In the event that either party is required to enforce this Agreement by court proceedings or otherwise, then the substantially prevailing party shall be entitled to recover all fees and costs incurred, including reasonable attorney's fees, paralegal fees and expert witness fees and costs for trial, alternative dispute resolution, or appellate proceedings.

SECTION 6. AGREEMENT. This instrument shall constitute the final and complete expression of this Agreement between the parties relating to the subject matter of this Agreement.

SECTION 7. AMENDMENTS. Amendments to and waivers of the provisions contained in this Agreement may be made only by an instrument in writing which is executed by both of the parties hereto.

SECTION 8. AUTHORIZATION. The execution of this Agreement has been duly authorized by the appropriate body or official of all parties hereto, each party has complied with all the requirements of law, and each party has full power and authority to comply with the terms and provisions of this instrument.

SECTION 9. NOTICES. All notices, requests, consents and other communications hereunder ("Notices") shall be in writing and shall be delivered, mailed by First Class Mail, postage prepaid, or overnight delivery service, to the parties, as follows:

A. If to District: Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship
District
2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W
Boca Raton, Florida 33431
Attn: District Manager

With a copy to: Kutak Rock LLP
107 West College Avenue
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
Attn: District Counsel

B. If to Developer:

Attn: _____

Except as otherwise provided herein, any Notice shall be deemed received only upon actual delivery at the address set forth herein. Notices delivered after 5:00 p.m. (at the place of delivery) or on a non-business day, shall be deemed received on the next business day. If any time for giving Notice contained in this Agreement would otherwise expire on a non-business day, the Notice period shall be extended to the next succeeding business day. Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays recognized by the United States government shall not be regarded as business days. Counsel for the parties may deliver Notice on behalf of the parties. Any party or other person to whom Notices are to be sent or copied may notify the other parties and addressees of any change in name or address to which Notices shall be sent by providing the same on five (5) days written notice to the parties and addressees set forth herein.

SECTION 10. THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES. This Agreement is solely for the benefit of the parties herein and no right or cause of action shall accrue upon or by reason hereof, to or for the benefit of any third party not a party hereto. Nothing in this Agreement expressed or implied is intended or shall be construed to confer upon any person or corporation other than the parties hereto any right, remedy or claim under or by reason of this Agreement or any provisions or conditions hereof; and all of the provisions, representations, covenants and conditions herein contained shall inure to the sole benefit of and shall be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective representatives, successors and assigns.

SECTION 11. ASSIGNMENT. Neither party may assign this Agreement or any monies to become due hereunder without the prior written approval of the other party.

SECTION 12. CONTROLLING LAW; VENUE. This Agreement and the provisions contained herein shall be construed, interpreted and controlled according to the laws of the State of Florida. Venue shall be in Sarasota County, Florida.

SECTION 13. EFFECTIVE DATE. The Agreement shall be effective after execution by both parties hereto and shall remain in effect unless terminated by either of the parties hereto.

SECTION 14. PUBLIC RECORDS. Developer understands and agrees that all documents of any kind provided to the District or to District Staff in connection with the work contemplated under this Agreement are public records and are treated as such in accordance with Florida law.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties execute this Agreement to be effective the day and year first written above.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

_____,
a _____

Witness

By: _____
Its: _____

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

10BI



MBS CAPITAL MARKETS, LLC

AGREEMENT FOR UNDERWRITING SERVICES STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

September 10, 2024

Board of Supervisors
Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District

Dear Supervisors:

MBS Capital Markets, LLC (the "Underwriter") offers to enter into this agreement (the "Agreement") with the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (the "District") which, upon your acceptance of this offer, will be binding upon the District and the Underwriter. This agreement relates to the proposed issuance of bonds (the "Bonds") to acquire and/or construct certain public infrastructure improvements. This Agreement will cover the engagement for the Bonds and will be supplemented for future bond issuances as may be applicable.

1. **Scope of Services:** MBS intends to serve as the underwriter, and not as a financial advisor or municipal advisor, in connection with the issuance of the Bonds. The scope of services to be provided in a non-fiduciary capacity by the Underwriter for this transaction will include those listed below.
 - Advice regarding the structure, timing, terms, and other similar matters concerning the particular municipal securities described above.
 - Preparation of rating strategies and presentations related to the issue being underwritten.
 - Preparations for and assistance with investor "road shows," if any, and investor discussions related to the issue being underwritten.
 - Advice regarding retail order periods and institutional marketing if the District decides to engage in a negotiated sale.
 - Assistance in the preparation of the Preliminary Official Statement, if any, and the Final Official Statement.
 - Assistance with the closing of the issue, including negotiation and discussion with respect to all documents, certificates, and opinions needed for the closing.
 - Coordination with respect to obtaining CUSIP numbers and the registration with the Depository Trust Company.
 - Preparation of post-sale reports for the issue, if any.
 - Structuring of refunding escrow cash flow requirements, but not the recommendation of and brokerage of particular municipal escrow investments.



MBS CAPITAL MARKETS, LLC

Page | 2

2. **Fees:** The Underwriter will be responsible for its own out-of-pocket expenses other than the fees and disbursements of underwriter's or disclosure counsel which fees shall be paid from the proceeds of the Bonds. Any fees payable to the Underwriter will be contingent upon the successful sale and delivery or placement of the Bonds. The underwriting fee for the sale or placement of the Bonds will be the greater of 2% of the par amount of Bonds issued or \$50,000.
3. **Termination:** Both the District and the Underwriter will have the right to terminate this Agreement without cause upon 90 days written notice to the non-terminating party.
4. **Purchase Contract:** At or before such time as the District gives its final authorization for the Bonds, the Underwriter and its counsel will deliver to the District a purchase or placement contract (the "Purchase Contract") detailing the terms of the Bonds.
5. **Notice of Meetings:** The District shall provide timely notice to the Underwriter for all regular and special meetings of the District. The District will provide, in writing, to the Underwriter, at least one week prior to any meeting, except in the case of an emergency meeting for which the notice time shall be the same as that required by law for the meeting itself, of matters and items for which it desires the Underwriter's input.
6. **Disclosures Concerning the Underwriter's Role Required by MSRB Rule G-17.** The Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board's Rule G-17 requires underwriters to make certain disclosures to issuers in connection with the issuance of municipal securities. Those disclosures are attached hereto as "Exhibit A." By execution of this Agreement, you are acknowledging receipt of the same. If you or any other Issuer officials have any questions or concerns about these disclosures, please make those questions or concerns known immediately to the undersigned. In addition, you should consult with the Issuer's own financial and/or municipal, legal, accounting, tax and other advisors, as applicable, to the extent you deem appropriate. It is our understanding that you have the authority to bind the Issuer by contract with us, and that you are not a party to any conflict of interest relating to the subject transaction. If our understanding is incorrect, please notify the undersigned immediately.



MBS CAPITAL MARKETS, LLC

Page | 3

This Agreement shall be effective upon your acceptance hereof and shall remain effective until such time as the Agreement has been terminated in accordance with Section 3 hereof.

We are required to seek your acknowledgement that you have received the disclosures referenced herein and attached hereto as Exhibit A. By execution of this agreement, you are acknowledging receipt of the same.

Sincerely,
MBS Capital Markets, LLC

Brett Sealy
Managing Partner

Approved and Accepted By:

Title:

Date:



MBS CAPITAL MARKETS, LLC

Page | 4

EXHIBIT A

Disclosures Concerning the Underwriter's Role

- (i) MSRB Rule G-17 requires an underwriter to deal fairly at all times with both municipal issuers and investors.
- (ii) The underwriter's primary role is to purchase the Bonds with a view to distribution in an arm's-length commercial transaction with the Issuer. The underwriters has financial and other interests that differ from those of the District.
- (iii) Unlike a municipal advisor, the underwriter does not have a fiduciary duty to the District under the federal securities laws and are, therefore, is required by federal law to act in the best interests of the District without regard to their own financial or other interests.
- (iv) The underwriter has a duty to purchase the Bonds from the Issuer at a fair and reasonable price but must balance that duty with their duty to sell the Bonds to investors at prices that are fair and reasonable.
- (v) The underwriter will review the official statement for the Bonds in accordance with, and as part of, its respective responsibilities to investors under the federal securities laws, as applied to the facts and circumstances of this transaction.

Disclosure Concerning the Underwriter's Compensation

The underwriter will be compensated by a fee and/or an underwriting discount that will be set forth in the bond purchase agreement to be negotiated and entered into in connection with the issuance of the Bonds. Payment or receipt of the underwriting fee or discount will be contingent on the closing of the transaction and the amount of the fee or discount may be based, in whole or in part, on a percentage of the principal amount of the Bonds. While this form of compensation is customary in the municipal securities market, it presents a conflict of interest since the underwriter may have an incentive to recommend to the District a transaction that is unnecessary or to recommend that the size of the transaction be larger than is necessary.

Conflicts of Interest

The Underwriter has not identified any additional potential or actual material conflicts that require disclosure including those listed below.



MBS CAPITAL MARKETS, LLC

Page | 5

Payments to or from Third Parties. There are no undisclosed payments, values, or credits to be received by the Underwriter in connection with its underwriting of this new issue from parties other than the District, and there are no undisclosed payments to be made by the Underwriter in connection with this new issue to parties other than the District (in either case including payments, values, or credits that relate directly or indirectly to collateral transactions integrally related to the issue being underwritten). In addition, there are no third-party arrangements for the marketing of the District's securities.

Profit-Sharing with Investors. There are no arrangements between the Underwriter and an investor purchasing new issue securities from the Underwriter (including purchases that are contingent upon the delivery by the District to the Underwriter of the securities) according to which profits realized from the resale by such investor of the securities are directly or indirectly split or otherwise shared with the Underwriter.

Credit Default Swaps. There will be no issuance or purchase by the Underwriter of credit default swaps for which the reference is the District for which the Underwriter is serving as underwriter, or an obligation of that District.

Retail Order Periods. For new issues in which there is a retail order period, the Underwriter will honor such agreement to provide the retail order period. No allocation of securities in a manner that is inconsistent with a District's requirements will be made without the District's consent. In addition, when the Underwriter has agreed to underwrite a transaction with a retail order period, it will take reasonable measures to ensure that retail clients are bona fide.

Dealer Payments to District Personnel. Reimbursements, if any, made to personnel of the District will be made in compliance with MSRB Rule G-20, on gifts, gratuities, and non-cash compensation, and Rule G-17, in connection with certain payments made to, and expenses reimbursed for, District personnel during the municipal bond issuance process.

Disclosures Concerning Complex Municipal Securities Financing

Since the Underwriter has not recommended a "complex municipal securities financing" to the Issuer, additional disclosures regarding the financing structure for the Bonds are not required under MSRB Rule G-17.

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

10BIII



Global Corporate Trust Services
500 West Cypress Creek Road
Suite 460
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309

September 5th, 2024

Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District
c/o Craig Wrathell
Wrathell, Hunt & Associates
2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W
Boca Raton, FL 33431

Re: Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District, Series 2024

We are pleased to offer the following fee structure for the above referenced issue:

Acceptance Fee	1,975.00
Closing Expenses	\$500.00 (Est., Florida Closing)
Annual Trustee, Paying Agent, Registrar and Transfer Agent Fee <i>(Calculated at 0.03% of Bonds Outstanding, Min of \$3,750 and Max of \$7,500)</i>	\$3,950.00
Ongoing Out-of-Pocket Expenses	7.50% of Annual Fees
<u>Trustee Counsel Fee</u>	<u>\$6,250.00</u>
Total Due at Closing:	\$12,675.00

This proposal and the fees detailed herein are subject in all aspects to U.S. Bank's review and acceptance of the final financing documents which set forth our duties and responsibilities. Any unexpected or extraordinary services, duties and/or responsibilities will be reasonably billed in addition to the amounts identified herein. Extraordinary services are responses to requests, inquiries or developments, or the carrying out of duties or responsibilities of an unusual nature, including termination, which may or may not be provided for in the governing documents, and are not routine or undertaken in the ordinary course of business. Payment of fees for extraordinary services is appropriate where particular requests, inquiries or developments are unexpected, even if the possibility of such things could have been foreseen at the inception of the transaction. This would include but is not limited to document amendments and substitutions, mandatory tenders, optional redemptions, UCC filings, investment agreements, outside held money market funds, default administration, travel expense (if any outside the city), etc. At our option, these charges will be billed at a flat fee or at our hourly rate then in effect. Fees are subject to change at our discretion and upon written notice. Fees paid in advance will not be prorated. Finalization of the transaction and payment of the fees set forth herein constitutes agreement to the above fee schedule, including agreement to any subsequent changes upon proper written notice. In the event this transaction is not finalized, any related out-of-pocket expenses may be billed to you directly.

The above fees and expenses would be paid in advance. Thank you for the opportunity to continue to provide our services to the District. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 954.938.2475 if you have any questions or if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Amanda Kumar

Amanda Kumar, Vice President

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT PROCEDURES FOR OPENING A NEW ACCOUNT:

To help the government fight the funding of terrorism and money laundering activities, Federal law requires all financial institutions to obtain, verify and record information that identifies each person who opens an account. For a non-individual person such as a business entity, a charity, a Trust or other legal entity we will ask for documentation to verify its formation and existence as a legal entity. We may also ask to see financial statements, licenses, identification and authorization documents from individuals claiming authority to represent the entity or other relevant documentation.

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

10C

RESOLUTION 2024-27

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT DESIGNATING A DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE DISTRICT'S INTENT TO USE THE UNIFORM METHOD FOR THE LEVY, COLLECTION, AND ENFORCEMENT OF NON-AD VALOREM SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 197.3632, *FLORIDA STATUTES*; AUTHORIZING THE PUBLICATION OF THE NOTICE OF SUCH HEARING; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (the "District") is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Law of Florida, and Chapter 189, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the District pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 2024-292, Law of Florida, is authorized to levy, collect, and enforce certain special assessments, which include benefit and maintenance assessments and further authorizes the District's Board of Supervisors (the "Board") to levy, collect, and enforce special assessments pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Law of Florida, and Chapters 170 and 197, *Florida Statutes*; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to use the Uniform Method for the levy, collection and enforcement of non-ad valorem special assessments authorized by Section 197.3632, *Florida Statutes*, (the "Uniform Method").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. A Public Hearing will be held to adopt the Uniform Method on _____, 2024 at _____ .m., at _____.

SECTION 2. The District Secretary is directed to publish notice of the hearing in accordance with Section 197.3632, *Florida Statutes*.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

10F

RESOLUTION 2024-28

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT DECLARING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS; INDICATING THE LOCATION, NATURE AND ESTIMATED COST OF THOSE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS WHOSE COST IS TO BE DEFRAID BY THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS; PROVIDING THE PORTION OF THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE IMPROVEMENTS TO BE DEFRAID BY THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS; PROVIDING THE MANNER IN WHICH SUCH SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS SHALL BE MADE; PROVIDING WHEN SUCH SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS SHALL BE PAID; DESIGNATING LANDS UPON WHICH THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS SHALL BE LEVIED; PROVIDING FOR AN ASSESSMENT PLAT; ADOPTING A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT ROLL; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF THIS RESOLUTION.

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors (the “Board”) of the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (the “District”) hereby determines to undertake, install, plan, establish, construct or reconstruct, enlarge or extend, equip, acquire, operate, and/or maintain the infrastructure improvements (the “Improvements”) described in the District’s *Engineer’s Report*, dated _____, 2024, attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the District to pay the cost of the Improvements by special assessments pursuant to Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida (the “Assessments”); and

WHEREAS, the District is empowered by Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, and Chapters 170 and 197, Florida Statutes, to finance, fund, plan, establish, acquire, construct or reconstruct, enlarge or extend, equip, operate, and maintain the Improvements and to impose, levy and collect the Assessments; and

WHEREAS, the District hereby determines that benefits will accrue to the property improved, the amount of those benefits, and that special assessments will be made in proportion to the benefits received as set forth in the *Master Special Assessment Methodology Report*, dated _____, 2024, attached hereto as **Exhibit B** and incorporated herein by reference and on file at 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431 (the “District Records Office”); and

WHEREAS, the District hereby determines that the Assessments to be levied will not exceed the benefit to the property improved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:

1. Assessments shall be levied to defray a portion of the cost of the Improvements.
2. The nature and general location of, and plans and specifications for, the Improvements are described in **Exhibit A**, which is on file at the District Records Office. **Exhibit B** is also on file and available for public inspection at the same location.
3. The total estimated cost of the Improvements is \$_____ (the "Estimated Cost").
4. The Assessments will defray approximately \$_____, which amounts include the Estimated Costs, plus financing-related costs, capitalized interest and a debt service reserve.
5. The manner in which the Assessments shall be apportioned and paid is set forth in **Exhibit B**, including provisions for supplemental assessment resolutions.
6. The Assessments shall be levied, within the District, on all lots and lands adjoining and contiguous or bounding and abutting upon the Improvements or specially benefitted thereby and further designated by the assessment plat hereinafter provided for.
7. There is on file, at the District Records Office, an assessment plat showing the area to be assessed, with certain plans and specifications describing the Improvements and the estimated cost of the Improvements, all of which shall be open to inspection by the public.
8. Commencing with the year in which the Assessments are levied and confirmed, the Assessments shall be paid in not more than (30) thirty annual installments. The Assessments may be payable at the same time and in the same manner as are ad-valorem taxes and collected pursuant to Chapter 197, Florida Statutes; provided, however, that in the event the uniform non ad-valorem assessment method of collecting the Assessments is not available to the District in any year, or if determined by the District to be in its best interest, the Assessments may be collected as is otherwise permitted by law.
9. The District Manager has caused to be made a preliminary assessment roll, in accordance with the method of assessment described in **Exhibit B** hereto, which shows the lots and lands assessed, the amount of benefit to and the assessment against each lot or parcel of land and the number of annual installments into which the assessment may be divided, which assessment roll is hereby adopted and approved as the District's preliminary assessment roll.

10. The Board shall adopt a subsequent resolution to fix a time and place at which the owners of property to be assessed or any other persons interested therein may appear before the Board and be heard as to the propriety and advisability of the assessments or the making of the Improvements, the cost thereof, the manner of payment therefore, or the amount thereof to be assessed against each property as improved.

11. The District Manager is hereby directed to cause this Resolution to be published twice (once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks) in a newspaper of general circulation within Sarasota County and to provide such other notice as may be required by law or desired in the best interests of the District.

12. This Resolution shall become effective upon its passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

Exhibit A: Engineer's Report, dated _____, 2024

Exhibit B: Master Special Assessment Methodology Report, dated _____, 2024

STAR FARMS VILLAGE
AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT

10G

RESOLUTION 2024-29

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD ON _____, 2024, AT _____ .M. AT _____, FOR THE PURPOSE OF HEARING PUBLIC COMMENT ON IMPOSING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS ON CERTAIN PROPERTY WITHIN THE DISTRICT GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTERS 170 AND 197, FLORIDA STATUTES.

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the Star Farms Village at North Port Stewardship District (the “Board”) has previously adopted Resolution 2024-28 entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT DECLARING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS; INDICATING THE LOCATION, NATURE AND ESTIMATED COST OF THOSE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS WHOSE COST IS TO BE DEFRAID BY THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS; PROVIDING THE PORTION OF THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE IMPROVEMENTS TO BE DEFRAID BY THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS; PROVIDING THE MANNER IN WHICH SUCH SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS SHALL BE MADE; PROVIDING WHEN SUCH SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS SHALL BE PAID; DESIGNATING LANDS UPON WHICH THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS SHALL BE LEVIED; PROVIDING FOR AN ASSESSMENT PLAT; ADOPTING A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT ROLL; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF THIS RESOLUTION.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Resolution 2024-28, a Preliminary Special Assessment Roll has been prepared and all other conditions precedent set forth in Chapters 170 and 197, Florida Statutes, to the holding of the aforementioned public hearing have been satisfied, and the roll and related documents are available for public inspection at 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431 (the “District Records Office”).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT:

1. There is hereby declared a public hearing to be held at _____ .m. on _____, 2024, at _____, for the purpose of hearing comment and objections to the proposed special assessment program for District improvements as identified in the Preliminary Special Assessment Roll, a copy of which is on file. Affected parties may appear at that hearing or submit their comments in writing prior to the hearing to the office of the District Manager at 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431, 561-571-0010.

2. Notice of said hearing shall be advertised in accordance with Chapter 2024-292, Laws of Florida, and Chapters 170 and 197, Florida Statutes, and the District Manager is hereby authorized and directed to place said notice in a newspaper(s) of general circulation within Sarasota County (by two publications one week apart with the first publication at least twenty (20) days prior to the date of the hearing established herein). The District Manager shall file a publisher's affidavit with the District Secretary verifying such publication of notice. The District Manager is further authorized and directed to give thirty (30) days written notice by mail of the time and place of this hearing to the owners of all property to be assessed and include in such notice the amount of the assessment for each such property owner, a description of the areas to be improved and notice that information concerning all assessments may be ascertained at the District Records Office. The District Manager shall file proof of such mailing by affidavit with the District Secretary.

3. This Resolution shall become effective upon its passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

**STAR FARMS VILLAGE AT NORTH PORT
STEWARDSHIP DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors