

December 6, 2024

The Honorable Shawyn Patterson-Howard, Mayor
The Honorable Darren Morton, Comptroller
The Honorable Cathlin B. Gleason, City Council President
and Members of the City Council
City of Mount Vernon
City Hall – Roosevelt Square
Mount Vernon, New York 10550

Dear Mayor Patterson-Howard, Comptroller Morton and Council President Gleason:

This letter sets forth our understanding of the terms and objectives of our engagement, and the nature and scope of the services we will provide to the City of Mount Vernon ("the Entity").

Prior to the commencement of our audit(s) we may not know if an audit performed in accordance with the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Costs Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards ("Uniform Guidance") is required. Consequently, this letter includes the words "if applicable" next to relevant single audit communication requirements.

Audit scope and objectives

We will audit the Entity's statements of the governmental activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information and the disclosures, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of the Entity as of and for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2022 and issue our report thereon as soon as reasonably possible after completion of our work.

Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America ("US GAAS") provide for certain required supplementary information ("RSI"), such as management's discussion and analysis ("MD&A"), to supplement the Entity's basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the Entity's RSI in accordance with US GAAS. These limited procedures will consist of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. The following RSI is required by US GAAP and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

- Management's Discussion and Analysis
- Schedule of Changes in Total OPEB Liability and Related Ratios
- Schedules of Contributions and Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability

We have also been engaged to report on supplementary information other than the RSI that accompanies the Entity's financial statements. We will subject the following supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with US GAAS, and we will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole in a report combined with our auditor's report on the financial statements:

- Combining and Individual Fund Financial Statements and Schedules
- Schedule of Expenditure of Federal Awards (if applicable)

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion about whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with GAAP; and report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment of a reasonable user made based on the financial statements.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

We will conduct the audit in accordance with US GAAS, the standards for financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards ("GAGAS") issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (if applicable), and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards ("Uniform Guidance"), and will include tests of accounting records, a determination of major programs in accordance with Uniform Guidance (if applicable), and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions and to render the required reports. As part of an audit in accordance with US GAAS, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. The aforementioned standards require that we obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether caused by error or fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the Entity's or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the Entity. Because the determination of abuse is subjective, GAGAS do not expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

We will evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management. We will also evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and determine whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the government or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the government.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may exist and not be detected by us even though the audit is properly

planned and performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“US GAAS”) and GAGAS. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements and on those programs we have determined to be major programs (if applicable). However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, fraudulent financial reporting or misappropriation of assets and any material abuse that comes to our attention. We will include such matters in the reports required for a Single Audit (if applicable). We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

We will also include, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, and may include tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected customers, creditors, and financial institutions. We will also request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement.

If our opinion on either the financial statements or the Single Audit compliance (if applicable) is other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed an opinion(s), we may decline to express an opinion or decline to issue a report as a result of the engagement.

In making our risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the Entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to GAGAS (if applicable). An audit is also not designed to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, we will communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control and other internal control related matters relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we have identified during the audit, as required by US GAAS, GAGAS and Uniform Guidance (if applicable).

The reports on internal control and compliance (if applicable) will each include a paragraph that states that the purpose of the report is solely to describe (1) the scope of testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the result of that testing and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, (2) the scope of testing internal control over compliance for major programs and major program compliance and the result of that testing and to provide an opinion on compliance but not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance, and (3) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with GAGAS in considering internal control over financial reporting and compliance and Uniform Guidance in considering internal control over compliance and major program compliance. The paragraph will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.

At the conclusion of the engagement, we will complete the appropriate sections of the Data Collection Form (if applicable) that summarize our audit findings. It is management's responsibility to submit the reporting package (including financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, summary

schedule of prior audit findings, auditors' reports, and corrective action plan) along with the Data Collection Form to the federal audit clearinghouse. We will coordinate with you the electronic submission and certification. If applicable, we will provide copies of our report for you to include with the reporting package you will submit to pass-through entities. The Data Collection Form and the reporting package must be submitted within the earlier of 30 days after receipt of the auditors' reports or nine months after the end of the audit period, unless a longer period is agreed to in advance by the cognizant or oversight agency for audit.

We will also communicate with those charged with governance any (a) fraud involving senior management and other fraud that causes a material misstatement of the financial statements; (b) violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention (unless they are clearly inconsequential); (c) disagreements with management and other serious difficulties encountered in performing the audit; and, (d) various matters related to the Entity's accounting policies and financial statements.

Audit Procedures – Internal Control

We will obtain an understanding of the Entity and its environment, including internal control relevant to the audit, sufficient to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and the supplementary information, whether due to error or fraud, and to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks and obtain evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentation, or the override of internal control. An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify deficiencies in internal control. Accordingly, we will express no such opinion. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards

The objective for our audit also includes reporting on:

- Internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with GAGAS.
- Internal control related to major programs and an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements that could have a direct and material effect on each major program in accordance with Uniform Guidance, Audits of States, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations (if applicable).

Audit Procedures – Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the Entity's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to GAGAS.

Uniform Guidance (if applicable) requires that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Entity has complied with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to major programs. Our procedures will consist of tests of transactions and other applicable procedures described in the "Uniform Guidance Compliance Supplement" for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of the Entity's major programs. The purpose of these procedures will be to express an opinion on the Entity's compliance with requirements applicable to each of its major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to Uniform Guidance. As required by Uniform Guidance, we will also perform tests of controls over compliance to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of controls that we

consider relevant to prevent or detect material noncompliance with compliance requirements applicable to each major federal award program. However, our tests will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on those controls and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to Uniform Guidance.

Reporting

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the Entity's financial statements and written reports required with audits performed in accordance with GAGAS and the Uniform Guidance (if applicable). Our reports will be addressed to management or those charged with governance of the Entity. Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinions, add a separate section, or add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph to our auditor's report, or if necessary, withdraw from this engagement. If our opinions are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or withdraw from this engagement.

Other Services

We will also prepare the financial statements of Entity in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America based on information provided by you.

We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. The other services are limited to the financial statement services previously defined. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming management responsibilities.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements and Supplementary Information

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that you acknowledge and understand your responsibility for designing, implementing, and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, including monitoring ongoing activities; for the selection and application of accounting principles; and for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, including all disclosures, RSI and supplementary information, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Management is responsible for making drafts of financial statements, all financial records, and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information (including information from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers). You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, identification of all related parties and all related-party relationships and transactions, and other matters; (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit; and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements and supplementary information to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements of each opinion unit taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the preparation of the supplementary information in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the supplementary information. You also agree to [include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon. Management's responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the RSI and supplementary information in accordance with US GAAP; (2) you believe the RSI and supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with US GAAP; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the RSI and supplementary information.

Management is responsible for management decisions and assuming all management responsibilities; for designating an individual with suitable skill, knowledge, and/or experience to oversee *financial statement preparation* or other non-attest services we provide; and for evaluating the adequacy and results of those services and accepting responsibility for them.

Management is also responsible for identifying government award programs and understanding and complying with the compliance requirements, and for preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with the requirements of Uniform Guidance (if applicable). As part of the audit, we will assist with preparation of your financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards (if applicable), and related notes. You agree to include our report on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards that includes our report thereon. You are responsible for making all management decisions and assuming all management responsibilities relating to the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards and related notes, and for accepting full responsibility for such decisions.

In order to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met and that there is reasonable assurance that government programs are administered in compliance with compliance requirements, management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control, including internal control over compliance, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities.

Management's responsibilities also include identifying any significant vendor relationships in which the vendor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud or illegal acts affecting the Entity involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud or illegal acts could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Entity received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the Entity complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements and grants and for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy any fraud, illegal acts, violations of contracts or grant agreements, or abuse that we may report. Additionally, as required by Uniform Guidance (if applicable), it is management's responsibility to follow up and take corrective action on reported audit findings and to prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a corrective action plan.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying for us previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the audit objectives section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other engagements or studies. The Entity is also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

It is expected that all or a majority of the audit will be conducted remotely. Management is responsible for ensuring that all electronically provided documents and records are complete and accurate reproductions of the original documents and records. For any part of the engagement performed on premises, management is responsible for ensuring that all applicable safeguards are in place in accordance with Centers for Disease Control guidance and any state and local regulations and guidelines. PKF O'Connor Davies holds the right to not perform work onsite if we consider the onsite conditions unsafe for any reason. Management, in coordination with PKF O'Connor Davies, is responsible to arrange for alternative methods for audit procedures that must be performed on the Company's or a third-party's premises.

At the conclusion of the engagement, we will request from management written confirmation concerning representations made to us in connection with the audit. The representation letter, among other things, will confirm management's responsibility for: (1) the preparation of the financial statements in conformity with US GAAP, (2) the availability of financial records and related data, and (3) the completeness and availability of all minutes of board meetings. Management's representation letter will further confirm that: (1) the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole, and (2) we have been informed of, or that there were no incidences of, fraud involving management or those employees who have significant roles in the Entity's internal control. You will also be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter, when applicable, our assistance with preparation of the financial statements and related schedules, RSI and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (if applicable) and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements, aforementioned schedules and RSI, and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. We will place reliance on these representations in issuing our report.

In the event that we become obligated to pay any cost, settlement, judgment, fine, penalty, or similar award or sanction as a result of a claim, investigation, or other proceeding instituted by any third party, as a direct or indirect result of an intentional, knowing or reckless misrepresentation or provision to us of inaccurate or incomplete information by the Entity or, any elected official, member of management or employee thereof in connection with this engagement, and not any failure on our part to comply with professional standards, you agree to indemnify us against such obligations.

To the best of your knowledge, you are unaware of any facts which might impair our independence with respect to this engagement.

The financial statements are the property of the Entity and can be reproduced and distributed as management desires. However, you must notify us in advance and obtain our approval if you intend to make reference to our firm in a document that includes our auditors' report on the financial statements. Because our engagement does not contemplate the foregoing, there may be an additional fee in connection with our review of any such documents. In the event our auditor/client relationship has been terminated when the Entity seeks such consent, we will be under no obligation to grant such consent or approval.

With regard to the electronic dissemination of audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on your website, you understand that electronic sites are a means to distribute information and, therefore, we are not required to read the information contained in these sites or to consider the consistency of other information in the electronic site with the original document.

We understand that your accounting department personnel will assist us to the extent practicable in completing the audit. They will provide us with detailed trial balances, supporting schedules, and other information we deem necessary. A list of these schedules and other items of information will be furnished to you before we begin the audit. The timely and accurate completion of this information is an essential condition to our completion of the audit and the issuance of the audit report.

We keep documents related to this engagement in accordance with our records retention policy and applicable regulations or for any additional period requested by the applicable cognizant agency. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency or the Entity is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party(ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation. We do not keep any original client records, so we will return those to you at the completion of the services rendered under this engagement. When records are returned to you, it is your responsibility to retain and protect your records for possible future use, including potential examination by any government or regulatory agencies.

As part of our engagement, we may propose standard, adjusting, or correcting journal entries to your financial statements. Management, however, has final responsibility for reviewing the proposed entries and understanding the nature and impact of the proposed entries to the financial statements. It is our understanding that management has designated qualified individuals with the necessary expertise to be responsible and accountable for overseeing the acceptance and processing of such journal entries.

Non-reliance on oral advice

It is our policy to put all advice on which a client intends to rely in writing. We believe that is necessary to avoid confusion and to make clear the specific nature and limitations of our advice. You should not rely on any advice that has not been put in writing by our firm after a full supervisory review.

Electronic and other communication

During the course of the engagement, we may communicate with you or with Entity personnel via fax or e-mail. You should be aware that communication in those media may be unsafe to use and contains a risk of misdirection and/or interception by unintended third parties, or failed delivery or receipt. In that regard, you agree that we shall have no liability for any loss or damage to any person or Entity resulting from the use of e-mail or other electronic transmissions, including any consequential, incidental, direct, indirect or special damages.

Access to working papers

During the course of this engagement, we will develop files of various documents, schedules and other related engagement information known as our working papers. As we are sure you can appreciate, these working papers may contain confidential information and our firm's proprietary data. You understand and agree that these working papers are, and will remain, our exclusive property. Except as discussed below, any requests for access to our working papers will be discussed with you before making them available to requesting parties:

- (1) Our firm, as well as other accounting firms, participates in a peer review program covering our audit and accounting practices. This program requires that once every three years we subject our system of quality control to an examination by another accounting firm. As part of this process, the other firm will review a sample of our work. It is possible that the work we perform for you may be selected

for review. If it is, the other firm is bound by professional standards to keep all information confidential.

(2) We may be requested to make certain working papers available to regulators pursuant to authority given to them by law, regulation or subpoena. Such regulators may include (i) a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities; (ii) the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; and (iii) the State Board of Accountancy. If requested, access to such working papers will be provided under the supervision of our personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide photocopies of selected working papers to them. The regulator may intend, or decide, to distribute the photocopies or information contained therein to others, including other government agencies.

Fees and billing

The components of our fees for each of the next two years are detailed below:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Basic fee including single audit and conversion of fund level information to the government-wide financial statements (1)(2)	<u>\$ 110,000</u>	<u>\$ 115,000</u>

(1) Excludes separate audits conducted for the City's Urban Renewal Agency and Board of Water Supply.
(2) The above quoted fee includes the compliance audit of two major programs per fiscal year in accordance with Uniform Grant Guidance. If the City requires more than two major programs to be audited per fiscal year, it will be an additional cost of \$5,000 per program per year.

The fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel, audit condition of the books and records and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new fee estimate before we incur the additional costs.

Our fees for these services are due and payable under the payment schedule which follows. Invoices for additional amounts that may be incurred for these and other services will be rendered as such work progresses and are payable upon presentation.

<u>Payments will be due</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Upon completion of our audit field work	75%
Upon submission of the final report and management letter	25%
	<u>100%</u>

Our average standard hourly billing rates are shown below. Actual rates may vary by department and staff experience levels.

Level	2024
Sr. Partner/Partner	\$350-340
Director	\$300-290
Manager	\$275-260
Supervisor	\$250-240
Senior Accountant	\$225-215
Associate	\$175-165

Liability

Any and all claims by the Entity arising under this engagement must be commenced by the Entity within one year following the date on which our firm delivered our report on the financial statements associated with this engagement, or the date the Entity is informed of the engagement's termination in the event our report is not delivered, for any reason.

You agree to indemnify our firm, its partners, principals and employees, to the fullest extent permitted by law for any expense, including compensation for our time at our standard billing rates and reimbursement for our out-of-pocket expenses and reasonable attorneys' fees, incurred in complying with or responding to any request (by subpoena or otherwise) for testimony, documents or other information concerning the Entity by any governmental agency or investigative body or by a party in any litigation or dispute other than litigation or disputes involving claims by the Entity against the firm. This indemnification will survive termination of this engagement.

Dispute resolution

Any claim or controversy ("dispute") arising out of or relating to this engagement, the services provided thereunder, or any other services provided by or on behalf of the firm or any of its subcontractors or agents to the Entity or at its request (including any dispute involving any person or Entity for whose benefit the services in question are or were provided), shall first be submitted in good faith for mediation administered by the American Arbitration Association ("AAA") under its Mediation Rules. Each party shall bear its own costs in the mediation. Absent an agreement to the contrary, the fees and expenses of the mediator shall be shared equally by the parties.

If the dispute is not resolved by mediation within 90 days of its submission to the mediator, then, and only then, the parties shall submit the dispute for arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association under its Professional Accounting and Related Services Dispute Resolution Rules (the "Rules"). The arbitration will be conducted before a single arbitrator selected from the AAA's Panel of Accounting Professionals and Attorneys and shall take place in New York, New York.

Any discovery sought in connection with the arbitration must be expressly approved by the arbitrator upon a showing of substantial need by the party seeking discovery.

All aspects of the arbitration shall be treated as confidential. The parties and the arbitrator may disclose the existence, content or result of the arbitration only as expressly provided by the Rules.

The arbitrator shall issue his or her final award in a written and reasoned decision to be provided to each party. In his or her decision, the arbitrator will declare one party the prevailing party. The arbitrator shall have the power to award to the prevailing party reasonable legal fees associated with the arbitration and prior mediation. The arbitrator shall have no authority to award non-monetary or equitable relief of any sort.

The arbitrator shall not have authority to award damages that are punitive in nature, or that are not measured by the prevailing party's actual compensatory loss.

The award reached as a result of the arbitration will be binding on the parties and confirmation of the arbitration award may be sought in any court having jurisdiction.

This engagement will be governed by the laws of the State of New York, without giving effect to any provisions relating to conflict of laws that would require the laws of another jurisdiction to apply.

Corporate Transparency Act/Beneficial Ownership Reporting

Assisting you with your compliance with the Corporate Transparency Act ("CTA"), including beneficial ownership information ("BOI") reporting, is not within the scope of this engagement. You have sole responsibility for your compliance with the CTA, including its BOI reporting requirements and the collection of relevant ownership information. We shall have no responsibility resulting from your failure to comply with CTA. Information regarding the BOI reporting requirements can be found at <https://www.fincen.gov/boi>. Consider consulting with legal counsel if you have questions regarding the applicability of the CTA's reporting requirements and issues surrounding the collection of relevant ownership information.

Hosting services

In order to maintain our independence in accordance with the AICPA's Code of Professional Conduct, we cannot host or maintain any client information. You are expected to retain all financial and non-financial information including anything you upload to a portal and are responsible for downloading and retaining anything we upload in a timely manner. Portals are only meant as a method of transferring data, are not intended for the storage of client information, and may be deleted at any time. You are expected to maintain control over your accounting systems to include the licensing of applications and the hosting of said applications and data. We do not provide electronic security or back-up services for any of your data or records. Giving us access to your accounting system does not make us hosts of information contained within.

Employment of firm partner or professional employee

The Entity acknowledges that hiring current or former PKF O'Connor Davies personnel participating in the engagement may be perceived as compromising our objectivity, and depending on the applicable professional standards, impairing our independence in certain circumstances. Accordingly, prior to entering into any employment discussions, with such known individuals, you agree to discuss the potential employment, including any applicable independence ramifications, with the engagement partner responsible for the services.

In addition, during the term of this Engagement Letter and for a period of one (1) year after the services are completed, we both agree not to solicit, directly or indirectly, or hire the other's personnel participating in the engagement without express written consent. If this provision is violated, the violating party will pay the other party a fee equal to the hired person's annual salary in effect at the time of the violation to reimburse the estimated costs of hiring and training replacement personnel.

Confirmation and other

Robert Daniele is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the report or authorizing another individual to sign it.

GAGAS require that we provide you with a copy of our most recent external peer review report, and any subsequent peer review reports received during the period of the contract. Our latest peer review report accompanies this letter.

We will provide copies of our reports to the Entity; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

Our audit engagement for each year ends on delivery of our audit report covering that year. Requests for services other than those included in this engagement letter will be agreed upon separately.

PKF O'Connor Davies LLP ("LLP") and PKF O'Connor Davies Advisory LLC ("Advisory") practice in an alternative practice structure in accordance with applicable law, regulations and professional standards. LLP provides attest services to its clients. Advisory is not a registered CPA firm and does not provide audit or attest services. LLP has a contractual arrangement with Advisory, whereby Advisory provides LLP with professional and support personnel to perform professional services on behalf of LLP. In connection with our services, we may share information that we currently have and/or receive in the future between LLP and Advisory. Unless you indicate otherwise, your acceptance of the terms of this engagement shall be understood by us as your consent for LLP, Advisory and its employees to share confidential information between LLP and Advisory. LLP and Advisory have policies in place that require their employees to maintain as confidential all client information that is not otherwise publicly available.

All rights and obligations set forth herein shall become the rights and obligations of any successor firm to PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP by way of merger, acquisition or otherwise.

If this letter correctly expresses your understanding of the terms of our engagement, including our respective responsibilities, please sign the enclosed copy where indicated and return it to us.

We are pleased to have this opportunity to serve you.

Very truly yours,

PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP

PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP

/Enc.

The services and terms described in the foregoing letter are in accordance with our requirements and are acceptable to us.

CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, NEW YORK

BY: _____

TITLE: _____

DATE: _____

PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP is a member firm of the PKF International Limited network of legally independent firms and does not accept any responsibility or liability for the actions or inactions on the part of any other individual member firm or firms.



REPORT ON THE FIRM'S SYSTEM OF QUALITY CONTROL

January 25, 2024

To the Partners of PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP
and the National Peer Review Committee

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP (the firm) applicable to engagements not subject to PCAOB permanent inspection in effect for the year ended December 31, 2022. Our peer review was conducted in accordance with the Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Standards).

A summary of the nature, objectives, scope, limitations of, and the procedures performed in a System Review as described in the Standards may be found at www.aicpa.org/prsummary. The summary also includes an explanation of how engagements identified as not performed or reported in conformity with applicable professional standards, if any, are evaluated by a peer reviewer to determine a peer review rating.

Firm's Responsibility

The firm is responsible for designing and complying with a system of quality control to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with the requirements of applicable professional standards in all material respects. The firm is also responsible for evaluating actions to promptly remediate engagements deemed as not performed or reported on in conformity with the requirements of applicable professional standards, when appropriate, and for remediating weaknesses in its system of quality control, if any.

Peer Reviewer's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design of and compliance with the firm's system of quality control therewith based on our review.

Required Selections and Considerations

Engagements selected for review included engagements performed under Government Auditing Standards, including compliance audits under the Single Audit Act; audits of employee benefit plans; and examinations of services organizations (SOC 1 and SOC 2 engagements).

As a part of our peer review, we considered reviews by regulatory entities as communicated by the firm, if applicable, in determining the nature and extent of our procedures.

Opinion

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP applicable to engagements not subject to PCAOB permanent inspection in effect for the year ended December 31, 2022, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. Firms can receive a rating of *pass*, *pass with deficiency(ies)*, or *fail*. PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP has received a peer review rating of *pass*.

Davie Kaplan, CPA, P.C.

DAVIE KAPLAN, CPA, P.C.

Davie Kaplan, CPA, P.C.
Certified Public Accountants