

CITY COUNCIL
LESLIE MCPHERSON, MAYOR
DANNY CARTER, MAYOR PRO TEM
SHIRLEY MARCHMAN
MATTHEW MONTAHAN
STEPHANIE WARMOTH
ANNA MCCOY

City of Villa Rica



CITY MANAGER: TOM BARBER
CITY CLERK: THERESA CAMPBELL
CITY ATTORNEY: C. DAVID MECKLIN

571 W BANKHEAD HWY
VILLA RICA, GA. 30180
770.459.7000 | VILLARICA.ORG

MAYOR & COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA

Holt-Bishop Justice Center, Municipal Courtroom, 101 Main Street
March 12, 2024 | 1:30 PM

Review of the Agenda (Mayor Leslie McPherson)

A. Governing Body (Mayor Leslie McPherson)

1. Keep Carroll Beautiful Sponsorship for E- Recycling Event

B. Community Development (Tracy Jarvis, Director)

1. CU-02-24 Special Exception Use Request for a Smoke/Vape Shop located on 596 Hwy 61- Public Hearing (Shaun Daniels, Planner)
2. CU-03-24 Special Exception Use Request for Smoke/Vape Shop located on 650 W. Bankhead Hwy - Public Hearing (Shaun Daniels, Planner)
3. RA-05-23 – Rezoning from Commercial Medium-Density (C2) to Industrial Low-Density (I1) for property located at the SE corner of Highway 61 and Whitworth Road and Public Hearing (Shaun Daniels, Planner)
4. Technical Building and Construction Code Adoption (Matthew Alexander, Chief Building Official)

C. Human Resources (Tiffany Jenkins, Interim Director)

1. Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Restatement (Tiffany Jenkins, Interim Director)

D. Public Works (Hal Burch, Director)

1. Fullerville Additional Parking (Hal Burch, Director)

E. City Manager (Tom Barber)

1. Stormwater Utility Proposals (Tom Barber, City Manager)
2. ADA Transition Plan (Bobby Elliott)

Public Comment (We ask that you sign in for Public Comment before the meeting begins. Please state your Name and Address for the record and limit your comments to three minutes.)



CITY OF VILLA RICA

City Council Meeting Agenda Item Cover Sheet

SUBJECT: Keep Carroll Beautiful - Sponsorship for E-Recycling Event
AGENDA DATE: 3-12-2024

DATE PREPARED: 3-5-2024
PREPARED BY: LeAnne Wilkins

AMOUNT: \$1,000
GL ACCOUNT #: 100-1110-572100
FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund Operating
BUDGETED ITEM?: Yes

1:

PURPOSE: To approve a \$1,000 sponsorship of the Keep Carroll Beautiful Spring E-Recycling event on April 13, 2024.

BACKGROUND: The City has sponsored this event in the past:

2015 - \$1,000
2016 - \$1,000
2018 - \$1,000
2021 - \$1,000
2022 - \$1,000
2023 - \$1,000

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval.

IMPACT: To sponsor a local electronic recycling event by Keep Carroll Beautiful.

MOTION: I move to approve the sponsorship of Keep Carroll Beautiful's Spring E-Recycling event for the amount of \$1,000. •



APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL EXCEPTION

Please complete the blanks with the requested information. If any of the information or required materials is missing or incomplete, the application will not be processed. Also, please note the required information requested on the back of this page.

Date of Application: 2/7/2024

APPLICANT

Applicant Name: SMOKY TOBACCO & VAPE LLC
Address: 596 Highway 61 Ste B City: VILLARICA State: GA Zip: 30180
Phone: (347) 791-5556 Fax: (910) 294-4477 Email: ShamAli780@gmail.com
Agent Name: Mohamed S ZAKARI
Address: 596 Highway 61 Ste B City: VILLARICA State: GA Zip: 30180
Phone: (347) 791-5556 Fax: (910) 294-4477 Email: ShamAli780@gmail.com
Owner Name (If different from applicant): Lee He
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: () (404) 867 Fax: () _____ Email: leeinfo@lee

(Note: A notarized statement signed by the property owner(s) authorizing the applicant to make this request shall be attached to the application.)

SPECIAL EXCEPTION

TYPE OF EXCEPTION (Select One): ☒ Conditional Use Permit ☐ Development Standards Variance

Name: Smoky Tobacco
Special Exception Location (attach location map): _____
Proposed Use: Tobacco, Vape
Square Footage of Site: 1080
Assessor's Parcel Number: _____
Describe Proposed Special Exception: Shop will be selling
products vape

(For Office Use Only)

Total Amount Paid \$ _____ Cash _____ Check # _____ Received by: _____
Application checked by: _____ Date: _____ Map Number(s): _____
Planning Commission: Approved _____ Denied _____ Date: _____ Conditions: No Yes How many: _____
City Council Decision: Approved _____ Denied _____ Date: _____ Conditions: No Yes How many: _____
Manager's Signature: _____ Date: _____



**APPLICATION FOR
SPECIAL EXCEPTION**

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions

In accordance with the Conflict of Interest in Zoning Act, O.C.G.A., Chapter 36-67A, the following questions must be answered:

Has the applicant made, within two (2) years immediately preceding the filing of this application for rezoning, campaign contributions aggregating \$250 or more or made gifts having in the aggregate a value of \$250 or more to a member of the City Council who will consider the application?

Yes _____ No X

If Yes, the applicant and the attorney representing the applicant must file a disclosure report with the City within ten (10) days after this application is first filed. Please supply the following information that will be considered as the required disclosure:

Council/Planning Commission Member Name	Dollar amount of Campaign Contribution	Description of Gift \$250 or greater given to Board Member
--	---	---

We certify that the foregoing information is true and correct, this 9 day of 02, 2024

Mohamed S Zaokari
Applicant's Name – Printed

Mohamed Zaokari
Signature of Applicant

Applicant's Attorney, if applicable – Printed

Signature of Applicant's Attorney, if applicable

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 09 day of February, 2024.

Aggie Cartwright
NOTARY PUBLIC
Cherokee County, GEORGIA
My Commission Expires 08/31/2027

Aggie Cartwright
Notary Public

1. Applicant means any individual or business entity (corporation, partnership, limited partnership, firm enterprise, franchise, association, or trust) applying for rezoning or other action.



**APPLICATION FOR
SPECIAL EXCEPTION**

The procedure for approval of a Special Exception is set forth in Section 11.09 of the Villa Rica Zoning Ordinance. Generally, the process involves review by the Community Development Director and final review and decision by the City Council.

I, Mohamed S ZAKARI, hereby state that all of the above statements and statements contained in the documents submitted with this application are true.

Mohamed Zakari
Signature of Applicant

02/09/2024
Date

Required Materials to Accompany the Application:

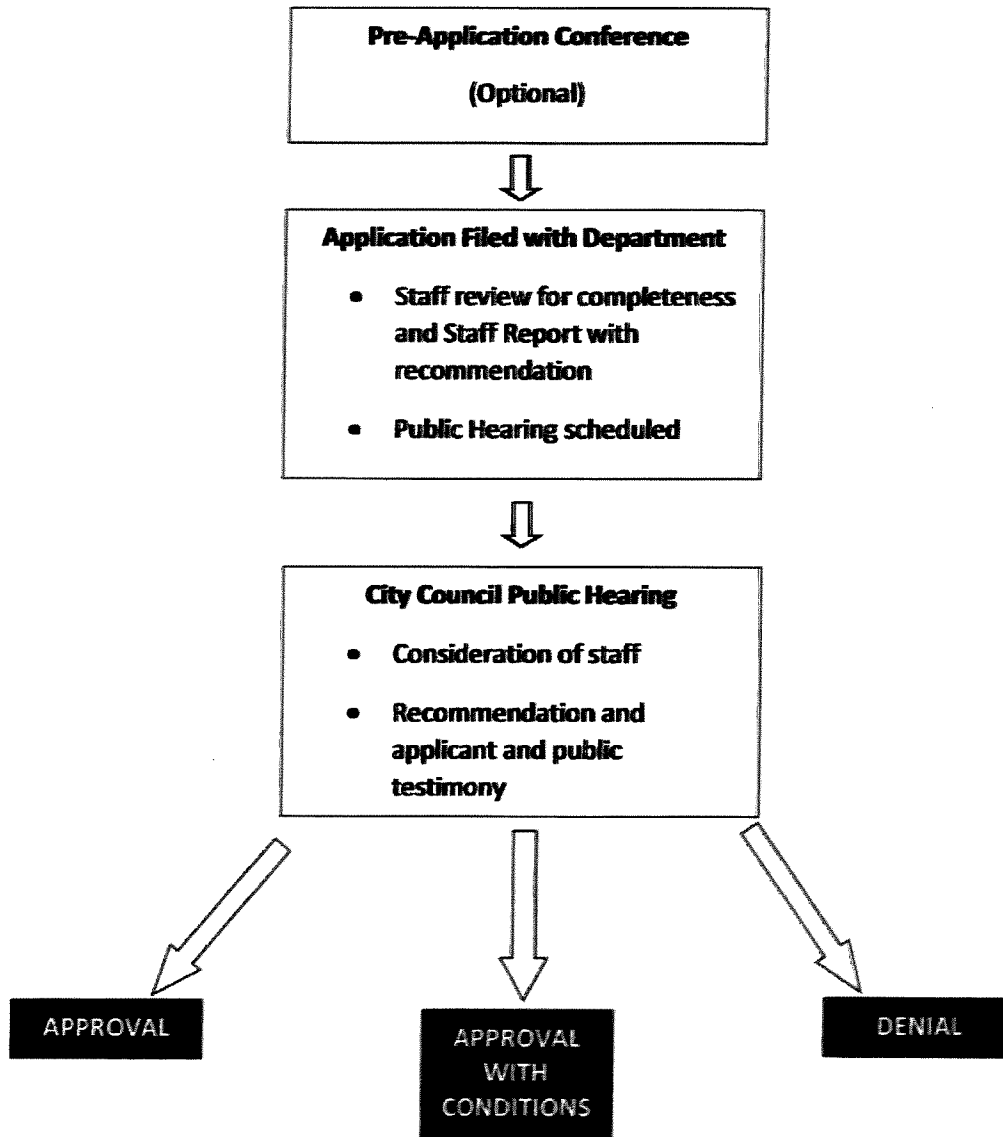
The Community Development Director may waive informational requirements upon finding that the information is not required to determine compliance with Zoning Ordinance requirements.

- 1) Copy of deed, lease, option agreement or other evidence of ownership or applicant's interest in the property. If the applicant is not the owner, attach a notarized statement signed by the owner authorizing the applicant to request the amendment.
- 2) A site development plan prepared in conformance with all application requirements;
- 3) A written statement describing the following:
 - a) The proposed use;
 - b) The effect the proposed development may have on surrounding properties and a statement of the facts indicating that the proposed change will not be detrimental to the general public interest and the purposes of this Code;
 - c) Whether such change is consistent with the intent and the purpose of this Code and the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan;
 - d) The areas that are most likely to be directly affected by such change and the likely effects;
 - e) Whether the proposed amendment is made necessary because of changed or changing social values, new planning concepts, or other social or economic conditions in the areas and zoning districts affected.
- 4) Any other exhibits as may be required by the Community Development Manager.



APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL EXCEPTION

PROCESS





CITY OF VILLA RICA

City Council Meeting

Agenda Item Cover Sheet

SUBJECT: CU-02-24 – Special Exception Use from Sections 8.22 of the Villa Rica Zoning Ordinance

AGENDA DATE: March 12, 2024

DATE PREPARED: February 28, 2024

PREPARED BY: Shaun Daniels, Planner

AMOUNT:

GL ACCOUNT #:

FUNDING SOURCE:

BUDGETED ITEM:

PUBLIC HEARING: YES

PURPOSE:

Smoky Tobacco & Vape LLC (Applicants) requests a Special Exception Use Permit to operate a retail smoke shop operation at 596 61 Hwy Parcel No: V07 010013, in Land Lot 131 in Carroll County. The property consists of .73 +/- acres and is located in Ward 2. The application pertains to a 1080 square foot suite in the Papa Johns Plaza property.

BACKGROUND:

Smoky Tobacco & Vape LLC is proposing to use suite (B) as a smoke/vape shop in a Commercial Medium Density (C2) zone. The proposed 1080 square foot unit is one of five suites located within the 31,800 square foot Papa Johns Plaza. The Plaza is one of the southern bordered parcels next to Interstate 20, east of Highway 61, and adjacent just northwest from the Villa Rica Walmart. The City of Villa Rica regulates all smoke/vape/tobacco shops within the (C2) zone require approval from City Council to obtain a Special Exception Use permit.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends **APPROVAL**

Reasons: The proposed business meets all supplementary standard requirements in the zoning ordinance, is projected to have less traffic than a restaurant use and meets all parking requirements. (1) space every 300 square feet Table 7.4 Minimal Parking Space Requirements.

IMPACT: N/A

MOTION: I make a motion to approve the Special Exception Use permit application for Smoky Tobacco & Vape LLC with the aforementioned conditions at 596 61 Hwy Suite (B).



Theresa Campbell, City Clerk
City of Villa Rica
571 W. Bankhead Highway
Villa Rica, GA 30180

Re: Planning Report
596 Carrollton Villa Rica Hwy Suite D, Villa Rica GA 30180
CU-02-24
Applicant's Name: Smokey Tobacco & Vape LLC/ Mohamed S Zaokari (tenet)
Property Owner: Manna Property Holdings LLC
Land Lot 131, Section 6
Parcel # V07 0100131
Lot Size: 0.73 Acre +/-
Zone: C2
Ward: 2
City Council Member: Matthew Momtaham
Planning Board Member: David Rodgers
City of Villa Rica, Carroll County, Georgia

Dear Ms. Kilgore:

Smoky Tobacco & Vape LLC (the Applicant) is seeking a special exception use permit to operate a retail smoke/vape shop at 596 Carrollton Villa Rica Hwy Suite D.

The following documents, which were submitted in support of the application, have been reviewed:

1. Application for a Special Exception Use permit, dated February 7, 2024 (4 pages);
2. Letter of Intent, prepared by Ali Shami., (undated) (1 page);
3. Purchase Agreement, dated January 1, 2024, signed by applicant Ali Shami and Property owner Lee Hanely; (15 pages)
4. (unofficial) Property Survey, (undated), prepared by Ali Shami. (1 page);



A. Existing Conditions+

Smoky Tobacco & Vape LLC (applicant) proposed smoke/vape shop will be one of five suites within the Papa Johns Plaza. The Papa Johns Plaza only has three of the five businesses that are currently operational (not counting the applicants). The current businesses within the Papa Johns Plaza are the Groom Room barbershop, (tenets proposed Vape Shop), Boost Mobile, Vacant Suite and Papa Johns Pizza. The 31,800 square foot Papa Johns Plaza is zoned (C2) Commercial Medium-Density. The lot does border Interstate I-20 Eastbound to the north, an adjacent four-suite plaza to the west and Walmart which is located east of Papa Johns Plaza. The Parcel is adjacent to Commercial Medium Density (C2) on the west, south, east, but both Single Family Residential (R2) and (C2) are the closest most northern zoned area. The property is situated in the I-20 Gateway West character area. No creeks or streams have been identified on the parcel and the parcel is not located in a flood zone.

The proposed smoke/vape shop does have similar use shops in operations nearby. One similar use shop in current operation is located, southeast across the Walmart parking lot, situated within an eight-suite plaza, on the opposite end of the El Ranchito Mexican Restaurant. This particular tobacco/vape shop named Angry Dragon Vapors is approximately 900 feet from the proposed property, which is out of the 500-foot disperse zone smoke/tobacco shops can operate per Villa Rica Ordinance Section 8.22(2)(b).

Other smoke shops that are nearby are ATL Smoke & Vape which, is approximately 1200 feet south on 125 Commons Way. There are currently three tobacco/ vape shops in a .6-mile radius (Angry Dragon Vapors, Lionz Vape & Phone Repairs and ATL Smoke & Vape). The City Council has seen a similar special exception request located within the I-20 Gateway West area in a 2022 city council meeting, (CU-01-22) on 197 Commerce Drive (old Waffle House), which the applicant was denied.

Surrounding Properties:

TABLE 1 – SURROUNDING LAND USES		
	Current Zoning	Land Use Character Area
North	Single Family Residential (R-2) & Commercial Medium-Density (C-2)	I-20 Gateway Activity & Traditional Neighborhood Areas
East	Commercial Medium-Density (C-2)	I-20 Gateway Activity Area
South	Commercial Medium-Density (C-2)	I-20 Gateway Activity Area
West	Commercial Medium-Density (C-2)	I-20 Gateway Activity Area



Figure 1: Carroll County GIS image of the site, with the property boundaries approximated.

B. Site History

596 Hwy 61, 31,800 square-foot lot was recorded in the Plat Book in December 1998 under the name Villa Rica Assoc. Construction of the building began around 2002, later taken a name change. The lot has had five various owners since construction. Now named Papa Johns Plaza, the current owner Manna Property Holdings LLC purchased the lot around 2008. Each suite within the Papa Johns Plaza has held numerous tenants. Papa Johns in Suite (E) is the longest standing business in operation since construction.

The applicant's proposed 1080 square-foot suite has been vacant for a short time before Smoky Tobacco LLC acquired the space. Previously, Suite (B) was operated by Couture Scrubwear and Medical Supply for approximately two years. Before Couture Scrubwear and Medical Supply's operation, a CBD shop was in Suite (B) for approximately two years. All State insurance ran operations within Suite (B) for around ten years.



c. Proposed Development

The applicant is proposing to open a smoke/vape shop in suite (B) which was last operated by Couture Scrubwear and Medical Supply store. The applicant expressed adding three hourly associates in the first year of operations. The applicant proposes that Smoky Tobacco & Vape LLC will sell Vapes, CBD products, tobacco products, and other similar cigarette alternatives and holistic health products. The applicant does have experience with smoke/vape shop businesses, one of which located in Marietta Ga.

Flood Plain

The property is not located within a flood zone, based on FEMA's maps. This area is considered in "Flood Zone X", which is a flood area without base flood elevation levels determined. Figure 2, below, indicates the flood zone map (Figure 2):

National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette

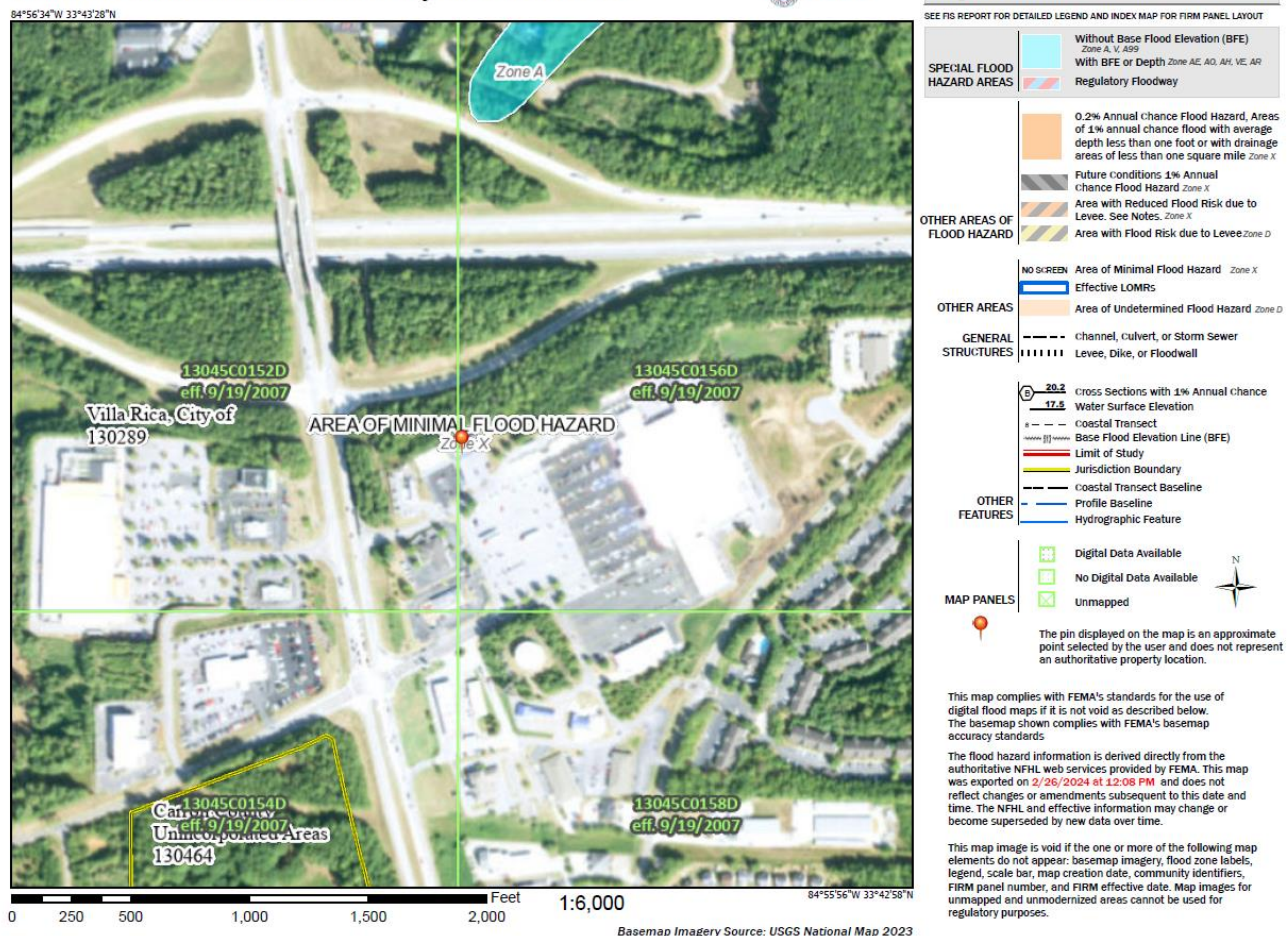


Figure 2: FEMA Flood Map



d. Supplementary Regulations and Special Exception Review Criteria

The developer has requested a special exception permit, which requires action from the City Council in order for the request to be approved or denied.

The Future Land Use Plan prescribes “I-20 Gateway Activity Area” as future land use for the parcels. The intent of the I-20 Gateway Activity Center is as follows:

“In a most basic form, Gateways serve as the primary entrances into the city, are similar to commercial activity centers, with an emphasis on capturing commuter traffic and providing a sense of arrival to Villa Rica. Gateway areas should support a variety of uses, including commercial, mixed use, and office-related developments which also offer employment opportunities. Such development can provide opportunities for hotels similar high intensity developments.”

The existing development pattern in the area is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. A few shops in the I-20 Gateway have the same smoke/tobacco use as this Special Exception application. The I-20 Gateway would be an ideal location for this special exception applicant because of the high volume of pedestrians travelling along Highway 61/Highway 101 and Interstate 20.

The city’s zoning ordinance requires that smoke shops, vape shops, tobacco shops and medical marijuana dispensaries meet certain standards found within Section 8.22 as indicated below. Staff has reviewed these standards, and the use meets all requirements within this section of the ordinance (staff comments in **bold**):

- 1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title to the contrary, smoke shops, tobacco stores, and medical marijuana dispensaries shall be permitted by Special Exception only in the Commercial, Medium-Density (C-2) zoning district. **The property is located within the C-2 Zone.**
- 2) Additional zoning and land use standards for smoke shops, tobacco stores, and medical marijuana dispensaries shall be as follows:
 - a. Smoke shops, tobacco stores, and medical marijuana dispensaries shall not be located within three hundred (300) feet, measured property line to property line, from a school (public or private), family day care home, child care facility, youth center, community center, recreational facility, park, church or religious institution, hospital, or other similar uses where children regularly gather. **The property is approximately 1050 feet east from Tanner Medical Center/Villa Rica. The closest school is a drive-over Interstate 20 in route to Villa Rica High School which is .7 miles**



from the proposed smoke/vape shop.

- b. Smoke shops, tobacco stores, and medical marijuana dispensaries shall not be located within five hundred (500) feet, measured property line to property line, from another smoke shop and tobacco store. **Currently, three tobacco/vape shops are in a .6-mile radius for each other (Angry Dragon Vapors, Lionz Vape & Phone Repairs and ATL Smoke & Vape). Angry Dragon Vapors is approximately 900 feet southeast, across the Walmart parking lot. ATL Smoke & Vape is approximately 1200 ft south at 125 Commons way.**
 - c. It is unlawful for a smoke shop, tobacco stores, and medical marijuana dispensaries to knowingly allow or permit a minor, not accompanied by his or her parent or legal guardian, to enter or remain within any smoke shops, tobacco stores, and medical marijuana dispensaries. **The applicant has indicated that they will meet this regulation.**
 - d. Smoke shops, tobacco stores, and medical marijuana dispensaries shall post clear signage stating that minors may not enter the premises unless accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. At least one such sign shall be placed in a conspicuous location near each public entrance to the smoke shop and tobacco store. It shall be unlawful for a smoke shop and tobacco store to fail to display and maintain, or fail to cause to be displayed or maintained, such signage. **The applicant must meet this requirement upon opening.**
- 3) Standard conditions of approval for any Special Exception shall, at minimum, include the following:
- a. No smoking shall be permitted on the premises at any time.
 - b. No sales may be solicited or conducted on the premises by minors.
 - c. No self-service, product, or paraphernalia displays shall be permitted.
 - d. No distribution of free or low-cost products or paraphernalia, as well as coupons for said items, shall be permitted.

DECISION CRITERIA.

- a) The City Council shall review the particular facts and circumstances of each proposed use in terms of the following standards and shall find adequate evidence showing that the use at the proposed location:
 - i) Is in fact a permitted Special Exception use as listed in each zoning district and appears on Table 4.3: Permitted and Special Exception Land Uses of Chapter IV: Zoning Districts for the zoning district involved; **The use is a permitted Special Exception use.**



ii) Will be harmonious and consistent with the character of the zoning district and in accordance with the general objectives, or with any specific objective of the City's Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Ordinance; **The use meets the I-20 Gateway West character of the zoning district and intents of the Comprehensive Plan.**

iii) Will be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained so as to be harmonious and appropriate in appearance with the existing or intended character of the general vicinity and that such use will not change the essential character of the same area; No exterior changes to the property is anticipated, except for signage. **The character of the area is not expected to change since no additional construction or site changes are anticipated.**

iv) Will be served adequately by essential public facilities and services such as highways, streets, police and fire protection, drainage structures, refuse disposal, water and sewer, and schools; or that the persons or agencies responsible for the establishment of the proposed use shall be able to provide adequately any such services; **The use will be adequately serviced by all applicable city/county services.**

v) Will not create excessive additional requirements at public cost for public facilities and services and will not be detrimental to the economic welfare of the community; **No additional requirements or public costs are expected for any tenets within the Papa Johns Plaza and/or any company's directly within the vicinity.**

vi) Will not involve uses, activities, processes, materials, equipment, and conditions of operation that will be detrimental to any persons, property, or the general welfare by reason of excessive production of traffic, noise, smoke, fumes, glare, or odors; **The property owner is not proposing on-site smoking/vaping, odors, smoke and fumes are not expected to be an issue with the use. Minors are not permitted to enter the premises by ordinance and the use is far enough from schools, churches and other smokes shops as required by ordinance. The general welfare of the community does not appear to be at risk.**

vii) Will have vehicular approaches to the property, which shall be so designed as not to create an interference with traffic on surrounding public thoroughfares; **No direct interference with traffic along Highway 61 or the local plazas are expected to be affected.**



viii) Will not result in the destruction, loss, or damage of a natural, scenic, or historic feature of major importance. **No such features have been identified.**

E. Comments

No Staff Comments.

Recommendation:

Staff recommendation: **APPROVAL**

Reasons: The proposed business meets all supplementary standard requirements in the zoning ordinance, is projected to have less traffic than a restaurant uses and meets all parking requirements.

Public Notifications:

As required by *Section 11.05* in the Code of the City of Villa Rica, the public has been notified in *Times-Georgian* and the *Douglas County Sentinel* on February 12th 2024; a sign has been posted on the subject property; and all abutting property owners have received notification via regular and certified mail.

Public Response:

In response to the public notifications, no residents have contacted the city objecting to the proposed variances.

Should you have any questions concerning the above comments please do not hesitate to contact my office. We reserve the right to make additional comments based upon further review or submission of revised plans or new information.

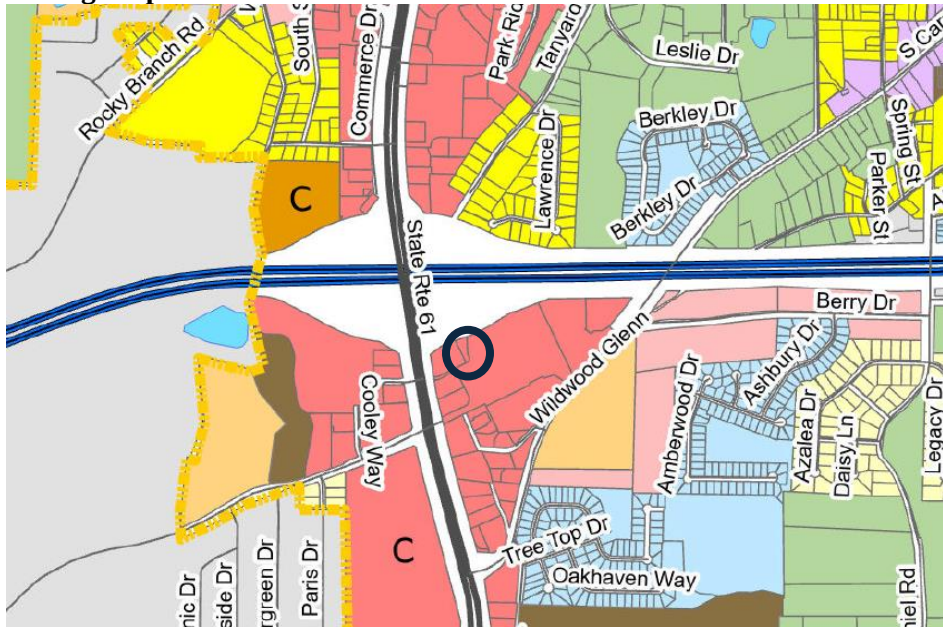
Sincerely,

Shaun Daniels
City Planner of Villa Rica
Planning and Zoning
Cell 470-692-2747
Office 678-785-9995

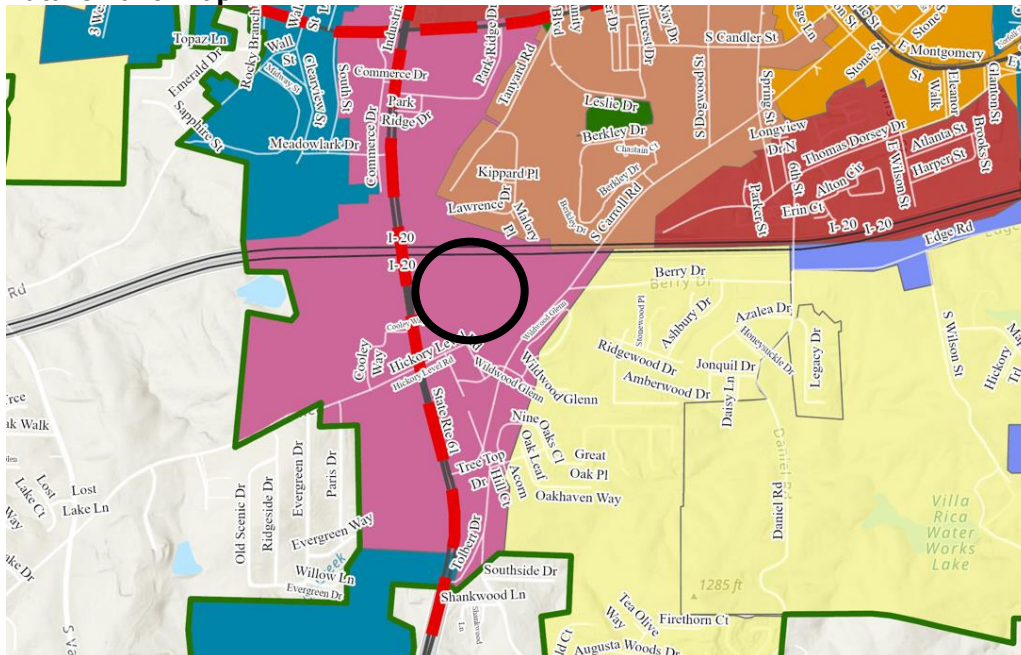


Attachments:

Zoning Map



Future Land Map



Letter of Intent

Smoky Tobacco & Vape

We're very excited and hyped to open our new store in Villa Rica, our business is more than just a tobacco and vape shop, selling tobacco products in various forms and the related accessories, such as pipes, lighters, matches, pipe, bongs, cleaner and more. We will be specialized retailer that sells ashtrays, hygrometers, humidors, cigar cutters.

Our vape section will include but not limited to various vape devices including all their accessories such as coils and vape juice, more than 200 different kinds of disposable.

Our Cigars and cigarillos will have wholesome of the store. This is just a brief summary of our upcoming Tobacco and vape

53ft

20ft



APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL EXCEPTION

Please complete the blanks with the requested information. If any of the information or required materials is missing or incomplete, the application will not be processed. Also, please note the required information requested on the back of this page.

Date of Application: 2/8/2024

APPLICANT

Applicant Name: Abhishak A. Dhoolya
Address: 1136 Brookside Elm Dr City: Duluth State: GA Zip: 30097
Phone: () - - Fax: () - - Email: _____
Agent Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: () - - Fax: () - - Email: _____
Owner Name (If different from applicant): _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: () - - Fax: () - - Email: _____

(Note: A notarized statement signed by the property owner(s) authorizing the applicant to make this request shall be attached to the application.)

SPECIAL EXCEPTION

TYPE OF EXCEPTION (Select One): ☒ Conditional Use Permit ☐ Development Standards Variance

Name: THE GOODLIFE VAPE & SMOKE SHOP
Special Exception Location (attach location map): 650 W BANKHEAD HWY, VILLA RICA, GA 30180
Proposed Use: TOBACCO & SMOKE VAPE SHOP
Square Footage of Site: 900
Assessor's Parcel Number: V07 0110162
Describe Proposed Special Exception: SMOKE SHOP TO CATER CUSTOMERS

(For Office Use Only)

Total Amount Paid \$ _____ Cash _____ Check # _____ Received by: _____

Application checked by: _____ Date: _____ Map Number(s): _____

Planning Commission: Approved Denied Date: _____ Conditions: No Yes How many: _____

City Council Decision: Approved Denied Date: _____ Conditions: No Yes How many: _____

Manager's Signature: _____ Date: _____



**APPLICATION FOR
SPECIAL EXCEPTION**

The procedure for approval of a Special Exception is set forth in Section 11.09 of the Villa Rica Zoning Ordinance. Generally, the process involves review by the Community Development Director and final review and decision by the City Council.

I, Abhishek A. Dhoty, hereby state that all of the above statements and statements contained in the documents submitted with this application are true.


Signature of Applicant

2/8/24
Date

Required Materials to Accompany the Application:

The Community Development Director may waive informational requirements upon finding that the information is not required to determine compliance with Zoning Ordinance requirements.

- 1) Copy of deed, lease, option agreement or other evidence of ownership or applicant's interest in the property. If the applicant is not the owner, attach a notarized statement signed by the owner authorizing the applicant to request the amendment.
- 2) A site development plan prepared in conformance with all application requirements;
- 3) *A written statement describing the following:*
 - a) The proposed use;
 - b) The effect the proposed development may have on surrounding properties and a statement of the facts indicating that the proposed change will not be detrimental to the general public interest and the purposes of this Code;
 - c) Whether such change is consistent with the intent and the purpose of this Code and the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan;
 - d) The areas that are most likely to be directly affected by such change and the likely effects;
 - e) Whether the proposed amendment is made necessary because of changed or changing social values, new planning concepts, or other social or economic conditions in the areas and zoning districts affected.
- 4) Any other exhibits as may be required by the Community Development Manager.



**APPLICATION FOR
SPECIAL EXCEPTION**

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions

In accordance with the Conflict of Interest in Zoning Act, O.C.G.A., Chapter 36-67A, the following questions must be answered:

Has the applicant made, within two (2) years immediately preceding the filing of this application for rezoning, campaign contributions aggregating \$250 or more or made gifts having in the aggregate a value of \$250 or more to a member of the City Council who will consider the application?

Yes _____ No X

If **Yes**, the applicant and the attorney representing the applicant must file a disclosure report with the City within ten (10) days after this application is first filed. Please supply the following information that will be considered as the required disclosure:

Council/Planning Commission Member Name	Dollar amount of Campaign Contribution	Description of Gift \$250 or greater given to Board Member
--	---	---

We certify that the foregoing information is true and correct, this 8 day of February, 2024.

Abhishek Dhooly
Applicant's Name – Printed

[Signature]
Signature of Applicant

Applicant's Attorney, if applicable – Printed

Signature of Applicant's Attorney, if applicable

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th day of February, 2024.



Margaret Henry
Notary Public

1. Applicant means any individual or business entity (corporation, partnership, limited partnership, firm enterprise, franchise, association, or trust) applying for rezoning or other action.



CITY OF VILLA RICA

City Council Meeting Agenda Item Cover Sheet

SUBJECT: CU-03-24 – Special Exception Use from Sections 8.22 of the Villa Rica Zoning Ordinance

AGENDA DATE: March 12, 2024

DATE PREPARED: February 28, 2024

PREPARED BY: Shaun Daniels, Planner

AMOUNT:

GL ACCOUNT #:

FUNDING SOURCE:

BUDGETED ITEM:

PUBLIC HEARING: YES

PURPOSE:

Abhishak Dhroliya (Applicant) requests for a Special Exception Use permit to operate a retail smoke shop operation at 650 W. Bankhead Hwy Suite (B), Parcel No: V07 0110162, in Land Lot 158 of the 6th District in Carroll County. The property consists of 1.55 +/- acres and is located in Ward 2. The applicant pertains to the 1,000 square foot suite of the property.

BACKGROUND:

The subject property is located on West Bankhead highway, east of Highway 61/ Highway 101 and proximity .73 miles north of I-20. The 1.55 arced lot is an irregular shaped four-point polygon that also operates as a BP filling station and its two accessory structured carwash areas. Suite (B) is 1,000 square feet of the total 3,124 square-foot Convenience store area of the filling station, which was previously a Big Chic Restaurant. Being that the zoning is Commercial Medium Density (C2), City of Villa Rica regulates all smoke/vape/tobacco shops require approval from City Council to obtain a Special Exception Use permit.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends **APPROVAL**

Reasons: The proposed business meets all supplementary standard requirements in the zoning ordinance, is projected to have less traffic than a restaurant use and meets all parking requirements. (1) space every 300 square feet Table 7.4 Minimal Parking Space Requirements.

IMPACT: N/A

MOTION: I make a motion to approve the special exception use permit application for a smoke/vape shop with the aforementioned conditions at 650 W. Bankhead Hwy Suite (B).



Abhishak Dhroliya – 650 W. Bankhead Hwy. Suite B
CU-03-24
February 26, 2024

Theresa Campbell, City Clerk
City of Villa Rica
571 W. Bankhead Highway
Villa Rica, GA 30180

Re: Planning Report
Abhishak Dhroliya
CU-03-24
650 W. Bankhead Hwy. Suite B
Land Lot 158, Section 6
Parcel # V07 0110162
Lot Size: 1.55 Acres
Zone: C2
Ward: 2
City Council Member: Matthew Momtahan
Planning Board Member: David Rogers
City of Villa Rica, Carroll County, Georgia

Dear Ms. Campbell:

Abhishak Dhroliya (the Applicant) is seeking a special exception to operate a retail smoke/vape shop. Suite (B) on 650 W. Bankhead Hwy.

The following documents, which were submitted in support of the application, have been reviewed:

1. Application for a Special Exception, dated February 9th, 2024 (3 pages);
2. Letter of Tenet, prepared by Abhishak Dhroliya, dated February 28, 2024 (1 Page);
3. Purchase Agreement, Signed by tenet Abhishak Dhroliya; dated January 5, 2024 (8 Pages);
4. Partial Site Plan, (undated) (2 pages);



A. Existing Conditions

The subject property is located on West Bankhead Highway, east of the transition area of Highway 61/ Highway 101 and proximity .73 miles north of I-20. Suite (B) is approximately 230.30 feet of frontage from the front of the door to W. Bankhead Hwy. The 1.55 arced lot is an irregular shaped four-point polygon that is also separate operations as a BP filling station. The applicant's proposed smoke/vape suite (B) is 1,000 square foot of the total 3,124 square-foot convenience store. Lionz Vape & Phone Repairs is .57 miles southwest, which is the closest smoke shop to the property. No creeks or streams have been identified on the parcel and the parcel is not located in a flood zone.

The Parcel is currently zoned Commercial Medium-Density (C2). The parcel does not border a city boundary/unincorporated area. The parcel is located in the north end of the I-20 Gateway West character area portion of the city. The City Council has seen a similar special exception request located within the I-20 Gateway West area in the 2022 (CU-01-22) on 197 Commerce Drive (old Waffle House), which the applicant was denied. The parcel is directly adjacent to an Agricultural (AG) zone to the north and Commercial Medium-Density (C2) zone south, east, and west. The lot in between an Auto Zone and Truist Bank.

TABLE 1 – SURROUNDING LAND USES		
	Current Zoning	Land Use Character Area
North	Agricultural (AG)	Urban Neighborhood Activity Area
East	Commercial Medium-Density (C-2)	I-20 Gateway Activity Area
South	Commercial Medium-Density (C-2)	I-20 Gateway Activity Area
West	Commercial Medium-Density (C-2)	I-20 Gateway Activity Area



Figure 1: Carroll County GIS image of the site, with the property boundaries approximated.

B. Site History

Most of the building's square footage is dedicated to a BP filling station. The primary 3,124 square-foot convenience store was built in 1997. The lot has two other accessory structures, one being a 988 square foot automated drive-thru car wash and the other is a 2,420-foot square foot five-bay hand spray car wash building. Both accessory buildings were constructed around 2003.

1,000 square foot Suite (B) used to be the Big Chic restaurant around 2018 and was open for approximately three or four years before closing. In 2021, another restaurant named The Greek Corner was a tenet in Suite (B) for a short time before closing. The Big Chic came back to operate in Suite (B), but only for approximately two years before closing again. The suite was vacant for a short time until the applicant signed a lease agreement for the suite.

c. Proposed Development

The applicant is proposing to open a smoke/vape shop on the BP Filling station's property within the



previous Big Chic restaurant. The applicant will add two hourly-based positions in Villa Rica upon opening. The applicant proposes to sell CBD products, tobacco products, and other similar cigarette alternatives and holistic health products. In 2015 the applicant did open a filling station in Carrollton and in 2022 the opened-up Smoke/Vape shop in Lavonia, GA, both at which are still operation.

Flood Plain

The property is not located within a flood zone, based on FEMA's maps. This area is considered in "Flood Zone X", which is a flood area without base flood elevation levels determined. Figure 2, below, indicates the flood zone map:

National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette

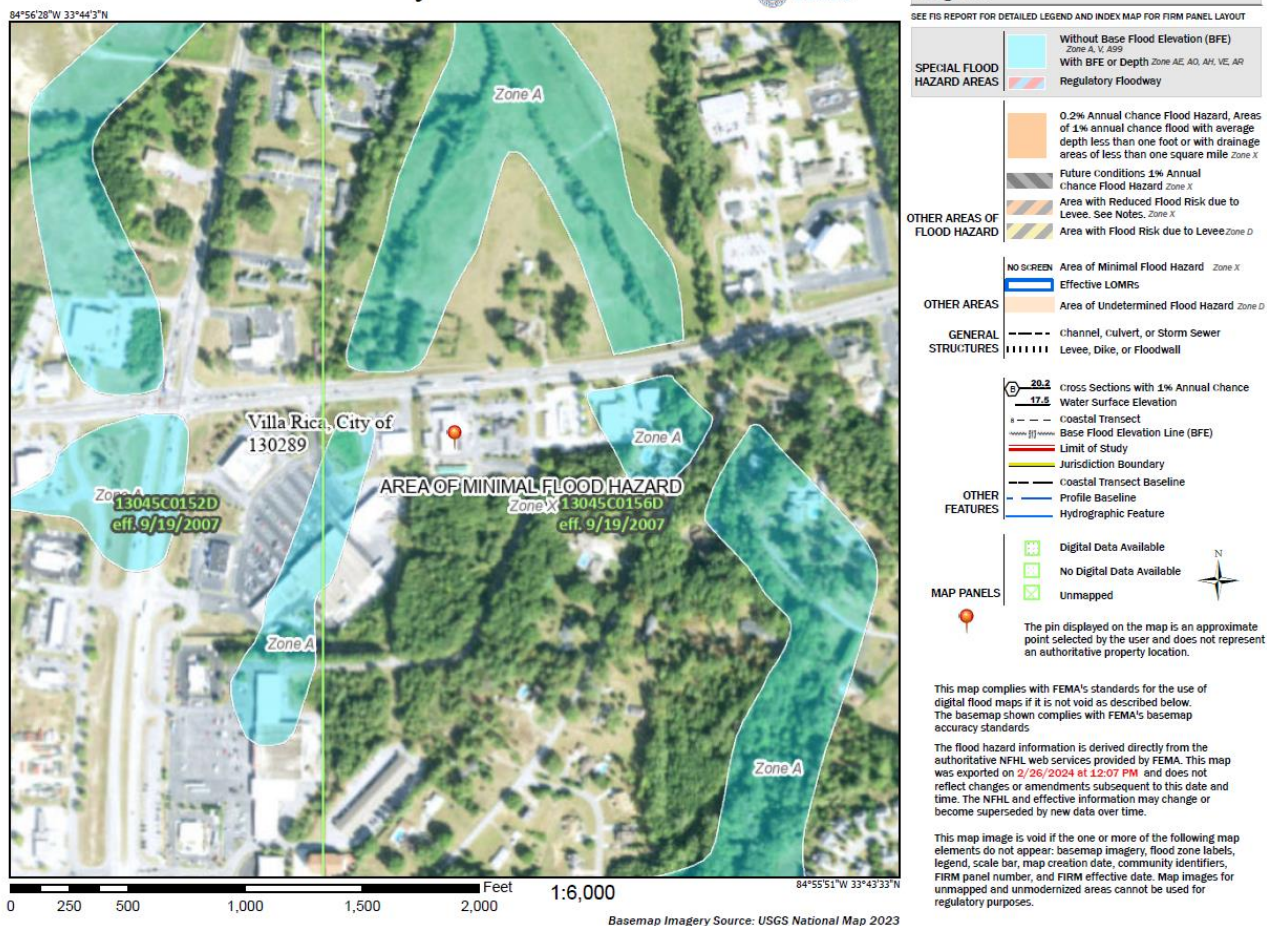


Figure 2: FEMA Flood Map



D. Supplementary Regulations and Special Exception Review Criteria

The developer has requested a Special Exception Use permit, which requires action from the City Council in order for the request to be approved or denied.

The Future Land Use Plan prescribes “I-20 Gateway Activity Area” as future land use for the parcels. The intent of the I-20 Gateway Activity Center is as follows:

“In a most basic form, Gateways serve as the primary entrances into the city, providing access goods and services for both residents and commuters. Gateways are similar to commercial activity centers, with an emphasis on capturing commuter traffic and providing a sense of arrival to Villa Rica. Gateway areas should support a variety of uses, including commercial, mixed use, and office-related developments which also offer employment opportunities. Such development can provide opportunities for hotels similar high intensity developments.”

The existing development pattern in the area is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan from a use and intensity standpoint. The location of the application’s suite is on the very northeast tip of the I-20 Gateway West character area going right into an Urban neighborhood character area. This particular part of West Bankhead Highway does capture a great deal of commuter traffic confirming its character area from a business perspective.

The city’s zoning ordinance requires that smoke shops, vape shops, tobacco shops and medical marijuana dispensaries meet certain standards found within Section 8.22 as indicated below. Staff has reviewed these standards, and the use meets all requirements within this section of the ordinance (staff comments in **bold**):

- 1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title to the contrary, smoke shops, tobacco stores, and medical marijuana dispensaries shall be permitted by Special Exception only in the Commercial, Medium-Density (C-2) zoning district. **The property is located within the C-2 Zone.**
- 2) Additional zoning and land use standards for smoke shops, tobacco stores, and medical marijuana dispensaries shall be as follows:
 - a. Smoke shops, tobacco stores, and medical marijuana dispensaries shall not be located within three-hundred (300) feet, measured property line to property line, from a school (public or private), family day care home, child care facility, youth center, community center, recreational facility, park, church or religious institution, hospital, or other similar uses where children regularly gather. **The property is located approximately .5 miles from Powell Park, .2 miles from Walgreens which does have a Minute Clinic, and .7 miles from Villa Rica High School property line.**
 - b. Smoke shops, tobacco stores, and medical marijuana dispensaries shall not be located within five hundred (500) feet, measured property line to property line, from another smoke shop and tobacco store. **The applicant’s suite is connected to the BP filing station, which sells a minimal amount of tobacco products. The nearest vape shop (Angry Dragon Vapors) site is approximately 522.18 meters from the proposed tobacco shop, which meets the requirements of this section. The nearest Church (World Deliverance Crusade) 484 meters from the proposed tobacco/vape shop.**



- c. It is unlawful for a smoke shops, tobacco stores, and medical marijuana dispensaries to knowingly allow or permit a minor, not accompanied by his or her parent or legal guardian, to enter or remain within any smoke shops, tobacco stores, and medical marijuana dispensaries. **The applicant has indicated that they will meet this regulation.**
 - d. Smoke shops, tobacco stores, and medical marijuana dispensaries shall post clear signage stating that minors may not enter the premises unless accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. At least one such sign shall be placed in a conspicuous location near each public entrance to the smoke shop and tobacco store. It shall be unlawful for a smoke shop and tobacco store to fail to display and maintain, or fail to cause to be displayed or maintained, such signage. **The applicant must meet this requirement upon opening.**
- 3) Standard conditions of approval for any Special Exception shall, at minimum, include the following:
- a. No smoking shall be permitted on the premises at any time.
 - b. No sales may be solicited or conducted on the premises by minors.
 - c. No self-service, product, or paraphernalia displays shall be permitted.
 - d. No distribution of free or low-cost products or paraphernalia, as well as coupons for said items, shall be permitted.

DECISION CRITERIA.

- a) The City Council shall review the particular facts and circumstances of each proposed use in terms of the following standards and shall find adequate evidence showing that the use at the proposed location:
- i) Is in fact a permitted Special Exception use as listed in each zoning district and appears on Table 4.3: Permitted and Special Exception Land Uses of Chapter IV: Zoning Districts for the zoning district involved; **The use is a permitted Special Exception Use.**
 - ii) Will be harmonious and consistent with the character of the zoning district and in accordance with the general objectives, or with any specific objective of the City's Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Ordinance; **The use meets the character of the zoning district and intents of the Comprehensive Plan.**
 - iii) Will be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained so as to be harmonious and appropriate in appearance with the existing or intended character of the general vicinity and that such use will not change the essential character of the same area; No exterior changes to the property is anticipated, except for signage. **The building has largely stayed the same since construction, and the character of the area is not expected to change since no additional construction or site changes are anticipated.**
 - iv) Will be served adequately by essential public facilities and services such as highways, streets, police and fire protection, drainage structures, refuse disposal, water and sewer, and schools; or that the persons or agencies responsible for the establishment of the proposed use shall be able to provide adequately any such services; **The use will be adequately serviced by all applicable city/county services.**
 - v) Will not create excessive additional requirements at public cost for public facilities and services and will not be detrimental to the economic welfare of the community; **No additional services or public costs are expected from the use locating on West Bankhead Hwy.**



vi) Will not involve uses, activities, processes, materials, equipment and conditions of operation that will be detrimental to any persons, property, or the general welfare by reason of excessive production of traffic, noise, smoke, fumes, glare, or odors; **The property owner is not proposing on-site smoking/vaping, odors, smoke and fumes are not expected to be an issue with the use. Minors are not permitted to enter the premises by ordinance and the use is far enough from schools, churches and other smokes shops as required by ordinance. The general welfare of the community does not appear to be at risk.**

vii) Will have vehicular approaches to the property, which shall be so designed as not to create an interference with traffic on surrounding public thoroughfares; **The property is serviced by W. Bankhead Hwy, which does have high volume traffic times throughout the day. The minimal size of the property and expected use of the property is not expected to cause interfere with traffic along W. Bankhead Hwy.**

viii) Will not result in the destruction, loss, or damage of a natural, scenic, or historic feature of major importance. **No such features have been identified.**

E. Comments

No Staff Comments.

Recommendation:

Staff recommendation: **APPROVAL**

Reasons: The proposed business meets all supplementary standard requirements in the zoning ordinance, is projected to have less traffic than a restaurant use and meets all parking requirements.

Public Notifications:

As required by *Section 11.05* in the Code of the City of Villa Rica, the public has been notified in *Times-Georgian* and the *Douglas County Sentinel* on February 20th 2024; a sign has been posted on the subject property; and all abutting property owners have received notification via regular and certified mail.

Public Response:

In response to the public notifications, no residents have contacted the city objecting to the proposed variances.

Should you have any questions concerning the above comments please do not hesitate to contact my office. We reserve the right to make additional comments based upon further review or submission of revised plans or new information.

Sincerely,

Shaun Daniels
City Planner of Villa Rica
Planning and Zoning
Cell 470-692-2747
Office 678-785-9995



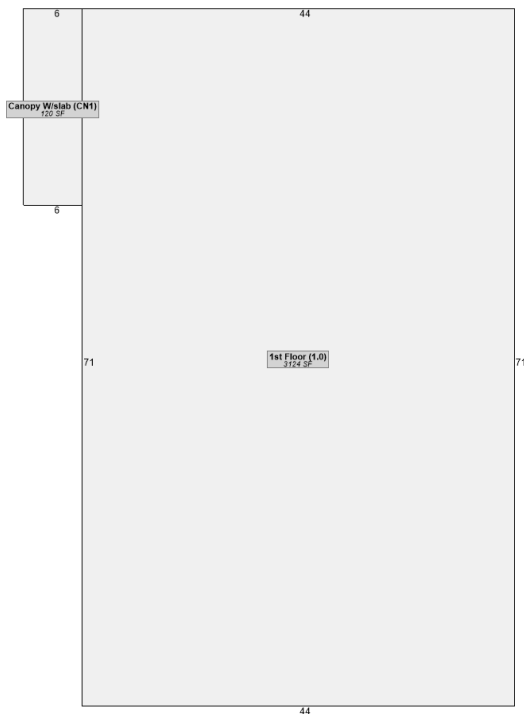
Cloud 9 Smoke Co, LLC – 197 Commerce Drive

CU-01-22

January 27, 2022 (Updated February 1, 2022)

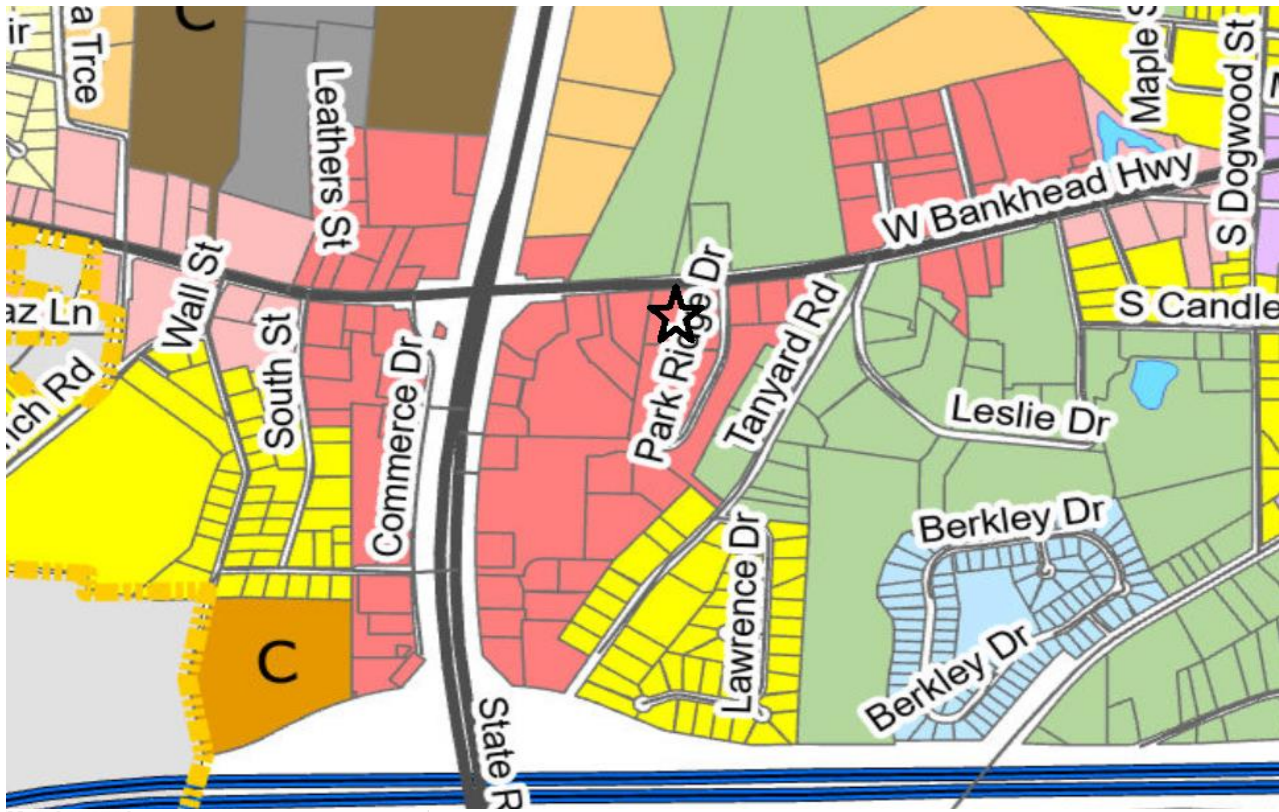
Page 8 of 10

Attachments:





Villa Rica Zoning Map:

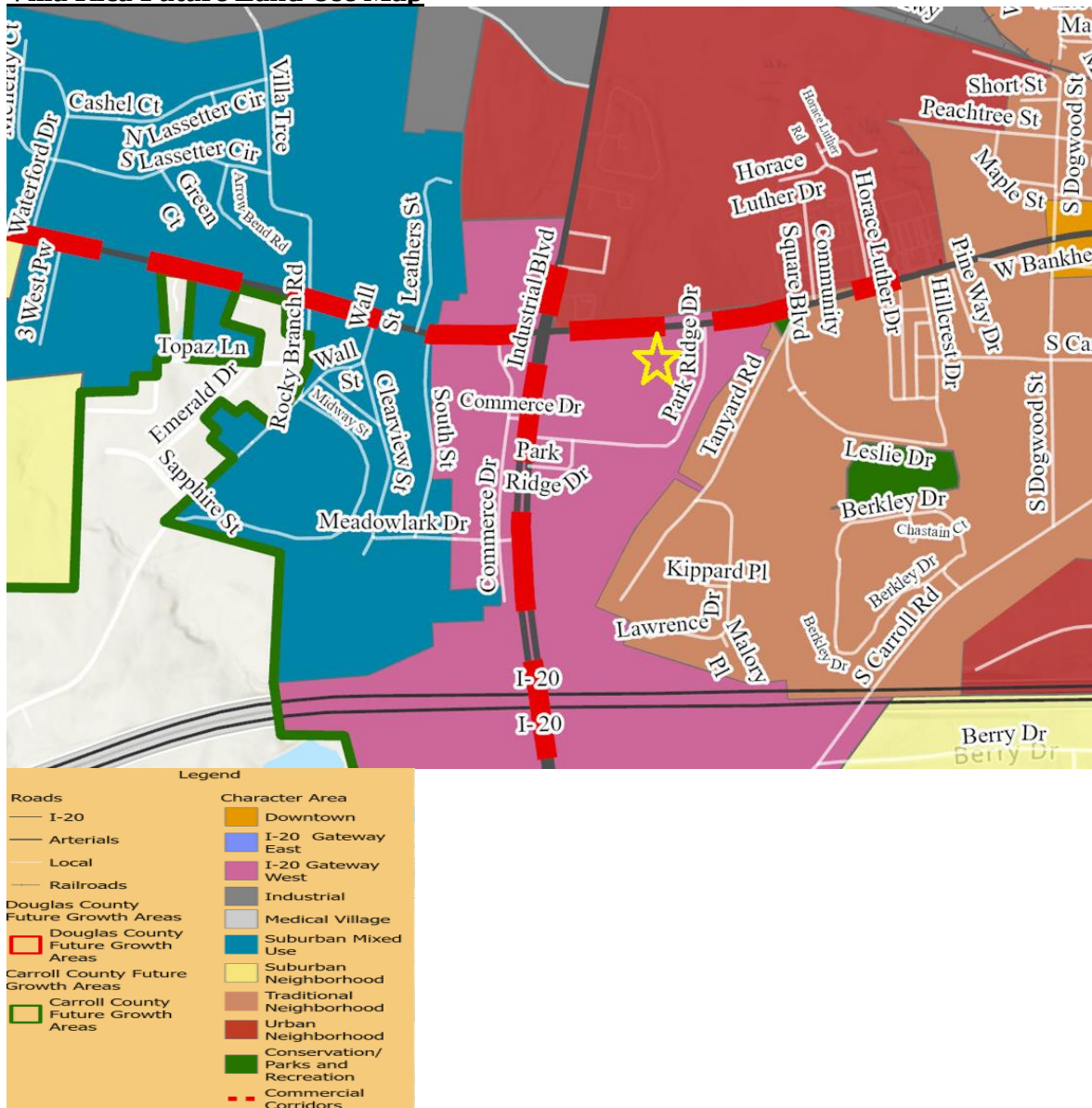


Map Legend

	CC_DC_CountyBoundaries		I2
	City Boundary		MF1
	Special Condition		MF2
	AG		OM1
	C1		PUD
	C2		R1
	CBD		R2
	CHU		SFA
	I1		



Villa Rica Future Land Use Map



Date: February 28, 2024

To: The Honorable Members of the Villa Rica City Council

From: Abhi A. Dhroliya, Villa Rica Tobacco Shop LLC

Subject: Letter of Intent to Open a Smoke Shop

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my interest in opening a smoke shop, specializing in vape and tobacco products, in Villa Rica, Georgia. The proposed location is at 650 W Bankhead Highway, Suite B, Villa Rica, GA 30180.

Our company, Villa Rica Tobacco Shop LLC, will operate under the business name "The Goodlife Vape & Smoke Shop." This will be our second location, with the first having been successfully established in Lavonia, Georgia, since March 2022. We have consistently maintained excellent customer service and product quality, evidenced by our **over 50 five-star customer reviews**. We intend to uphold the same high standards of integrity and service at our new location in Villa Rica.

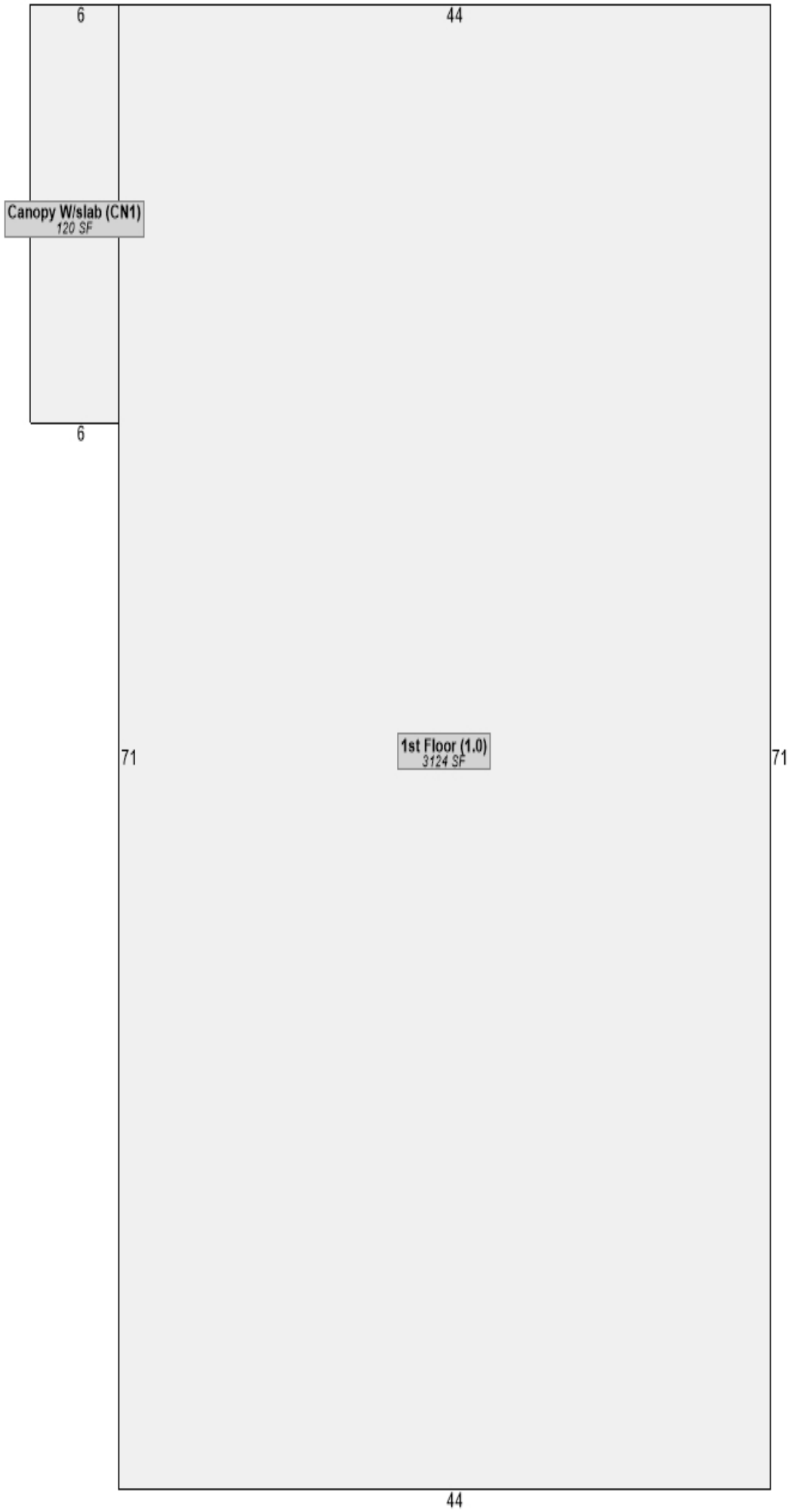
We believe The Goodlife Vape & Smoke Shop will be a valuable addition to the Villa Rica community. As more consumers transition from cigarettes to vape products, our shop aims to provide a safe and responsible environment for customers to access legitimate, high-quality products. We conduct thorough research before adding any new items to our inventory, ensuring customers receive genuine products and not knockoffs. This commitment to quality helps build trust and fosters our business success.

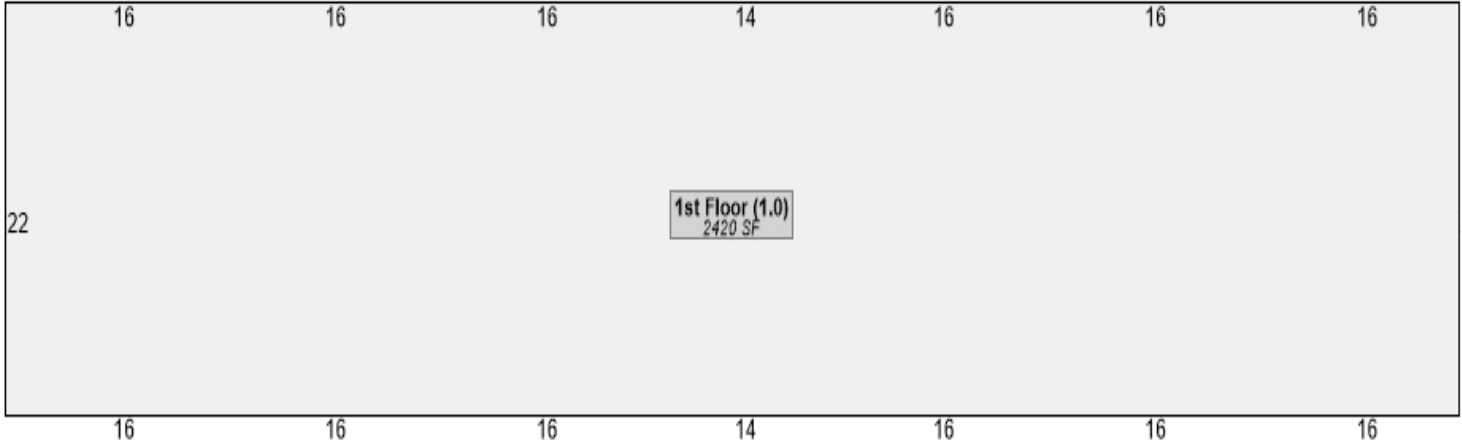
Furthermore, we are dedicated to being responsible members of the community. In Lavonia, we proudly sponsor little league teams, and we hope to continue this practice in Villa Rica as well.

We are confident that The Goodlife Vape & Smoke Shop will operate responsibly and contribute positively to Villa Rica. We appreciate your time and consideration and look forward to the opportunity to discuss this proposal further.

Sincerely,

Abhi A. Dhroliya







City of Villa Rica

Zoning

Copy of Application

Reference # P-0001-2023

Date Submitted: 10/1/2023 8:58:23 PM

Property Details

Address: CARROLLTON VILLA RICA HWY , VILLA RICA, GA 30180

Parcel/Lot: V08 0010001/{MERGEFIELD cf[f976f]}

Application Details

Project Name: HUBER HQ

Existing Use: C2 - Commercial Medium-Density

Proposed Use: I1 - Industrial Low-Density

Applicant Details

Name: BLAKE DEXTER

Address: 3535 PEACHTREE RD, STE 520-723 , ATLANTA, GA 30326

Email: BDEXTER@DEXTERCOS.COM **Phone #:** (404) 239-9400

Property Owner Details

Name: COUEY & MORGAN INVESTMENTS, INC. **Tax ID:** 81-1006719

Address: 1700 W FITZGERALD LN , WATKINSVILLE, GA 30677-8114

Email: JMREALESTATE@BELLSOUTH.NET **Phone #:** (770) 815-4088

Attorney Details

Name: Jeffrey F. Montgomery

Firm: Cushing, Morris, Armbruster & Montgomery, LLP

Address: 191 Peachtree Street, N.E., Suite 4500 , Atlanta, GA 30303

Email: jfm@cmamlaw.com **Phone #** (404) 521-2323

Planning Consultant Details

Name: JONATHAN TLENIS, P.E. **License #**

Firm: HRC ENGINEERS, SURVEYORS

Address: , ,

Email:

Phone #

Engineer Details

Name: JONATHAN TILENIS, P.E.

License #

Firm: HRC ENGINEERS, SURVEYORS

Address: 6554 Church Street , DOUGLASVILLE, GA GA

Email: jtilenis@hrcengineers.com

Phone #: (770) 942-0196

Traffic Engineer Details

Name:

License #

Firm:

Address: , ,

Email:

Phone #:

Property Information : Existing

Easements, Leases, or Other Agreements, Existing or Proposed on the Property
Existing Zoning District of Site
In Applicant's opinion with Board of Adjustments action be required for a variance?

No

Yes

Is a structure(s) present on existing lot?

No

If yes, how many?

A. Building Floor Area Total

Each Floor

B. Building Ground Area

C. Building Height Feet

Stories 1

D. Floor Area Ratio (FAR)

E. Lot Lines (Feet)/ Front, Rear, Side

F. Set Backs (Existing)/ Front, Rear, Side

G. Open Space (square foot)

Open Space %

H. Lot Coverage %

I. Parking (on site) Show Calculations below if not on accompanying site plan

See site plan attached

Present use(s) of site (each structure) & Proposed use on site Vacant, the commercial project was cancelled due to the Great Financial Recession in 2008

Proposed:

A. Building Floor Area Total 92000

B. Building Ground Area

C. Building Height Feet 30

D. Floor Area Ratio (FAR) 20

E. Lot Lines (Feet)/ Front, Rear, Side

F. Set Backs / Front, Rear, Side

Project Information

	Proposed	Existing
Maximum Height	30	
Lot Width		
Side Yard		
Lot Coverage % of building		
Lot Coverage Impervious Surface		
Planted Area %		
Parking Stalls		
Total of Side Yards		
Rear Yard		
Lot Area	421000	
Lot Coverage Impervious Surface %		
Planted Area		
Floor Area	92000	
Front Yard		

<u>Request Type</u>	
Rezoning	X
Special Use Permit	

Variance Type:	
Annexation	
Appeals	
Alteration to PUD	
Administrative Adjustment	
Certificate of Appropriateness	
Certificate of Occupancy	
Public Hearing Signs	
Record Filing Fee	
Street & Utility Inspection	
Text Amendment Initiated by Public	
Sexually Oriented Business Permit	
Development of Regional Impact (DRI) Application Initiating Review	
Future Land Use Map Amendment (FLUM without an associated rezoning)	
Copy of Unified Development Ordinance, Comprehensive Plan, Design Guidelines for Historic Districts and Sites, and all other printed Planning Materials. # of Copies:	



CITY OF VILLA RICA

City Council Meeting Agenda Item Cover Sheet

SUBJECT: RA-05-23 – Rezoning from Commercial Medium-Density (C2) to Industrial Low-Density (I1) for property located at the SE corner of Highway 61 and Whitworth Road

AGENDA DATE: March 12, 2024

DATE PREPARED: February 26, 2024

PREPARED BY: Shaun Daniels, Planner

AMOUNT:

GL ACCOUNT #:

FUNDING SOURCE:

BUDGETED ITEM?

PUBLIC HEARING: YES

PURPOSE: Blake Dexter (the Applicant) seeks a rezoning from Commercial Medium-Density (C2) to Industrial Low-Density (I1) for property near the SE corner of Highway 61 and Whitworth Road in order to operate an aluminum anodizing facility and create an industrial pad site for future industrial uses. **(Applicant sent a statement to forfeit the application). – Dated 2/26/24**

BACKGROUND: The parcel meets the minimum lot size requirement and minimum frontage requirements for the I1 Zone. The parcel is partially vacant with a wet well constructed around 2006. The parcel measures 37.58 acres. Access to the lot will be from Highway 61 and Whitworth Road. The applicant proposes to use a 100,000 square foot building for the anodizing use and a 92,000 square foot building for offices. The remaining portions of the lot are shown to have a pad site to be marked for a future industrial use.

The Planning & Zoning Commission voted 4-0 to deny the application.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: DENIAL

Reasons:

- The industrial zoning is not supported by the Comprehensive Plan;
- May result in spot zoning; and
- May cause an increase in traffic on Whitworth Road, where school traffic is already present.

IMPACT: N/A

MOTION: I move to deny the rezoning request from Blake Dexter for a rezoning from C2 to I1, as presented.



Carrollton-Villa Rica Highway – Blake Dexter

RA-05-23

February 26th, 2024

Thresa Campbell, City Clerk
City of Villa Rica
571 W. Bankhead Highway
Villa Rica, GA 30180

Re: Planning Report
Carrollton Villa Rica Highway
RA-05-23
Applicant's Name: Blake Dexter
Property Owner: Couey & Morgan Investments, Inc.
Land Lot 145, District 2, Section 5
Parcel # V08 0010001
Lot Size: 37.58 Acre +/-
Ward: 2
City Council Member: Matthew Momtahan
Planning Board Member: David Rogers
City of Villa Rica, Carroll County, Georgia

Dear Ms. Campbell:

This planning report is prepared in response to the Rezoning application submitted by Blake Dexter for the property located at Carrollton Villa Rica Highway (at Whitworth Road). The purpose of this report is to provide an analysis of the rezoning request and make recommendations for the City Council's consideration. **(Applicant sent a statement to forfeit the application). – Dated 2/26/24**

Background:

This property was subject to previous requests for single-family homes on the property that was withdrawn in 2022. Prior to that, the property was considered for an amusement park use. The applicant is interested in constructing an industrial aluminum anodizing use. The property is located within the Suburban Village Character Area. The site is directly adjacent to single-family homes to the south, single-family and vacant land to the west and north, and vacant land and Ithaca Gin Elementary School to the east. The site is located within the Carroll County portion of the city and borders unincorporated areas to the north, east and south. A pond is located on the property.

During the 2020 citywide rezoning, the property owner filed an appeal to keep the commercial zoning on the property, whereas the city proposed to change the zoning to Single-Family Agricultural (AG). The applicant argued that they had vested rights in commercial zoning of the property and have made investments in order to bring a commercially zoned property to fruition. The City Council imposed conditions on the property.

Rezoning Request:

The property is located in the Commercial Medium-Density (C2) Zone and is proposed to be rezoned to Industrial Low-



Density (I1).

Description of Rezoning Request:

The request is being made in order to construct two industrial buildings on the site, one 100,000 SF industrial building where the main trade work will be performed and a 92,000 SF office building to support operations. The site will host an entrance off of Whitworth Road. The city's comprehensive plan prescribes Suburban Village Character Area to the subject property, which does not recommend industrial zoning categories. There are no other industrial zoned properties along the Highway 61 South corridor. The surrounding area is largely residential, commercial, agricultural and vacant land.

Site Analysis:

The site features a lake within the center, which greatly inhibits placement of buildings and usage of much of the site area. There is also a stormwater easement that runs along east-west through the Highway 61 frontage of the property. The property is situated at a prominent corner at Whitworth Road and is near Ithaca Gin Elementary (quarter mile). A wet well is also present on the site. The property does not have sewer capacity to develop larger uses on the land. The proposed use is not proposed to need large amounts of sewer capacity. These constraints make the property difficult for development.

Review of Criteria for Granting a Variance:

The Zoning Ordinance of the City of Villa Rica, Section 11.05(2)(b), requires the Planning & Zoning Commission and the legislative body to pay reasonable regard to the following when preparing and considering proposed amendments:

1. The Comprehensive Plan;

Villa Rica Future Land Use Map - The Future Land Use Plan prescribes "Suburban Village Character Area" as the future land use for the parcel. The intent of the Suburban Village Character Area is as follows:

"Suburban Villages are characterized by clustered commercial development around the intersection of prominent roads (Community Crossroads) and include immediate surrounding residential areas, which are suburban in nature. The general development pattern is compact, with stand-alone or a few businesses on a site. However, in more suburban and rural areas, a single business typically occupies a property. Future development should emphasize the compact, small-scale development that supports the immediate surrounding area, including residences, retail, and office uses. Higher density developments should be located closer to more dense/intense areas, where similar development exists. Sidewalks and pedestrian linkages to nearby parks and other amenities should be provided in new developments."

The character area has design principles that recommend "low to moderate density with concentrated neighborhood commercial development oriented around intersection/community crossroads". The Comprehensive Plan indicates the following zoning categories as appropriate zoning categories for the Suburban Village Character Area. The UDC zoning categories and their corresponding 2020 zoning ordinance categories are indicated below:

TABLE 3 - APPROPRIATE ZONING CATEGORIES – SUBURBAN VILLAGE

<u>UDC Zoning Categories</u>	<u>Corresponding 2020 Zoning Ordinance</u>
------------------------------	--



	<u>Category</u>
Single Family (R20)	Single-Family Suburban (R1) Single-Family Urban (R2)
Multi-Family (R-14)	Multi-Family Low-Density (MF1)
Residential Townhome (RT)	Single-Family Attached (SFA)
Rural Development (RD)	Single-Family Agricultural (AG)
Planned Development (PD)	Planned Unit Development (PUD)
Neighborhood Commercial (NC)	Commercial Low-Density (C1)
Office-Institutional (OI)	Office Medical Institutional (OMI)

The proposed zoning category is not supported by the Comprehensive Plan.

2. Current conditions and the character of current structures and uses in each district;

The lot currently features vacant land with a lift station and some sewer infrastructure improvements. The character of the I1 zone is industrial in nature, and is specialized for low intensity manufacturing, warehousing and industrial uses. The character of the surrounding area is residential, commercial, agricultural and institutional uses.

3. The most desirable use for which the land in each district is adapted;

The use is not the most desirable use along the limited buildable frontages available along Highway 61. The commercial C2 zoning is preferred from a planning perspective. The staff has a general concern with spot zoning of the parcel should the zone be changed. The city has very few C2 zoned parcels left that have not been constructed upon and there is a general pressure for more commercial growth along Highway 61.

4. The conservation of property values throughout the jurisdiction; and

Property values are not expected to be greatly affected, either positively or negatively by the redevelopment of the lot for industrial purposes.

5. Responsible development and growth

The industrial zoning is not supported by the Comprehensive Plan, may result in spot zoning, and may cause an increase in traffic on Whitworth Road, where school traffic is already present.

Recommendation:

Based on our analysis, we recommend that the City Council **deny** the rezoning request submitted by Blake Dexter for the property at Carrollton Villa Rica Highway and Whitworth Road. Our recommendation is based on the following findings:

- The industrial zoning is not supported by the Comprehensive Plan;
- May result in spot zoning; and
- May cause an increase in traffic on Whitworth Road, where school traffic is already present.

Conditions of Approval (if applicable):

Should the council wish to approve the application, the following conditions should be made applicable to the



development:

1. The applicant will install a self-contained sewer treatment facility for manufacturing by-product and development sewer discharge, not including typical restroom and breakroom usage.
2. The rezoning only applies to the proposed use and reverts to the C2 Zone if the proposed aluminum anodizing use is discontinued.

Public Comments:

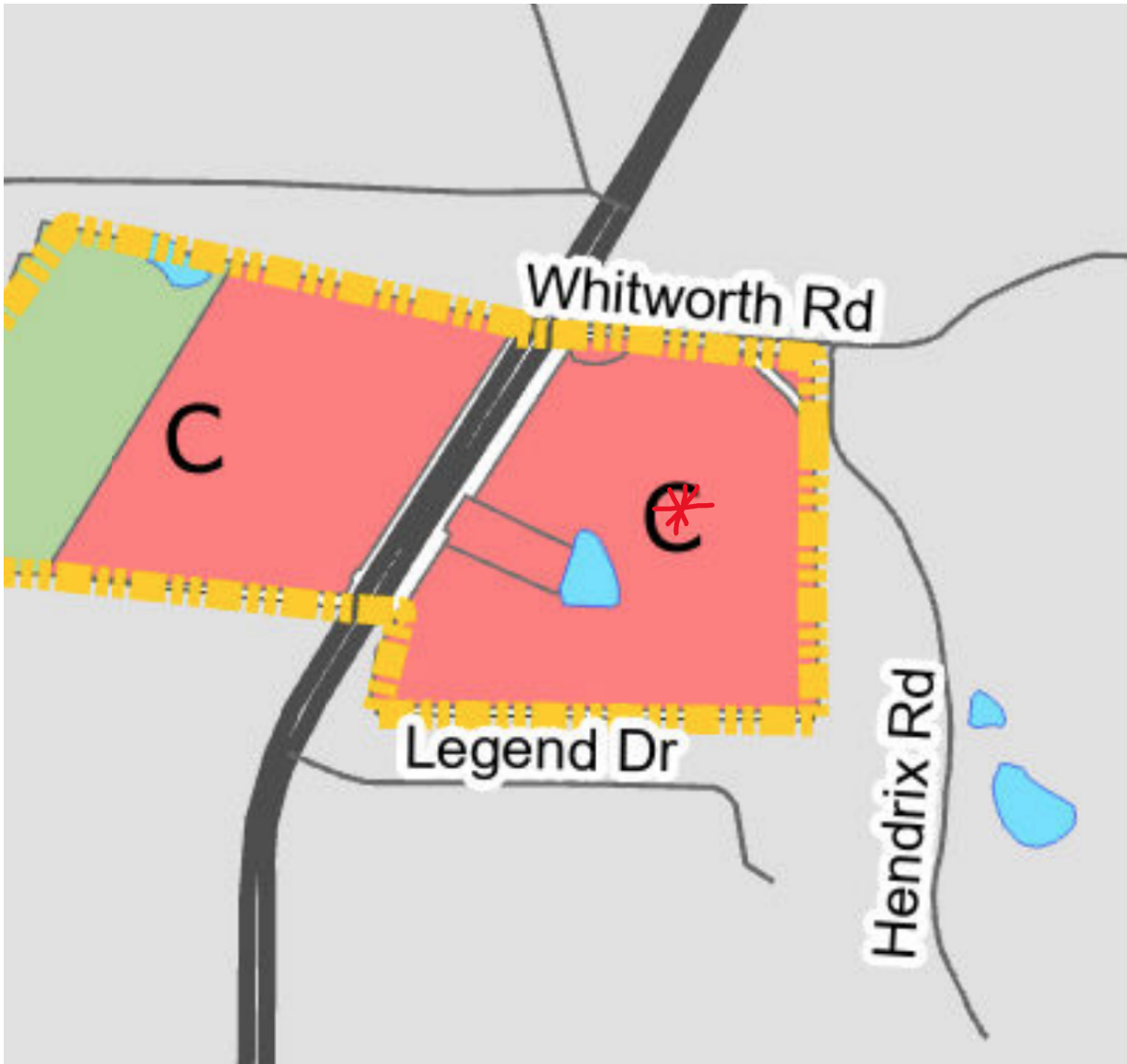
Multiple verbal comments have been received during the December Commission meeting against the rezoning request.

Conclusion:

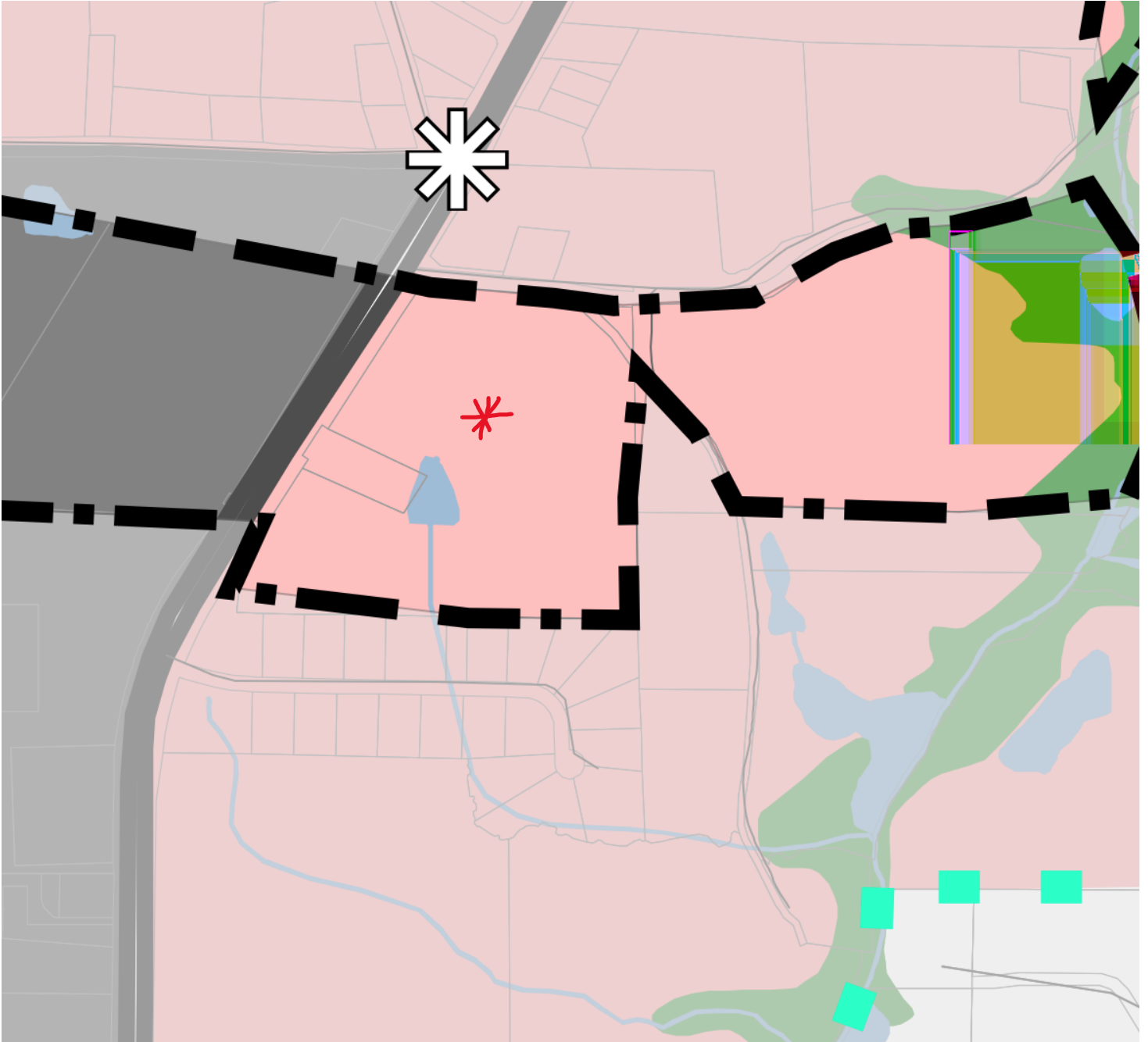
In conclusion, this planning report has provided an analysis of the variance request and recommended a course of action for the City Council consideration. The decision should be made in accordance with the city's zoning regulations, comprehensive plan, and the best interests of the community.

Attachments:

Zoning Map:



Future Land Use Map:





October 30, 2023

Mr. Ronald Johnson
Planning and Zoning Administrator
571 West Bankhead Highway
Villa Rica, GA 30180

RE: LOI for rezoning of approximately 20 acres at intersection of Hwy 61/Whitworth Rd
(Parcel/Lot V08 001000) from C2 to L1

Dear Ron,

This letter is intended to further explain the above referenced rezoning request by Dexter Companies to construct a building for our client Huber HQ to be used as Headquarters office space and light manufacturing/wholesale distribution of architectural aluminum metal products for use in high end interior and exterior trim work on projects such as hotels, airports, office buildings, and medical facilities.

This is an 80-year-old family-owned company with multiple locations in the United States and will add approximately 55 to 60 skilled job opportunities for the Villa Rica community. The company sometimes operates more than one shift so hours of operation may vary, but there is no noise or other nuisance that extends outside of the building facility itself. There will also be room on the property for future expansion of this business or possibly for an office/warehouse building for another tenant.

Compared to the current C2 zoning and most other zoning uses, this light industrial use will have a lower impact on the surrounding area in terms of traffic, onsite activity, and noise, and will provide excellent long-term employment to the community.

Thank you for your consideration, and please let me know if additional questions arise.

With Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allan W. Anderson".

Allan W. Anderson, CCIM
Executive Vice President

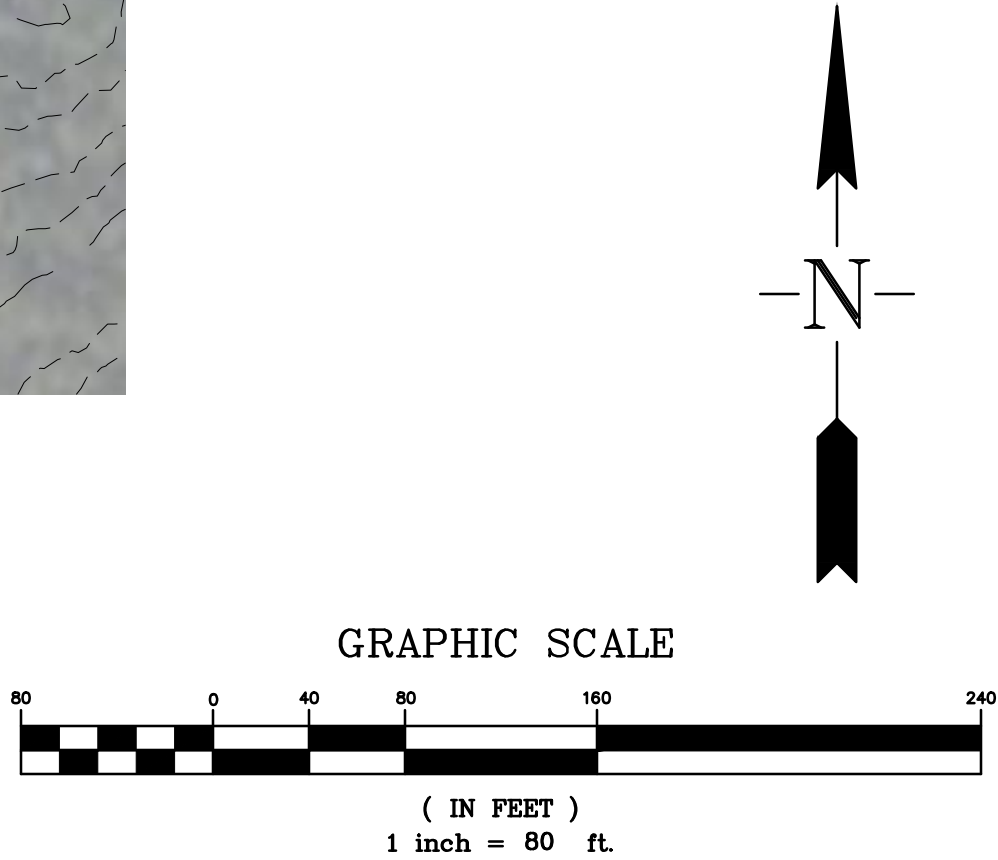
Development Leasing Property Management Advisory Services Investor

3535 Peachtree Road | Suite 520 #723 | Atlanta, GA 30326 | Telephone: 404-239-9400



Conceptual Site plan for
Huber - Whitworth/ Hwy 61

CARROLL COUNTY, GEORGIA
OCTOBER 26, 2023





EXTERNAL EMAIL: RE: City of Villa Rica News Paper Ads DEADLINES 2/22/24 12:00 noon

Allan Anderson <aanderson@dextercos.com>

Mon 2/26/2024 12:46 PM

To: Shaun Daniels <Sdaniels@villarica.gov>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Shaun,

Thank you for your reminder last week, and I'm sorry I overlooked it earlier.

After we did not hear back following our conversation with you and Tracy a couple of weeks ago, we had assumed this was not a good time to pursue this application.

Hopefully once some clarity comes back on the property across Hwy 61 etc, we can try again.

Thanks again for all your assistance with this, and please pass our thanks along to Tracy too.

Best Regards,
Allan

Allan Anderson, CCIM
Cell: 404.401.1638
AAnderson@DexterCos.com

From: Shaun Daniels <Sdaniels@villarica.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 9:55 AM
To: Allan Anderson <aanderson@dextercos.com>
Subject: City of Villa Rica News Paper Ads DEADLINES 2/22/24 12:00 noon

You don't often get email from sdaniels@villarica.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

The deadline to have the special exception use application legal advertisements to the Times-Georgian and Douglas Sentinal is by tomorrow 2/22/24 12:00 noon. The application cannot be presented in front of Villa Rica City Council on 3/12/24 if the News ads are not submitted by the deadline.

Also, the adjacent properties that are 250ft radius from the application property address must be sent via mail by tomorrow 2/22/24.

The city of Villa Rica must also have the Newspaper Ads affidavits that the ads will be in the legal section of both newspapers and provide the green receipt slip. You can take a picture of the receipt and send it to me via email.

You must also provide the City of Villa Rica a list of the adjacent properties that has been mailed, the letter that was sent to the properties and the Post Office's green receipt slip that is provided, proof that the mailings were sent out.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.



CITY OF VILLA RICA

City Council Meeting Agenda Item Cover Sheet

SUBJECT: Technical building and construction code adopted.

AGENDA DATE: March 12th 2024

DATE PREPARED: February 27, 2024

PREPARED BY: Matthew Alexander, Chief Building Official

AMOUNT: N/A

GL ACCOUNT N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

BUDGETED ITEM? N/A

PUBLIC HEARING: NO

PURPOSE: To update and revise the current mandatory codes as adopted by Georgia Department of Community Affairs. To establish and implement amendments that will comply with current mandatory codes so that they will meet minimum requirements ensuring the public's health and general welfare are safeguarded.

BACKGROUND: The building codes that are currently adopted within 'The Code of Ordinances of The City of Villa Rica' do not comply, nor satisfy the city staff and Georgia mandatory code standards.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval.

IMPACT: City staff will be allowed to enforce and hold building contractors to a standard that complies with current mandatory codes and building department standards.

MOTION: I move to approve and revise Section 6-4 technical building and construction codes to the current mandatory codes as outlined through Georgia Department Community Affairs and add in (b) amendments to the residential code and (c) amendments to the national electrical code.



Sec. 6-4 Technical building and construction code adopted.

(a) Unless otherwise provided for by subsequent ordinance or another provision of this Code, the technical building and construction codes listed in this section are adopted by reference and incorporated into this Code as if set out fully herein, including the administration and appendix chapters also contained in those codes. The state minimum codes enumerated under O.C.G.A. S 8-2-20(9), as now or hereafter revised or modified pursuant to state law:

Revised to current code.

- (1) International Building Code, 2018 Edition, with Current Georgia Amendments.
- (2) International Residential Code, 2018 Edition, with Current Georgia Amendments.
- (3) International Fire Code, 2018 Edition.
- (4) International Plumbing Code, 2018 Edition, with Current Georgia Amendments.
- (5) International Mechanical Code, 2018 Edition, with Current Georgia Amendments.
- (6) International Fuel Gas Code, 2018 Edition, with Current Georgia Amendments.
- (7) National Electrical Code, 2020 Edition.
- (8) International Energy Code, 2015 Edition, with Current Georgia Amendments.
- (9) International Property Maintenance Code, 2018 Edition, with Current Georgia Amendments.
- (10) International Existing Building Code, 2018 Edition, with Current Georgia Amendments.
- (11) International Swimming Pool & Spa Code, 2018 Edition, with Current Georgia Amendments.

Revise to replace (b) and (c) with the following and add (d).

(b) Amendments to the residential code.

- (1) Concrete slab and under floor inspection. Minimum reinforcing steel in slab at grade or above grade is six inches by six inches, ten-gauge WWF and footing is #4 rebar with 2,500 PSI soil bearing capacity. The building official shall have the authority to require tests for alternative material methods of



concrete slab installation as evidence of compliance to be made at no expense to the city. Test methods shall be specified in this code or by other recognized test standards. Tests shall be performed by an approved agency. Reports of such tests shall be retained for a period required for retention of public records.

Exterior Wall Envelope. Exterior walls of wood frame construction shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the provisions of the International Residential Code Chapter 6 Wall Construction, or in accordance with AWC NDS. Wood frame exterior wall must be fully sheathed, including areas above or below wall openings, with minimum 7/16-inch wood structural panels.

(1) Interior shear walls must be fully sheathed including areas above or below wall openings with minimum 7/16-inch wood structural panels on both wall faces.

(c) Amendments to the national electrical code.

(1) The current edition of the National Electrical Code is hereby amended as follows: Use of aluminum conductors and copper clad aluminum conductors shall be prohibited. Conductor materials shall be copper only.

• **Sec. 6-4. - Technical building and construction codes adopted.**

[SHARE LINK TO SECTION](#)[PRINT SECTION](#)[DOWNLOAD \(DOC\)](#)[COF SECTION](#)[EMAIL SECTION](#)

(a) Unless otherwise provided for by subsequent ordinance or another provision of this Code, the technical building and construction codes listed in this section are adopted by reference and incorporated into this Code as if set out fully herein, including the administration and appendix chapters also contained in those codes. The state minimum codes enumerated under O.C.G.A. S 8-2-20(9), as now or hereafter revised or modified pursuant to state law:

(1) International Building Code, ~~2012 Edition, with Georgia Amendments 2014.~~

(2) International Residential Code, ~~2012 Edition, with Georgia Amendments 2014.~~

(3) International Fire Code, ~~2012 Edition, with Georgia Amendments 2014.~~

(4) International Plumbing Code, ~~2012 Edition, with Georgia Amendments 2014.~~



Technical building and Construction code Adoption
AGENDA Date: March 12th 2024
DATE PREPARED: February 27, 2024
PREPARED BY: Matthew Alexander, Chief Building Official

- (5) International Mechanical Code, ~~2012 Edition, with Georgia Amendments 2014.~~
- (6) International Fuel Gas Code, ~~2012 Edition, with Georgia Amendments 2014.~~
- (7) National Electrical Code, ~~2011 Edition.~~
- (8) International Energy Conservation Code, ~~2009 Edition, with Georgia Supplements and Amendments 2011 and 2012.~~
- (9) International Property Maintenance Code
~~2006 Edition, with Georgia Amendments~~

International Existing Building Code,
~~2006 Edition, with Georgia Amendments 2009.~~

International Swimming Pool and Spa Code,
~~2012 Edition, with Georgia Amendments~~ 201 /1..

(b)

~~If any of the publications listed in subsection (a) of this section are adopted as a state minimum code pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 8-2-20 et seq., then the edition adopted by the state shall control. If any of the publications listed in subsection (a) of this section are less stringent than the state minimum codes promulgated pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 8-2-20 et seq., then the state minimum code shall control.~~

(c)

~~The copies of each of the publications listed in subsection (a) of this section are adopted and incorporated as fully as if set out at length herein, and from the date on which this section shall take effect, the provisions thereof shall be controlling within the city.~~

~~(Code 1993, § 5-3; Ord. of 5-7-1991(2), § 1; Ord. of 2-2-1993)~~



2/28/24, 1:37 PM Chapter 6 - BUILDINGS AND BUILDING

REGULATIONS I Code of Ordinances I Villa Rica, GA Municode Library

Sec. 64. - Technical building and construction codes adopted.

- (a) Unless otherwise provided for by subsequent ordinance or another provision of this Code, the technical building and construction codes listed in this section are adopted by reference and incorporated into this Code as if set out fully herein, including the administration and appendix chapters also contained in those codes. The state minimum codes enumerated under O.C.G.A. S 8-2-20(9), as now or hereafter revised or modified pursuant to state law: ⁽¹⁾International Building Code, 2012 Edition, with Georgia Amendments 2014.
 - (2) International Residential Code, 2012 Edition, with Georgia Amendments 2014.
 - (3) International Fire Code, 2012 Edition, with Georgia Amendments 2014.
 - (4) International Plumbing Code, 2012 Edition, with Georgia Amendments 2014.
 - (5) International Mechanical Code, 2012 Edition, with Georgia Amendments 2014.
 - (6) International Fuel Gas Code, 2012 Edition, with Georgia Amendments 2014.
 - (7) National Electrical Code, 2011 Edition.
 - (8) International Energy Conservation Code, 2009 Edition, with Georgia Supplements and Amendments 2011 and 2012.
 - (9) International Property Maintenance Code, 2006 Edition, with Georgia Amendments 2009.
 - (10) International Existing Building Code, 2006 Edition, with Georgia Amendments 2009.
 - (11) International Swimming Pool and Spa Code, 2012 Edition, with Georgia Amendments 2014.
- (b) If any of the publications listed in subsection (a) of this section are adopted as a state minimum code pursuant to O.C.G.A. S 8-2-20 et seq., then the edition adopted by the state shall control. If any of the publications listed in subsection (a) of this section are less stringent than the state minimum codes promulgated pursuant to O.C.G.A. S 8-2-20 et seq., then the state minimum code shall control.
- (c) The copies of each of the publications listed in subsection (a) of this section are adopted and incorporated as fully as if set out at length herein, and from the date on which this section shall take effect, the provisions thereof shall be controlling withing the city. (Code 1993, S 5-3; Ord. of 5-7 1991 S 1; of 2-2-1993)



CITY OF VILLA RICA

City Council Meeting Agenda Item Cover Sheet

SUBJECT: Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Restatement
AGENDA DATE: March 12, 2024

DATE PREPARED: March 5, 2024
PREPARED BY: Tiffany Jenkins

AMOUNT: N / A
GL ACCOUNT #: N/A
FUNDING SOURCE: N / A
BUDGETED ITEM? Yes

PURPOSE: To readopt their plans using the most recent IRS-approved Adoption Agreement.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Villa Rica previously adopted the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (“GMEBS”) Defined Benefit Retirement Plan (“Plan”), which is comprised of the Basic Plan Document and Adoption Agreement. The Plan is considered a “qualified plan” under the Internal Revenue Code, which is important to ensure the tax-exempt status of the trust fund.

To protect the Plan’s tax-qualified status, GMEBS filed draft restated Plan documents, updated to reflect recent amendments and comply with changes in federal tax law, with the IRS on June 29, 2022. On August 31, 2023, the IRS issued a favorable opinion letter (“IRS opinion letter”) for the restated Plan documents. The IRS opinion letter provides assurance to employers providing retirement benefits for their employees through the GMEBS Plan that GMEBS is maintaining a qualified pension benefit program that allows employees to accrue benefits tax-free until retirement benefits are distributed to them.

To ensure continued tax-qualified status for all GMEBS-member retirement plans, all participating employers must readopt their plans using the most recent IRS-approved Adoption Agreement. To that end, we have completed the attached Adoption Agreement to include the benefit and eligibility provisions that you currently have in place.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval.

MOTION: I move to approve the agreement with Tanner Health Systems for biometric screenings for an amount of \$40 per employee participant.



**RISK MANAGEMENT AND
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
SERVICES**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair
Marcia Hampton
City Manager, Douglasville

Vice-Chair
Shelly Berryhill
Commissioner, Hawkinsville

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Trustees:

Chris Hobby
City Manager, Bainbridge

Jason Holt
Mayor, Fitzgerald

Meg Kelsey
Asst. City Manager, Newnan

Jessica O'Connor
City Manager, Griffin

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John Reid
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Mayor Pro Tem, Midway

Vince Williams
Mayor, Union City

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Randy Logan
Deputy Executive Director

February 12, 2024

MEMORANDUM VIA E-MAIL

(tjenkins@villarica.org)

TO: Ms. Tiffany Jenkins
Human Resources Manager

FROM: Mr. Kevin Jeselnik
Assistant General Counsel

**SUBJECT: Action Required: Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System
Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Restatement**

The City of Villa Rica previously adopted the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System ("GMEBS") Defined Benefit Retirement Plan ("Plan"), which is comprised of the Basic Plan Document and Adoption Agreement. The Plan is considered a "qualified plan" under the Internal Revenue Code, which is important to ensure the tax-exempt status of the trust fund.

To protect the Plan's tax-qualified status, GMEBS filed draft restated Plan documents, updated to reflect recent amendments and comply with changes in federal tax law, with the IRS on June 29, 2022. On August 31, 2023, the IRS issued a favorable opinion letter ("IRS opinion letter") for the restated Plan documents. The IRS opinion letter provides assurance to employers providing retirement benefits for their employees through the GMEBS Plan that GMEBS is maintaining a qualified pension benefit program that allows employees to accrue benefits tax-free until retirement benefits are distributed to them.

To ensure continued tax-qualified status for all GMEBS-member retirement plans, all participating employers must readopt their plans using the most recent IRS-approved Adoption Agreement. To that end, we have completed the attached Adoption Agreement to include the benefit and eligibility provisions that you currently have in place.

If the draft Adoption Agreement is acceptable, please have the designated representatives sign and date where indicated (p. 38). Next, please scan and email the document to Gina Gresham at rgresham@gacities.com no later than **May 13, 2024**. We will then countersign it and return an electronic copy to you. Please note, GMEBS will not execute documents that have been edited by the city. If the Adoption Agreement requires revisions, please let us know before adopting it.

Ms. Tiffany Jenkins

February 12, 2024

Page 2

The draft Adoption Agreement will take effect on the date of its approval by the governing authority. **Please note that per O.C.G.A. § 47-5-40, the Adoption Agreement has been drafted in the form of an ordinance.**

We have also attached a copy of the restated Basic Plan Document and Amendment 1, which do not need to be adopted by the city. Finally, we have included a summary of key amendments to the Plan relating to the restatement.

If you have any questions about the information provided in this letter or require further information, please contact Gina Gresham.

Encl.

C: Mr. David Mecklin, City Attorney, City of Villa Rica (w/ encl.)

Ms. Marinetty Bienvenu, Director, Retirement Quality Assurance (w/o encl.)

Ms. Michelle Warner, Director, GMEBS Retirement and DC Programs (w/o encl.)

Ms. Gwin Hall, Senior Associate General Counsel (w/o encl.)

GEORGIA MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES
BENEFIT SYSTEM

DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT PLAN

AN ORDINANCE
and
ADOPTION AGREEMENT
for
City of Villa Rica

Form Pre-approved Plan Adoption Agreement
Amended and Restated for Third Six-Year Cycle, 2020 Cumulative List

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I. AN ORDINANCE

An Ordinance to amend and restate the Retirement Plan for the Employees of the City of Villa Rica, Georgia, in accordance with and subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the attached Adoption Agreement, any Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS) Basic Plan Document, and the GMEBS Trust Agreement. When accepted by the authorized officers of the City and GMEBS, the foregoing shall constitute a Contract between the City and GMEBS, all as authorized and provided by O.C.G.A. § 47-5-1 et seq.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Villa Rica, Georgia, and it is hereby ordained by the authority thereof:

Section 1. The Retirement Plan for the Employees of the City of Villa Rica, Georgia, is hereby amended and restated as set forth in and subject to the terms and conditions stated in the following Adoption Agreement, any Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS) Basic Plan Document, and the GMEBS Trust Agreement.

Ordinance continued on page 38

II. GMEBS DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT PLAN **ADOPTION AGREEMENT**

1. ADMINISTRATOR

Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System
201 Pryor Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Telephone: 404-688-0472
Facsimile: 404-577-6663

2. ADOPTING EMPLOYER

Name: **City of Villa Rica, Georgia**

3. GOVERNING AUTHORITY

Name: **Mayor and Council**
Address: **571 W Bankhead Hwy, Villa Rica, GA 30180-1726**
Phone: **(770) 459-7000**
Facsimile: **(770) 459-7003**

4. PLAN REPRESENTATIVE

[To represent Governing Authority in all communications with GMEBS and Employees]
(See Section 2.49 of Basic Plan Document)

Name: **City Manager**
Address: **571 W Bankhead Hwy, Villa Rica, GA 30180-1726**
Phone: **(770) 459-7000**
Facsimile: **(770) 459-7003**

5. PENSION COMMITTEE

[Please designate members by position. If not, members of Pension Committee shall be determined in accordance with Article XIV of the Basic Plan Document]

Position: **Mayor**

Position: **City Manager**

Position: **Council Member**

Position: **Council Member**

Position: **Clerk**

Position: **Finance Officer**

Position: **Attorney**

Pension Committee Secretary: **Human Resources Director**

Address: **571 W Bankhead Hwy, Villa Rica, GA 30180-1726**

Phone: **(770) 459-7000**

Facsimile: **(770) 459-7003**

6. TYPE OF ADOPTION

This Adoption Agreement is for the following purpose (**check one**):

- ☐ This is a new defined benefit plan adopted by the Adopting Employer for its Employees. This plan does not replace or restate an existing defined benefit plan.
- ☐ This is an amendment and restatement of the Adopting Employer's preexisting non-GMEBS defined benefit plan.
- ☒ This is an amendment and restatement of the Adoption Agreement previously adopted by the Employer, as follows (**check one or more as applicable**):
 - ☒ To update the Plan to comply with the PATH Act, and other applicable federal laws and guidance under IRS Notice 2020-14 (the 2020 Cumulative List).
 - ☐ To make the following amendments to the Adoption Agreement (**must specify below revisions made in this Adoption Agreement; all provisions must be completed in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)**): _____

7. EFFECTIVE DATE

NOTE: This Adoption Agreement and any Addendum, with the accompanying Basic Plan Document, is designed to comply with Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a), as applicable to a governmental qualified defined benefit plan, and is part of the GMEBS Defined Benefit Retirement Plan. Plan provisions designed to comply with certain provisions of the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015 ("PATH Act"); and Plan provisions designed to comply with certain provisions of additional changes in federal law and guidance from the Internal

Revenue Service under Internal Revenue Service Notice 2020-14 (the 2020 Cumulative List) are effective as of the applicable effective dates set forth in the Adoption Agreement and Basic Plan Document. By adopting this Adoption Agreement, with its accompanying Basic Plan Document, the Adopting Employer is adopting a plan document intended to comply with Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a), as updated by the PATH Act and the 2020 Cumulative List with the applicable effective dates.

- (1) Complete this item (1) only if this is a new defined benefit plan which does not replace or restate an existing defined benefit plan.**

The effective date of this Plan is ____.

(insert effective date of this Adoption Agreement but not earlier than the first day of the current Plan Year in which the Plan is adopted).

- (2) Complete this item (2) only if this Plan is being adopted to replace a non-GMEBS defined benefit plan.**

Except as otherwise specifically provided in the Basic Plan Document or in this Adoption Agreement, the effective date of this restatement shall be ____ **(insert effective date of this Adoption Agreement but not earlier than the first day of the current Plan Year in which the Plan is adopted (unless a retroactive corrective amendment is permitted under EPCRS, Rev. Proc. 2021-30 (or subsequent updated guidance))).** This Plan is intended to replace and serve as an amendment and restatement of the Employer's preexisting plan, which became effective on ____ **(insert original effective date of preexisting plan).**

- (3) Complete this item (3) only if this is an amendment and complete restatement of the Adopting Employer's existing GMEBS defined benefit plan.**

Except as otherwise specifically provided in the Basic Plan Document or in this Adoption Agreement, the effective date of this restatement shall be the date of its approval by the Governing Authority **(insert effective date of this Adoption Agreement but not earlier than the first day of the current Plan Year in which the Plan is adopted (unless a retroactive corrective amendment is permitted under EPCRS, Rev. Proc. 2021-30 (or subsequent updated guidance))).**

This Plan is adopted as an amendment and restatement of the Employer's preexisting GMEBS Adoption Agreement, which became effective on February 1, 2020 **(insert effective date of most recent Adoption Agreement preceding this Adoption Agreement).**

The Employer's first Adoption Agreement became effective January 1, 2003 **(insert effective date of Employer's first GMEBS Adoption Agreement).** The Employer's GMEBS Plan was originally effective April 1, 1984 **(insert effective date of Employer's original GMEBS Plan).** (If the Employer's Plan was originally a non-GMEBS Plan, then the Employer's non-GMEBS Plan was originally effective ____ **(if applicable, insert effective date of Employer's original non-GMEBS Plan).**)

8. PLAN YEAR

Plan Year means (**check one**):

- ☐ Calendar Year
- ☐ Employer Fiscal Year commencing _____.
- ☒ Other (**must specify month and day commencing**): April 1.

9. CLASSES OF ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES

Only Employees of the Adopting Employer who meet the Basic Plan Document's definition of "Employee" may be covered under the Adoption Agreement. Eligible Employees shall not include non-governmental employees, independent contractors, leased employees, nonresident aliens, or any other ineligible individuals, and this Section 9 must not be completed in a manner that violates the "exclusive benefit rule" of Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a)(2).

A. Eligible Regular Employees

Regular Employees include Employees, other than elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officers, who are regularly employed in the services of the Adopting Employer. Subject to the other conditions of the Basic Plan Document and the Adoption Agreement, the following Regular Employees are eligible to participate in the Plan (**check one**):

- ☒ **ALL** - All Regular Employees, provided they satisfy the minimum hour and other requirements specified under "Eligibility Conditions" below.
- ☐ **ALL REGULAR EMPLOYEES EXCEPT** for the following employees (**must specify; specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): _____.

B. Elected or Appointed Members of the Governing Authority

An Adopting Employer may elect to permit participation in the Plan by elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority and/or Municipal Legal Officers, provided they otherwise meet the Basic Plan Document's definition of "Employee" and provided they satisfy any other requirements specified by the Adopting Employer. Municipal Legal Officers to be covered must be specifically identified by position. Subject to the above conditions, the Employer hereby elects the following treatment for elected and appointed officials:

(1) Elected or Appointed Members of the Governing Authority (check one):

- ☐ **ARE NOT** eligible to participate in the Plan.
- ☒ **ARE** eligible to participate in the Plan.

Please specify any limitations on eligibility to participate here (e.g., service on or after certain date, or special waiting period provision): _____.

(2) **Municipal Legal Officers (check one):**

- ☒ **ARE NOT** eligible to participate in the Plan.
- ☐ **ARE** eligible to participate in the Plan. The term "Municipal Legal Officer" shall include only the following positions (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): _____.

Please specify any limitations on eligibility to participate here (e.g., service on or after certain date) (**must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)**): _____.

10. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

A. **Hours Per Week (Regular Employees)**

The Adopting Employer may specify a minimum number of work hours per week which are required to be scheduled by Regular Employees in order for them to become and remain "Eligible Regular Employees" under the Plan. **It is the responsibility of the Adopting Employer to determine whether these requirements are and continue to be satisfied.** The Employer hereby elects the following minimum hour requirement for Regular Employees:

- ☐ No minimum
- ☐ 20 hours/week (regularly scheduled)
- ☐ 30 hours/week (regularly scheduled)
- ☒ Other: **40** (must not exceed 40 hours/week regularly scheduled)

Exceptions: If a different minimum hour requirement applies to a particular class or classes of Regular Employees, please specify below the classes to whom the different requirement applies and indicate the minimum hour requirement applicable to them.

Class(es) of Regular Employees to whom exception applies (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): **Police Officers, as defined in Section 2.51 of the Basic Plan Document, who are initially employed or reemployed on or after March 6, 2012.**

Minimum hour requirement applicable to excepted Regular Employees:

- ☐ No minimum
- ☐ 20 hours/week (regularly scheduled)
- ☐ 30 hours/week (regularly scheduled)
- ☒ Other: **84 hours per pay period (bi-weekly)** (must not exceed 40 hours/week regularly scheduled)

Class(es) of Regular Employees to whom exception applies (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): **Police Department Customer Service Representatives who are initially employed or reemployed on or after March 6, 2012.**

Minimum hour requirement applicable to excepted Regular Employees:

- ☐ No minimum
- ☐ 20 hours/week (regularly scheduled)
- ☐ 30 hours/week (regularly scheduled)
- ☒ Other: **77 hours per pay period (bi-weekly)** (must not exceed 40 hours/week regularly scheduled)

Class(es) of Regular Employees to whom exception applies (must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named): **Eligible Regular Employees employed on December 1, 2004, provided they do not become reemployed after such date.**

Minimum hour requirement applicable to excepted Regular Employees:

- ☐ No minimum
- ☒ 20 hours/week (regularly scheduled)
- ☐ 30 hours/week (regularly scheduled)
- ☐ Other: _____ (must not exceed 40 hours/week regularly scheduled)

Class(es) of Regular Employees to whom exception applies (must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named): **Eligible Regular Employees first employed or reemployed after December 1, 2004, but prior to March 6, 2012, provided that they do not become reemployed on or after March 6, 2012.**

Minimum hour requirement applicable to excepted Regular Employees:

- ☐ No minimum
- ☐ 20 hours/week (regularly scheduled)
- ☒ 30 hours/week (regularly scheduled)
- ☐ Other: _____ (must not exceed 40 hours/week regularly scheduled)

B. Months Per Year (Regular Employees)

The Adopting Employer may specify a minimum number of work months per year which are required to be scheduled by Regular Employees in order for them to become and remain "Eligible Employees" under the Plan. **It is the responsibility of the Adopting Employer to determine whether these requirements are and continue to be satisfied.** The Employer hereby elects the following minimum requirement for Regular Employees:

- ☐ No minimum
- ☒ At least **5** months per year (regularly scheduled)

Exceptions: If different months per year requirements apply to a particular class or classes of Regular Employees, the Employer must specify below the classes to whom the different requirements apply and indicate below the requirements applicable to them.

Regular Employees to whom exception applies (must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named): _____.

The months to year requirement for excepted class(es) are:

- ☐ No minimum
- ☐ At least _____ months per year (regularly scheduled)

11. WAITING PERIOD

Except as otherwise provided in Section 4.02(b) of the Basic Plan Document, Eligible Regular Employees shall not have a waiting period before participating in the Plan. Likewise, elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority and Municipal Legal Officers, if eligible to participate in the Plan, shall not have a waiting period before participating in the Plan.

12. ESTABLISHING PARTICIPATION IN THE PLAN

Participation in the Plan is considered mandatory for all Eligible Employees who satisfy the eligibility conditions specified in the Adoption Agreement, except as provided in Section 4.03(e) of the Basic Plan Document. However, the Employer may specify below that participation is optional for certain classes of Eligible Employees, including Regular Employees, elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority, Municipal Legal Officers, City Managers, and/or Department Heads. If participation is optional for an Eligible Employee, then in order to become a Participant, the Employee must make a written election to participate within 120 days after employment, election or appointment to office, or if later, the date the Employee first becomes eligible to participate in the Plan. The election is irrevocable, and the failure to make the election within the 120 day time limit shall be deemed an irrevocable election not to participate in the Plan.

Classes for whom participation is optional (**check one**):

- ☒ None (Participation is mandatory for all Eligible Employees except as provided in Section 4.03(e) of the Basic Plan Document).
- ☐ Participation is optional for the following Eligible Employees (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named; all positions or classes specified must be Eligible Employees**): _____.

13. CREDITED SERVICE

In addition to Current Credited Service the Adopting Employer may include as Credited Service the following types of service:

A. Credited Past Service with Adopting Employer

Credited Past Service means the number of years and complete months of Service with the Adopting Employer prior to the date an Eligible Employee becomes a Participant which are treated as credited service under the Plan.

(1) Eligible Employees Employed on Original Effective Date of GMEBS Plan.
With respect to Eligible Employees who are employed by the Adopting Employer on the original Effective Date of the Employer's GMEBS Plan, Service with the Adopting Employer prior to the date the Eligible Employee becomes a Participant (including any Service prior to the Effective Date of the Plan) shall be treated as follows (**check one**):

- ☒ All Service prior to the date the Eligible Employee becomes a Participant shall be credited (as Credited Past Service).
- ☐ All Service prior to the date the Eligible Employee becomes a Participant shall be credited (as Credited Past Service), except for Service rendered prior to _____ (insert date).
- ☐ All Service prior to the date the Eligible Employee becomes a Participant shall be credited (as Credited Past Service), except as follows **(must specify other limitation in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i))**: _____.
- ☐ No Service prior to the date the Eligible Employee becomes a Participant shall be credited (as Credited Past Service).

(2) Previously Employed, Returning to Service after Original Effective Date. If an Eligible Employee is not employed on the original Effective Date of the Employer's GMEBS Plan, but returns to Service with the Adopting Employer sometime after the Effective Date, said Eligible Employee's Service prior to becoming a Participant (including any Service prior the Effective Date) shall be treated as follows **(check one)**:

- ☐ All Service prior to the date the Eligible Employee becomes a Participant shall be credited (as Credited Past Service), subject to any limitations imposed above with respect to Eligible Employees employed on the Effective Date.
- ☒ All Service prior to the date the Eligible Employee becomes a Participant shall be credited (as Credited Past Service), provided that after returning to employment, the Eligible Employee performs Service equal to the period of the break in Service or one (1) year, whichever is less. Any limitations imposed above with respect to Eligible Employees employed on the Effective Date shall also apply.
- ☐ No Service prior to the date the Eligible Employee becomes a Participant shall be credited (as Credited Past Service).

Other limitation(s) on Recognition of Credited Past Service **(must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i))**: **In addition to the above limitations, Credited Past Service shall not include any tenure of office as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority unless the Participant was serving as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority or Eligible Regular Employee on April 1, 1984.**

(3) Eligible Employees Initially Employed After Effective Date. If an Eligible Employee's initial employment date is after the original Effective Date of the Employer's GMEBS Plan, said Employee's Credited Past Service shall include only the number of years and complete months of Service from the Employee's initial employment date to the date the Employee becomes a Participant in the Plan.

(4) Newly Eligible Classes of Employees. If a previously ineligible class of Employees becomes eligible to participate in the Plan, the Employer must specify in an addendum to this Adoption Agreement whether and to what extent said Employees' prior service with the Employer shall be treated as Credited Past Service under the Plan.

B. Prior Military Service

Note: This Section does not concern military service required to be credited under USERRA – See Section 3.02 of the Basic Plan Document for rules on the crediting of USERRA Military Service.

(1) Credit for Prior Military Service.

The Adopting Employer may elect to treat military service rendered prior to a Participant's initial employment date or reemployment date as Credited Service under the Plan. Unless otherwise specified by the Employer under "Other Conditions" below, the term "Military Service" shall be as defined in the Basic Plan Document. Except as otherwise required by federal or state law or under "Other Conditions" below, Military Service shall not include service which is credited under any other local, state, or federal retirement or pension plan.

Military Service credited under this Section shall not include any service which is otherwise required to be credited under the Plan by federal or state law. Prior Military Service shall be treated as follows **(check one)**:

- ☒ Prior Military Service is **not** creditable under the Plan **(if checked, skip to Section 13.C. – Prior Governmental Service)**.
- ☐ Prior Military Service shall be counted as Credited Service for the following purposes (check one or more as applicable):
 - ☐ Computing amount of benefits payable.
 - ☐ Meeting minimum service requirements for vesting.
 - ☐ Meeting minimum service requirements for benefit eligibility.

(2) Maximum Credit for Prior Military Service.

Credit for Prior Military Service shall be limited to a maximum of _____ years **(insert number)**.

(3) Rate of Accrual for Prior Military Service.

Credit for Prior Military Service shall accrue at the following rate **(check one)**:

- ☐ One month of military service credit for every _____ month(s) **(insert number)** of Credited Service with the Adopting Employer.
- ☐ One year of military service credit for every _____ year(s) **(insert number)** of Credited Service with the Adopting Employer.

- ☐ All military service shall be creditable (subject to any caps imposed above) after the Participant has completed _____ years (**insert number**) of Credited Service with the Employer.
 - ☐ Other requirement (**must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)**): _____.
- (4) Payment for Prior Military Service Credit (check one):**
- ☐ Participants shall **not** be required to pay for military service credit.
 - ☐ Participants shall be required to pay for military service credit as follows:
 - ☐ The Participant must pay ____% of the actuarial cost of the service credit (as defined below).
 - ☐ The Participant must pay an amount equal to (**must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)**): _____.

Other Conditions for Award of Prior Military Service Credit (**must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)**): _____.

(5) Limitations on Service Credit Purchases. Unless otherwise specified in an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, for purposes of this Section and Section 13.C. concerning prior governmental service credit, the term "actuarial cost of service credit" is defined as set forth in the Service Credit Purchase Addendum. In the case of a service credit purchase, the Participant shall be required to comply with any rules and regulations established by the GMEBS Board of Trustees concerning said purchases.

C. Prior Governmental Service

Note: A Participant's prior service with other GMEBS employers shall be credited for purposes of satisfying the minimum service requirements for Vesting and eligibility for Retirement and pre-retirement death benefits as provided under Section 9.05 of the Basic Plan Document, relating to portability service. This Section 13(C) does not need to be completed in order for Participants to receive this portability service credit pursuant to Section 9.05 of the Basic Plan Document.

(1) Credit for Prior Governmental Service.

The Adopting Employer may elect to treat governmental service rendered prior to a Participant's initial employment date or reemployment date as creditable service under the Plan. Subject to any limitations imposed by law, the term "prior governmental service" shall be as defined by the Adopting Employer below. The Employer elects to treat prior governmental service as follows (**check one**):

- ☒ Prior governmental service is **not** creditable under the Plan (**if checked, skip to Section 13.D. – Unused Sick/Vacation Leave**).
- ☐ Prior governmental service shall be counted as Credited Service for the following purposes under the Plan (**check one or more as applicable**):
 - ☐ Computing amount of benefits payable.
 - ☐ Meeting minimum service requirements for vesting.
 - ☐ Meeting minimum service requirements for benefit eligibility.

(2) Definition of Prior Governmental Service.

Prior governmental service shall be defined as follows: (**must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)**): _____.

Unless otherwise specified above, prior governmental service shall include only full-time service (minimum hour requirement same as that applicable to Eligible Regular Employees).

(3) Maximum Credit for Prior Governmental Service.

Credit for prior governmental service shall be limited to a maximum of _____ years (**insert number**).

(4) Rate of Accrual for Prior Governmental Service Credit.

Credit for prior governmental service shall accrue at the following rate (**check one**):

- ☐ One month of prior governmental service credit for every _____ month(s) (**insert number**) of Credited Service with the Adopting Employer.
- ☐ One year of prior governmental service credit for every _____ year(s) (**insert number**) of Credited Service with the Adopting Employer.
- ☐ All prior governmental service shall be creditable (subject to any caps imposed above) after the Participant has completed _____ years (**insert number**) of Credited Service with the Adopting Employer.
- ☐ Other requirement (**must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)**): _____.

(5) Payment for Prior Governmental Service Credit.

- ☐ Participants shall **not** be required to pay for governmental service credit.
- ☐ Participants shall be required to pay for governmental service credit as follows:
 - ☐ The Participant must pay _____% of the actuarial cost of the service credit.

- ☐ The Participant must pay an amount equal to **(must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i))**: _____.

Other Conditions for Award of Prior Governmental Service Credit **(must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i))**: _____.

D. Leave Conversion for Unused Paid Time Off (e.g., Sick, Vacation, or Personal Leave)

(1) Credit for Unused Paid Time Off.

Subject to the limitations in Section 3.01 of the Basic Plan Document, an Adopting Employer may elect to treat accumulated days of unused paid time off for a terminated Participant, for which the Participant is not paid, as Credited Service. The only type of leave permitted to be credited under this provision is leave from a paid time off plan which qualifies as a bona fide sick and vacation leave plan (which may include sick, vacation or personal leave) and which the Participant may take as paid leave without regard to whether the leave is due to illness or incapacity. The Credited Service resulting from the conversion of unused paid time off must not be the only Credited Service applied toward the accrual of a normal retirement benefit under the Plan. The Pension Committee shall be responsible to certify to GMEBS the total amount of unused paid time off that is creditable hereunder.

Important Note: Leave cannot be converted to Credited Service in lieu of receiving a cash payment. If the Employer elects treating unused paid time off as Credited Service, the conversion to Credited Service will be automatic, and the Participant cannot request a cash payment for the unused paid time off.

The Employer elects the following treatment of unused paid time off:

- ☒ Unused paid time off shall **not** be treated as Credited Service **(if checked, skip to Section 14 – Retirement Eligibility)**.
- ☐ The following types of unused paid time off for which the Participant is not paid shall be treated as Credited Service under the Plan **(check one or more as applicable)**:
- ☐ Unused sick leave
 - ☐ Unused vacation leave
 - ☐ Unused personal leave
 - ☐ Other paid time off **(must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i))**: _____.

(2) Minimum Service Requirement.

In order to receive credit for unused paid time off, a Participant must meet the following requirement at termination **(check one)**:

- ☐ The Participant must be 100% vested in a normal retirement benefit.
- ☐ The Participant must have at least _____ years **(insert number)** of Total Credited Service (not including leave otherwise creditable under this Section).
- ☐ Other **(must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i))**: _____.

(3) Use of Unused Paid Time Off Credit. Unused paid time off for which the Participant is not paid shall count as Credited Service for the following purposes under the Plan **(check one or more as applicable)**:

- ☐ Computing amount of benefits payable.
- ☐ Meeting minimum service requirements for vesting.
- ☐ Meeting minimum service requirements for benefit eligibility.

(4) Maximum Credit for Unused Paid Time Off.

Credit for unused paid time off for which the Participant is not paid shall be limited to a maximum of ____ months **(insert number)**.

(5) Computation of Unused Paid Time Off.

Unless otherwise specified by the Adopting Employer under "Other Conditions" below, each twenty (20) days of creditable unused paid time off shall constitute one (1) complete month of Credited Service under the Plan. Partial months shall not be credited.

(6) Other Conditions (please specify, subject to limitations in Section 3.01 of Basic Plan Document; must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)): _____.

14. RETIREMENT ELIGIBILITY

A. Early Retirement Qualifications

Early retirement qualifications are **(check one or more as applicable)**:

- ☒ Attainment of age **55 (insert number)**
- ☒ Completion of **10 years (insert number)** of Total Credited Service

Exceptions: If different early retirement eligibility requirements apply to a particular class or classes of Eligible Employees, the Employer must specify below the classes to whom the different requirements apply and indicate below the requirements applicable to them.

Eligible Employees to whom exception applies **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named):** _____.

Early retirement qualifications for excepted class(es) are **(check one or more as applicable):**

- ☐ Attainment of age _____ **(insert number)**
- ☐ Completion of _____ years **(insert number)** of Total Credited Service

B. Normal Retirement Qualifications

Note: Please complete this Section and also list "Alternative" Normal Retirement Qualifications, if any, in Section 14.C.

(1) Regular Employees

Normal retirement qualifications for Regular Employees are **(check one or more as applicable):**

- ☒ Attainment of age **65** **(insert number)**
- ☒ Completion of **5** years **(insert number)** of Total Credited Service
- ☐ In-Service Distribution to Eligible Employees permitted (i.e., a qualifying Participant may commence receiving retirement benefits while in service without first incurring a Bona Fide Separation from Service), if Participant meets minimum age and service requirements specified immediately above and satisfies the minimum age parameters for In-Service Distribution described in Section 6.06(a)(3) of the Basic Plan Document, subject to applicable Plan provisions concerning recalculation and offset applied at re-retirement to account for the value of benefits received prior to re-retirement. This rule shall apply to **(check one):** ☐ all Participants ☐ only the following class(es) of Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named):** _____.

Exceptions: If different normal retirement qualifications apply to a particular class or classes of Regular Employees, the Employer must specify below the classes to whom the different requirements apply and indicate below the requirements applicable to them.

Class(es) of Regular Employees to whom exception applies **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named):** **Participants employed with the City as City Manager on or after August 2, 2016.**

Normal retirement qualifications for excepted class(es) are **(check one or more as applicable):**

- ☒ Attainment of age **65** **(insert number)**
- ☐ Completion of _____ years **(insert number)** of Total Credited Service
- ☐ In-Service Distribution to Eligible Employees permitted (i.e., a qualifying Participant may commence receiving retirement benefits while in service without

first incurring a Bona Fide Separation from Service), if Participant meets minimum age and service requirements specified immediately above and satisfies the minimum age parameters for In-Service Distribution described in Section 6.06(a)(3) of the Basic Plan Document, subject to applicable Plan provisions concerning recalculation and offset applied at re-retirement to account for the value of benefits received prior to re-retirement. This rule shall apply to **(check one)**: ☐ all Participants ☐ only the following class(es) of Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named)**: _____.

(2) Elected or Appointed Members of Governing Authority

Complete this Section only if elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officers are permitted to participate in the Plan. Normal retirement qualifications for this class are **(check one or more as applicable)**:

- ☒ Attainment of age **65 (insert number)**
- ☐ Completion of _____ years **(insert number)** of Total Credited Service
- ☒ In-Service Distribution to Eligible Employees permitted (*i.e.*, a qualifying Participant may commence receiving retirement benefits while in service without first incurring a Bona Fide Separation from Service), if Participant meets minimum age and service requirements specified immediately above and satisfies the minimum age parameters for In-Service Distribution described in Section 6.06(a)(3) of the Basic Plan Document, subject to applicable Plan provisions concerning recalculation and offset applied at re-retirement to account for the value of benefits received prior to re-retirement. This rule shall apply to **(check one)**: ☐ all Participants ☒ only the following class(es) of Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named)**: **Elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority.**

Exceptions: If different normal retirement qualifications apply to particular elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officers, the Employer must specify below to whom the different requirements apply and indicate below the requirements applicable to them.

Particular elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officers to whom exception applies **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named)**: _____.

Normal retirement qualifications for excepted elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officers are **(check one or more as applicable)**:

- ☐ Attainment of age _____ **(insert number)**
- ☐ Completion of _____ years **(insert number)** of Total Credited Service

- ☐ In-Service Distribution to Eligible Employees permitted (i.e., a qualifying Participant may commence receiving retirement benefits while in service without first incurring a Bona Fide Separation from Service), if Participant meets minimum age and service requirements specified immediately above and satisfies the minimum age parameters for In-Service Distribution described in Section 6.06(a)(3) of the Basic Plan Document, subject to applicable Plan provisions concerning recalculation and offset applied at re-retirement to account for the value of benefits received prior to re-retirement. This rule shall apply to **(check one)**: ☐ all Participants ☐ only the following class(es) of Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named)**:_____.

C. Alternative Normal Retirement Qualifications

The Employer may elect to permit Participants to retire with unreduced benefits after they satisfy service and/or age requirements other than the regular normal retirement qualifications specified above. The Employer hereby adopts the following alternative normal retirement qualifications:

Alternative Normal Retirement Qualifications (check one or more, as applicable):

- (1) ☒ Not applicable (the Adopting Employer does not offer alternative normal retirement benefits under the Plan).
- (2) ☐ **Alternative Minimum Age & Service Qualifications (if checked, please complete one or more items below, as applicable):**
- ☐ Attainment of age _____ (insert number)
 - ☐ Completion of _____ years (insert number) of Total Credited Service
 - ☐ In-Service Distribution to Eligible Employees permitted (i.e., a qualifying Participant may commence receiving retirement benefits while in service without first incurring a Bona Fide Separation from Service), if Participant meets minimum age and service requirements specified immediately above and satisfies the minimum age parameters for In-Service Distribution described in Section 6.06(a)(3) of the Basic Plan Document, subject to applicable Plan provisions concerning recalculation and offset applied at re-retirement to account for the value of benefits received prior to re-retirement. This rule shall apply to **(check one)**: ☐ all Participants ☐ only the following class(es) of Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named)**: _____.

This alternative normal retirement benefit is available to:

- ☐ All Participants who qualify.
- ☐ Only the following Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named)**: _____.

A Participant (**check one**): ☐ is required ☐ is not required to be in the service of the Employer at the time the Participant satisfies the above qualifications in order to qualify for this alternative normal retirement benefit.

Other eligibility requirement (**must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)**): _____.

- (3) ☐ **Rule of _____ (insert number).** The Participant's combined Total Credited Service and age must equal or exceed this number. Please complete additional items below:

To qualify for this alternative normal retirement benefit, the Participant (**check one or more items below, as applicable**):

- ☐ Must have attained at least age _____ (**insert number**)
- ☐ Must not satisfy any minimum age requirement
- ☐ In-Service Distribution to Eligible Employees permitted (i.e., a qualifying Participant may commence receiving retirement benefits while in service without first incurring a Bona Fide Separation from Service), if the Participant meets the minimum age and service requirements specified immediately above and satisfies the minimum age parameters for In-Service Distribution described in Section 6.06(a)(3) of the Basic Plan Document, subject to applicable Plan provisions concerning recalculation and offset applied at re-retirement to account for the value of benefits received prior to re-retirement. This rule shall apply to (**check one**): ☐ all Participants ☐ only the following class(es) of Participants (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): _____.

This alternative normal retirement benefit is available to:

- ☐ All Participants who qualify.
- ☐ Only the following Participants (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): _____.

A Participant (**check one**): ☐ is required ☐ is not required to be in the service of the Employer at the time the Participant satisfies the Rule in order to qualify for this alternative normal retirement benefit.

Other eligibility requirement (**must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)**): _____.

- (4) ☐ **Alternative Minimum Service.** A Participant is eligible for an alternative normal retirement benefit if the Participant has at least _____ years **(insert number)** of Total Credited Service, regardless of the Participant's age.

- ☐ In-Service Distribution to Eligible Employees permitted (i.e., a qualifying Participant may commence receiving retirement benefits while in service without first incurring a Bona Fide Separation from Service), if the Participant meets the minimum service requirement specified immediately above and satisfies the minimum age parameters for In-Service Distribution described in Section 6.06(a)(3) of the Basic Plan Document, subject to applicable Plan provisions concerning recalculation and offset applied at re-retirement to account for the value of benefits received prior to re-retirement. This rule shall apply to **(check one)**: ☐ all Participants ☐ only the following class(es) of Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named)**: ____.

This alternative normal retirement benefit is available to:

- ☐ All Participants who qualify.
- ☐ Only the following Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named)**: _____.

A Participant **(check one)**: ☐ is required ☐ is not required to be in the service of the Employer at the time the Participant satisfies the qualifications for this alternative normal retirement benefit.

Other eligibility requirement **(must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i))**: _____.

- (5) ☐ **Other Alternative Normal Retirement Benefit.**

Must specify qualifications (in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)): _____.

- ☐ In-Service Distribution to Eligible Employees permitted (i.e., a qualifying Participant may commence receiving retirement benefits while in service without first incurring a Bona Fide Separation from Service), if the Participant meets minimum age and service requirements specified immediately above and satisfies the minimum age parameters for In-Service Distribution described in Section 6.06(a)(3) of the Basic Plan Document, subject to applicable Plan provisions concerning recalculation and offset applied at re-retirement to account for the value of benefits received prior to re-retirement. This rule shall apply to **(check one)**: ☐ all Participants ☐ only the following class(es) of Participants **(must specify -**

specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named):_____.

This alternative normal retirement benefit is available to:

- ☐ All Participants who qualify.
- ☐ Only the following Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named):** _____.

A Participant **(check one)**: ☐ is required ☐ is not required to be in the service of the Employer at the time the Participant satisfies the qualifications for this alternative normal retirement benefit.

Other eligibility requirement **(must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i))**: _____.

(6) ☐ **Other Alternative Normal Retirement Benefit for Public Safety Employees Only.**

Must specify qualifications (in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)): _____.

- ☐ In-Service Distribution to Eligible Employees who are Public Safety Employees permitted (i.e., a qualifying Participant may commence receiving retirement benefits while in service without first incurring a Bona Fide Separation from Service), if the Participant meets minimum age and service requirements specified immediately above and satisfies the minimum age parameters for In-Service Distribution Described in Section 6.06(a)(3) of the Basic Plan Document, subject to applicable Plan provisions concerning recalculation and offset applied at re-retirement to account for the value of benefits received prior to re-retirement. This rule shall apply to **(check one)**: ☐ all Participants ☐ only the following class(es) of Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named)**: _____.

This alternative normal retirement benefit is available to:

- ☐ All public safety employee Participants who qualify.
- ☐ Only the following public safety employee Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named)**: _____.

A public safety employee Participant (**check one**): ☐ is required ☐ is not required to be in the service of the Employer at the time the Participant satisfies the qualifications for this alternative normal retirement benefit.

Other eligibility requirement (**must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)**): _____.

Note: "Public safety employees" are defined under the Internal Revenue Code for this purpose as employees of a State or political subdivision of a State who provide police protection, firefighting services, or emergency medical services for any area within the jurisdiction of such State or political subdivision.

D. Disability Benefit Qualifications

Subject to the other terms and conditions of the Basic Plan Document and except as otherwise provided in an Addendum to this Adoption Agreement, disability retirement qualifications are based upon Social Security Administration award criteria or as otherwise provided under Section 2.23 of the Basic Plan Document. The Disability Retirement benefit shall commence as of the Participant's Disability Retirement Date under Section 2.24 of the Basic Plan Document.

To qualify for a disability benefit, a Participant must have the following minimum number of years of Total Credited Service (**check one**):

- ☐ Not applicable (the Adopting Employer does not offer disability retirement benefits under the Plan).
- ☒ No minimum.
- ☐ _____ years (**insert number**) of Total Credited Service.

Other eligibility requirement (**must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)**): _____.

15. RETIREMENT BENEFIT COMPUTATION

A. Maximum Total Credited Service

The number of years of Total Credited Service which may be used to calculate a benefit is (**check one or all that apply**):

- ☒ not limited.
- ☐ limited to _____ years for all Participants.
- ☐ limited to _____ years for the following classes of Eligible Regular Employees:
 - ☐ All Eligible Regular Employees.

- ☐ Only the following Eligible Regular Employees: _____.
- ☐ limited to _____ years as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority.
- ☐ limited to _____ years as a Municipal Legal Officer.
- ☐ Other (must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)): _____.

B. Monthly Normal Retirement Benefit Amount

(1) Regular Employee Formula

The monthly normal retirement benefit for Eligible Regular Employees shall be 1/12 of **(check and complete one or more as applicable)**:

- ☐ (a) **Flat Percentage Formula.** _____% (insert percentage) of Final Average Earnings multiplied by years of Total Credited Service as an Eligible Regular Employee.

This formula applies to:

- ☐ All Participants who are Regular Employees.
- ☐ Only the following Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named)**: _____.

- ☐ (b) **Alternative Flat Percentage Formula.** _____% (insert percentage) of Final Average Earnings multiplied by years of Total Credited Service as an Eligible Regular Employee. This formula applies to the following Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named)**: _____.

- ☒ (c) **Split Final Average Earnings Formula.** 1.5 % (insert percentage) of Final Average Earnings up to the amount of **Covered Compensation (see subsection (2) below for definition of Covered Compensation)**, plus 2.0% (insert percentage) of Final Average Earnings in excess of said Covered Compensation, multiplied by years of Total Credited Service as an Eligible Regular Employee.

This formula applies to:

- ☒ All Participants who are Regular Employees.
- ☐ Only the following Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named)**: _____.

- ☐ (d) **Alternative Split Final Average Earnings Formula.** _____ % (insert percentage) of Final Average Earnings up to the amount of **Covered**

Compensation (see subsection (2) below for definition of Covered Compensation), plus _____% (insert percentage) of Final Average Earnings in excess of said Covered Compensation, multiplied by years of Total Credited Service as an Eligible Regular Employee.

This formula applies to:

- ☐ All Participants.
- ☐ Only the following Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named):** _____.

[Repeat above subsections as necessary for each applicable benefit formula and Participant class covered under the Plan.]

(2) Covered Compensation (complete only if Split Formula(s) is checked above):

Covered Compensation is defined as (check one or more as applicable):

- ☐ (a) **A.I.M.E. Covered Compensation** as defined in Section 2.18 of the Basic Plan Document. This definition of Covered Compensation shall apply to **(check one)**:
 - ☐ All Participants who are Regular Employees.
 - ☐ Only the following Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named):** _____.
- ☒ (b) **Dynamic Break Point** Covered Compensation as defined in Section 2.19 of the Basic Plan Document. This definition of Covered Compensation shall apply to **(check one)**:
 - ☒ All Participants who are Regular Employees.
 - ☐ Only the following Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named):** _____.
- ☐ (c) **Table Break Point** Covered Compensation as defined in Section 2.20 of the Basic Plan Document. This definition of Covered Compensation shall apply to **(check one)**:
 - ☐ All Participants who are Regular Employees.
 - ☐ Only the following class(es) of Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named):** _____.
- ☐ (d) **Covered Compensation** shall mean a Participant's annual Earnings that do not exceed \$ _____ **(specify amount)**. This definition shall apply to **(check one)**:
 - ☐ All Participants who are Regular Employees.
 - ☐ Only the following Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named):** _____.

(3) Final Average Earnings

Unless otherwise specified in an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, Final Average Earnings is defined as the monthly average of Earnings paid to a Participant by the Adopting Employer for the **60 (insert number not to exceed 60)** consecutive months of Credited Service preceding the Participant's most recent Termination in which the Participant's Earnings were the highest, multiplied by 12. Note: GMEBS has prescribed forms for calculation of Final Average Earnings that must be used for this purpose.

This definition of Final Average Earnings applies to:

- ☒ All Participants who are Regular Employees.
- ☐ Only the following Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named):** _____.

[Repeat above subsection as necessary for each applicable definition and Participant class covered under the Plan.]

(4) Formula for Elected or Appointed Members of the Governing Authority

The monthly normal retirement benefit for members of this class shall be as follows **(check one)**:

- ☐ Not applicable (elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officers are not permitted to participate in the Plan).
- ☒ **\$14.00 (insert dollar amount)** per month for each year of Total Credited Service as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officer (service of at least 6 months and 1 day is treated as a year of Total Credited Service; provided, however, than an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officer may accrue a maximum of one year of Total Credited Service for every 12-month period of Service as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officer).

This formula applies to:

- ☒ All elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officers eligible to participate.
- ☐ Only the following elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officers eligible to participate **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named):** _____.

[Repeat above subsection as necessary for each applicable formula for classes of elected or appointed members covered under the Plan.]

C. Monthly Early Retirement Benefit Amount

Check and complete one or more as applicable:

- ☒ (1) **Standard Early Retirement Reduction Table.** The monthly Early Retirement benefit shall be computed in the same manner as the monthly

Normal Retirement benefit, but the benefit shall be reduced on an Actuarially Equivalent basis in accordance with Section 12.01 of the Basic Plan Document to account for early commencement of benefits. This provision shall apply to:

- ☐ All Participants.
- ☒ Only the following Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named):**
Participants who Terminated employment prior to August 1, 2002, unless such Participants become reemployed with the City and subsequently Terminate employment with the City on or after August 1, 2002.

- ☒ (2) **Alternative Early Retirement Reduction Table.** The monthly Early Retirement benefit shall be computed in the same manner as the monthly Normal Retirement benefit, but the benefit shall be reduced to account for early commencement of benefits based on the following table. This table shall apply to:

- ☐ All Participants.
- ☒ Only the following Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named):**
Participants who Terminate employment with the City on or after August 1, 2002.

Alternative Early Retirement Reduction Table

<u>Number of Years Before</u> <u>[Age (Insert Normal</u>	<u>Percentage of</u>
<u>Retirement Age)]</u>	<u>Normal Retirement Benefit*</u>
(check as applicable)	(complete as applicable)
☒ 0	1.000
☒ 1	0.980
☒ 2	0.960
☒ 3	0.940
☒ 4	0.920
☒ 5	0.900
☒ 6	0.880
☒ 7	0.860
☒ 8	0.840
☒ 9	0.820
☒ 10	0.800
☐ 11	0.____
☐ 12	0.____
☐ 13	0.____
☐ 14	0.____
☐ 15	0.____

*Interpolate for whole months

D. Monthly Late Retirement Benefit Amount (check one):

- ☒ (1) The monthly Late Retirement benefit shall be computed in the same manner as the Normal Retirement Benefit, based upon the Participant's Accrued Benefit as of the Participant's Late Retirement Date.
- ☐ (2) The monthly Late Retirement benefit shall be the greater of: (1) the monthly retirement benefit accrued as of the Participant's Normal Retirement Date, actuarially increased in accordance with the actuarial table contained in Section 12.05 of the Basic Plan Document; or (2) the monthly retirement benefit accrued as of the Participant's Late Retirement Date, without further actuarial adjustment under Section 12.06 of the Basic Plan Document.

E. Monthly Disability Benefit Amount

The amount of the monthly Disability Benefit shall be computed in the same manner as the Normal Retirement benefit, based upon the Participant's Accrued Benefit as of the Participant's Disability Retirement Date.

Minimum Disability Benefit. The Adopting Employer may set a minimum Disability Benefit. The Employer elects the following minimum Disability benefit **(check one)**:

- ☐ Not applicable (the Adopting Employer does not offer disability retirement benefits under the Plan).
- ☐ No minimum is established.
- ☒ No less than **(check one)**: ☒ 20% ☐ 10% ☐ ____% **(if other than 20% or 10% insert percentage amount)** of the Participant's average monthly Earnings for the 12 calendar month period (excluding any period of unpaid leave of absence) immediately preceding the Participant's Termination of Employment as a result of a Disability. (Unless otherwise specified in an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, no minimum will apply to elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officers.)
- ☐ No less than **(check one)**: ☐ 66 2/3 % ☐ ____% **(if other than 66 2/3%, insert percentage amount)** of the Participant's average monthly Earnings for the 12 calendar month period (excluding any period of unpaid leave of absence) immediately preceding the Participant's Termination of Employment as a result of a Disability, less any monthly benefits paid from federal Social Security benefits as a result of disability as reported by the Employer. (Unless otherwise specified in an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, no minimum will apply to elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officers.)

F. Minimum/Maximum Benefit For Elected Officials

In addition to any other limitations imposed by federal or state law, the Employer may impose a cap on the monthly benefit amount that may be received by elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority. The Employer elects **(check one)**:

- ☐ Not applicable (elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority do not participate in the Plan).
- ☒ No minimum or maximum applies.
- ☐ Monthly benefit for Service as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority may not exceed 100% of the Participant's final salary as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority.
- ☐ Other minimum or maximum **(must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i))**: _____.

G. Multiple Plans

In the event that the Employer maintains multiple plans, the following provisions will apply to the extent necessary to satisfy Code § 415.

16. SUSPENSION OF BENEFITS FOLLOWING BONA FIDE SEPARATION OF SERVICE; COLA

A. Re-Employment as Eligible Employee After Normal, Alternative Normal, or Early Retirement and Following Bona Fide Separation of Service (see Basic Plan Document Section 6.06(c) Regarding Re-Employment as an Ineligible Employee and Basic Plan Document Section 6.06(e) and (f) Regarding Re-Employment After Disability Retirement)

(1) Reemployment After Normal or Alternative Normal Retirement. In the event that a Retired Participant 1) is reemployed with the Employer as an Eligible Employee (as defined in the Plan) after the Participant's Normal or Alternative Normal Retirement Date and after a Bona Fide Separation from Service, or 2) is reemployed with the Employer in an Ineligible Employee class, and subsequently again becomes an Eligible Employee (as defined in the Plan) due to the addition of such class to the Plan after the Participant's Normal or Alternative Normal Retirement Date, the following rule shall apply **(check one)**:

- ☐ (a) The Participant's benefit shall be suspended in accordance with Section 6.06(a)(1) of the Basic Plan Document for as long as the Participant remains employed.

- ☒ (b) The Participant may continue to receive retirement benefits in accordance with Section 6.06(b) of the Basic Plan Document. This rule shall apply to **(check one)**: ☐ all Retired Participants ☒ only the following classes of Retired Participants **(must specify (specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named) - benefits of those Retired Participants not listed shall be suspended in accordance with Section 6.06(a) of the Basic Plan Document if they return to work with the Employer): Retired Participants who return to Service as elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority.**

(2) Reemployment After Early Retirement. In the event a Participant Retires with an Early Retirement benefit after a Bona Fide Separation from Service 1) is reemployed with the Employer as an Eligible Employee before the Participant's Normal Retirement Date; or 2) is reemployed with the Employer in an Ineligible Employee class, and subsequently again becomes an Eligible Employee (as defined in the Plan) before the Participant's Normal Retirement Date due to the addition of such class to the Plan, the following rule shall apply **(check one or more as applicable)**:

- (a) ☒ The Participant's Early Retirement benefit shall be suspended in accordance with Section 6.06(a)(1) of the Basic Plan Document for as long as the Participant remains employed.

This rule shall apply to **(check one)**: ☐ all Retired Participants; ☒ only the following classes of Retired Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named)**: **Retired Participants who return to Service in positions other than as elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority.**

- (b) ☐ The Participant's Early Retirement benefit shall be suspended in accordance with Section 6.06(a)(1) of the Basic Plan Document. However, the Participant may begin receiving benefits after satisfying the qualifications for Normal Retirement or Alternative Normal Retirement, as applicable, and after satisfying the minimum age parameters of Section 6.06(a)(3) of the Basic Plan Document, in accordance with Section 6.06(b)(2)(B)(i) of the Basic Plan Document.

This rule shall apply to **(check one)**: ☐ all Retired Participants; ☐ only the following classes of Retired Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named)**:
_____.

- (c) ☒ The Participant's Early Retirement benefit shall continue in accordance with Section 6.06(b)(2)(B)(ii) of the Basic Plan Document.

This rule shall apply to **(check one)**: ☐ all Retired Participants; ☒ only the following classes of Retired Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named)**:
_____.

Retired Participants who return to Service as an elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority.

B. Cost Of Living Adjustment

The Employer may elect to provide for an annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in the amount of benefits being received by Retired Participants and Beneficiaries, which shall be calculated and paid in accordance with the terms of the Basic Plan Document. The Employer hereby elects the following **(check one)**:

- ☒ (1) No cost-of-living adjustment.
- ☐ (2) Variable Annual cost-of-living adjustment not to exceed _____% **(insert percentage)**.
- ☐ (3) Fixed annual cost-of-living adjustment equal to _____% **(insert percentage)**.

The above cost-of-living adjustment shall apply with respect to the following Participants (and their Beneficiaries) **(check one)**:

- ☒ All Participants (and their Beneficiaries).
- ☐ Participants (and their Beneficiaries) who terminate employment on or after _____ **(insert date)**.
- ☐ Other **(must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)); specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named)**: _____.

The Adjustment Date for the above cost-of-living adjustment shall be (if not specified, the Adjustment Date shall be January 1): _____.

**17. TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT BEFORE RETIREMENT;
VESTING**

A. Eligible Regular Employees

Subject to the terms and conditions of the Basic Plan Document, a Participant who is an Eligible Regular Employee and whose employment is terminated for any reason other than death or retirement shall earn a vested right in the Participant's accrued retirement benefit in accordance with the following schedule **(check one)**:

- ☐ No vesting schedule (immediate vesting).
- ☒ **Cliff Vesting Schedule.** Benefits shall be 100% vested after the Participant has a minimum of 10 years **(insert number not to exceed 10)** of Total Credited Service. Benefits remain 0% vested until the Participant satisfies this minimum.

- ☐ **Graduated Vesting Schedule.** Benefits shall become vested in accordance with the following schedule (**insert percentages**):

<u>COMPLETED YEARS OF TOTAL CREDITED SERVICE</u>	<u>VESTED PERCENTAGE</u>
1	%
2	%
3	%
4	%
5	%
6	%
7	%
8	%
9	%
10	%

Exceptions: If a vesting schedule other than that specified above applies to a special class(es) of Regular Employees, the Employer must specify the different vesting schedule below and the class(es) to whom the different vesting schedule applies.

Regular Employees to whom exception applies (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): **Participants employed with the City as City Manager on or after August 2, 2016.**

Vesting Schedule for excepted class (**Must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i). Must be at least as favorable as one of the following schedules: (i) 15-year cliff vesting, (ii) 20-year graded vesting, or (iii) for qualified public safety employees, 20-year cliff vesting.**): **No Vesting schedule (immediate Vesting).**

B. Elected or Appointed Members of the Governing Authority

Subject to the terms and conditions of the Basic Plan Document, a Participant who is an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority or a Municipal Legal Officer shall earn a vested right in the Participant's accrued retirement benefit for Credited Service in such capacity in accordance with the following schedule (**check one**):

- ☐ Not applicable (elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority are not permitted to participate in the Plan).
- ☒ No vesting schedule (immediate vesting).
- ☐ Other vesting schedule (**Must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i). Must be at least as favorable as one of the following schedules: (i) 15-year cliff vesting, (ii) 20-year graded vesting, or (iii) for qualified public safety employees, 20-year cliff vesting.**): _____.

18. PRE-RETIREMENT DEATH BENEFITS

A. In-Service Death Benefit

Subject to the terms and conditions of the Basic Plan Document, the Employer hereby elects the following in-service death benefit, to be payable in the event that an eligible Participant's employment with the Employer is terminated by reason of the Participant's death prior to Retirement (**check and complete one**):

- (1) ☐ **Auto A Death Benefit.** A monthly benefit payable to the Participant's Pre-Retirement Beneficiary, equal to the decreased monthly retirement benefit that would have otherwise been payable to the Participant, had the Participant elected a 100% joint and survivor benefit under Section 7.03 of the Basic Plan Document. In order to be eligible for this benefit, a Participant must meet the following requirements (**check one**):

- ☐ The Participant must be vested in a normal retirement benefit.
- ☐ The Participant must have _____ years (**insert number**) of Total Credited Service.
- ☐ The Participant must be eligible for Early or Normal Retirement.
- ☐ Other eligibility requirement (**must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)**): _____.

- (2) ☒ **Actuarial Reserve Death Benefit.** A monthly benefit payable to the Participant's Pre-Retirement Beneficiary, actuarially equivalent to the reserve required for the Participant's anticipated Normal Retirement benefit, provided the Participant meets the following eligibility conditions (**check one**):

- ☒ The Participant shall be eligible upon satisfying the eligibility requirements of Section 8.02(c) of the Basic Plan Document.
- ☐ The Participant must have _____ years (**insert number**) of Total Credited Service.
- ☐ Other eligibility requirement (**must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)**): _____.

Imputed Service. For purposes of computing the actuarial reserve death benefit, the Participant's Total Credited Service shall include (**check one**):

- ☐ Total Credited Service accrued prior to the date of the Participant's death.

- ☒ Total Credited Service accrued prior to the date of the Participant's death, plus **(check one)**: ☒ one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) ☐ _____ **(insert other fraction)** of the Service between such date of death and what would otherwise have been the Participant's Normal Retirement Date. **(See Basic Plan Document Section 8.02(b) regarding 10-year cap on additional Credited Service.)**

Minimum In-Service Death Benefit for Vested Employees Equal to Terminated Vested Death Benefit. Unless otherwise specified under "Exceptions" below, if a Participant's employment is terminated by reason of the Participant's death prior to Retirement, and if as of the date of death the Participant is vested but does not qualify for the in-service death benefit, then the Auto A Death Benefit will be payable, provided the Auto A Death Benefit is made available to terminated vested employees under the Adoption Agreement (see "Terminated Vested Death Benefit" below).

(3) Exceptions: If an in-service death benefit other than that specified above applies to one or more classes of Participants, the Employer must specify below the death benefit payable, the class(es) to whom the different death benefit applies, and the eligibility conditions for said death benefit.

Alternative Death Benefit **(must specify formula that satisfies the definite written program and definitely determinable requirements of Treasury Regulations Sections 1.401-1(a)(2) and 1.401-1(b)(1)(i) and does not violate limits applicable to governmental plans under Code Sections 401(a)(17) and 415):** _____.

Participants to whom alternative death benefit applies **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named):** _____.

Eligibility conditions for alternative death benefit **(must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)):** _____.

B. Terminated Vested Death Benefit

(1) Complete this Section only if the Employer offers a terminated vested death benefit. The Employer may elect to provide a terminated vested death benefit, to be payable in the event that a Participant who is vested dies after termination of employment but before Retirement benefits commence. Subject to the terms and conditions of the Basic Plan Document, the Employer hereby elects the following terminated vested death benefit **(check one)**:

- ☒ **Auto A Death Benefit.** A monthly benefit payable to the Participant's Pre-Retirement Beneficiary, equal to the decreased monthly retirement benefit that would have otherwise been payable to the Participant had the Participant elected a 100% joint and survivor benefit under Section 7.03 of the Basic Plan Document.
- ☐ **Accrued Retirement Benefit.** A monthly benefit payable to the Participant's Pre-Retirement Beneficiary which shall be actuarially equivalent to the

Participant's Accrued Normal Retirement Benefit determined as of the date of death.

(2) **Exceptions:** If a terminated vested death benefit other than that specified above applies to one or more classes of Participants, the Employer must specify below the death benefit payable, the class(es) to whom the different death benefit applies, and the eligibility conditions for said death benefit.

Alternative Death Benefit (must specify formula that satisfies the definite written program and definitely determinable requirements of Treasury Regulations Sections 1.401-1(a)(2) and 1.401-1(b)(1)(i) and does not violate limits applicable to governmental plans under Code Sections 401(a)(17) and 415): _____.

Participants to whom alternative death benefit applies (must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named): _____.

Eligibility conditions for alternative death benefit (must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)): _____.

19. EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS

(1) **Employee contributions (check one):**

- ☒ Are not required.
- ☐ Are required in the amount of _____ % (insert percentage) of Earnings for all Participants.
- ☐ Are required in the amount of _____ % (insert percentage) of Earnings for Participants in the following classes (must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named): _____.

[Repeat above subsection as necessary if more than one contribution rate applies.]

(2) **Pre-Tax Treatment of Employee Contributions.** If Employee Contributions are required in Subsection (1) above, an Adopting Employer may elect to "pick up" Employee Contributions to the Plan in accordance with IRC Section 414(h). In such case, Employee Contributions shall be made on a pre-tax rather than a post-tax basis, provided the requirements of IRC Section 414(h) are met. If the Employer elects to pick up Employee Contributions, it is the Employer's responsibility to ensure that Employee Contributions are paid and reported in accordance with IRC Section 414(h). The Adopting Employer must not report picked up contributions as wages subject to federal income tax withholding.

The Employer hereby elects (check one):

- ☐ To pick up Employee Contributions. By electing to pick up Employee Contributions, the Adopting Employer specifies that the contributions, although designated as Employee Contributions, are being paid by the Employer in lieu of Employee Contributions. The Adopting Employer confirms that the executor of

this Adoption Agreement is duly authorized to take this action as required to pick up contributions. This pick-up of contributions applies prospectively, and it is evidenced by this contemporaneous written document. On and after the date of the pick-up of contributions, a Participant does not have a cash or deferred election right (within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.401(k)-1(a)(3)) with respect to the designated Employee Contributions, which includes not having the option of receiving the amounts directly instead of having them paid to the Plan.

- ☐ Not to pick up Employee Contributions.

(3) Interest on Employee Contributions. The Adopting Employer may elect to pay interest on any refund of Employee Contributions.

- ☐ Interest shall not be paid.
- ☐ Interest shall be paid on a refund of Employee Contributions at a rate established by GMEBS from time to time.
- ☐ Other rate of interest **(must specify rate in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)):**
_____.

20. MODIFICATION OF THE TERMS OF THE ADOPTION AGREEMENT

If an Adopting Employer desires to amend any of its elections contained in this Adoption Agreement (or any Addendum), the Governing Authority by official action must adopt an amendment of the Adoption Agreement (or any Addendum) or a new Adoption Agreement (or Addendum) must be adopted and forwarded to the Board for approval. The amendment of the new Adoption Agreement (or Addendum) is not effective until approved by the Board and other procedures required by the Plan have been implemented.

The Administrator will timely inform the Adopting Employer of any amendments made by the Board to the Plan.

21. TERMINATION OF THE ADOPTION AGREEMENT

This Adoption Agreement (and any Addendum) may be terminated only in accordance with the Plan. The Administrator will inform the Adopting Employer in the event the Board should decide to discontinue this pre-approved plan program.

22. EMPLOYER ADOPTION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR AMENDMENTS

Adoption. The Adopting Employer hereby adopts the terms of the Adoption Agreement and any Addendum, which is attached hereto and made a part of this ordinance. The Adoption Agreement (and, if applicable, the Addendum) sets forth the Employees to be covered by the Plan, the benefits to be provided by the Adopting Employer under the Plan, and any conditions imposed by the Adopting Employer with respect to, but not inconsistent with, the Plan. The Adopting Employer reserves the right to amend its elections under the Adoption Agreement and any Addendum, so long as the amendment is not inconsistent with the Plan or the Internal Revenue Code or other applicable law and is approved by the Board of Trustees of GMEBS. The Adopting Employer acknowledges that it may not be able to rely on the pre-approved plan opinion letter if it makes certain elections under the Adoption Agreement or the Addendum, and that the failure to properly complete the Adoption Agreement may result in a failure of the Adopting Employer's Plan to be a qualified plan.

The Adopting Employer hereby agrees to abide by the Basic Plan Document, Trust Agreement, and rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Trustees of GMEBS, as each may be amended from time to time, in all matters pertaining to the operation and administration of the Plan. It is intended that the Act creating the Board of Trustees of GMEBS, this Plan, and the rules and regulations of the Board are to be construed in harmony with each other. In the event of a conflict between the provisions of any of the foregoing, they shall govern in the following order:

- (1) The Act creating the Board of Trustees of The Georgia Municipal Employees' Benefit System, O.C.G.A. Section 47-5-1 *et seq.* (a copy of which is included in the Appendix to the Basic Defined Benefit Plan Document) and any other applicable provisions of O.C.G.A. Title 47;
- (2) The Basic Defined Benefit Plan Document and Trust Agreement;
- (3) This Ordinance and Adoption Agreement (and any Addendum); and
- (4) The rules and regulations of the Board.

In the event that any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Plan shall be declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall in no manner affect the previously existing provisions or the other section or sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases of this Plan, which shall remain in full force and effect, as if the section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase so declared or adjudicated invalid or unconstitutional were not originally a part hereof. The Governing Authority hereby declares that it would have passed the remaining parts of this Plan or retained the previously existing provisions if it had known that such part or parts hereof would be declared or adjudicated invalid or unconstitutional.

This Adoption Agreement (and any Addendum) may only be used in conjunction with Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System Basic Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Document approved by the Internal Revenue Service under opinion letter Q705465a dated August 31, 2023. The Adopting Employer understands that failure to properly complete this Adoption Agreement (or any Addendum), or to operate and maintain the Plan and Trust in accordance with the terms of the completed Adoption Agreement (and any Addendum), Basic Plan Document and Trust,

may result in disqualification of the Adopting Employer's Plan under the Internal Revenue Code. Inquiries regarding the adoption of the Plan, the meaning of Plan provisions, or the effect of the IRS opinion letter should be directed to the Administrator. The Administrator is Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System, with its primary business offices located at: 201 Pryor Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia, 30303. The business telephone number is: (404) 688-0472. The primary person to contact is: GMEBS Legal Counsel.

Authorization for Amendments. Effective on and after February 17, 2005, the Adopting Employer hereby authorizes the pre-approved plan provider who sponsors the Plan on behalf of GMEBS to prepare amendments to the Plan, for approval by the Board, on its behalf as provided under Revenue Procedure 2005-16, as superseded by Revenue Procedure 2015-36, Revenue Procedure 2011-49, and Announcement 2005-37. Effective January 1, 2013, Georgia Municipal Association, Inc., serves as the pre-approved plan provider for the Plan. Employer notice and signature requirements were met for the Adopting Employer before the effective date of February 17, 2005. The Adopting Employer understands that the implementing amendment reads as follows:

On and after February 17, 2005, the Board delegates to the Provider the authority to advise and prepare amendments to the Plan, for approval by the Board, on behalf of all Adopting Employers, including those Adopting Employers who have adopted the Plan prior to the January 1, 2013, restatement of the Plan, for changes in the Code, the regulations thereunder, revenue rulings, other statements published by Internal Revenue Service, including model, sample, or other required good faith amendments (but only if their adoption will not cause such Plan to be individually designed), and for corrections of prior approved plans. These amendments shall be applied to all Adopting Employers. Employer notice and signature requirements have been met for all Adopting Employers before the effective date of February 17, 2005. In any event, any amendment prepared by the Practitioner and approved by the Board will be provided by the Administrator to Adopting Employers.

Notwithstanding the foregoing paragraph, no amendment to the Plan shall be prepared on behalf of any Adopting Employer as of either:

- the date the Internal Revenue Service requires the Adopting Employer to file Form 5300 as an individually designed plan as a result of an amendment by the Adopting Employer to incorporate a type of Plan not allowable in a pre-approved plan as described in Revenue Procedure 2017-41; or
- as of the date the Plan is otherwise considered an individually designed plan due to the nature and extent of the amendments.

If the Adopting Employer is required to obtain a determination letter for any reason in order to maintain reliance on the opinion letter, the Provider's authority to amend the Plan on behalf of the Adopting Employer is conditioned on the Plan receiving a favorable determination letter.

The Adopting Employer further understands that, if it does not give its authorization hereunder or, in the alternative, adopt another pre-approved plan, its Plan will become an individually designed plan and will not be able to rely on the pre-approved plan opinion letter.

Reliance on Opinion Letter. As provided in Revenue Procedure 2017-41, the Adopting Employer may rely on the Plan's opinion letter, provided that the Adopting Employer's Plan is identical to the GMEBS Plan, and the Adopting Employer has not amended or made any modifications to the Plan other than to choose the options permitted under the Plan, Adoption Agreement, and any Addendum.

AN ORDINANCE (continued from page 1)

Section 2. Except as otherwise specifically required by law or by the terms of the Basic Plan Document or Adoption Agreement (or any Addendum), the rights and obligations under the Plan with respect to persons whose employment with the City was terminated or who vacated office with the City for any reason whatsoever prior to the effective date of this Ordinance are fixed and shall be governed by such Plan, if any, as it existed and was in effect at the time of such termination.

Section 3. The effective date of this Ordinance shall be the date of its approval by the Governing Authority **(not earlier than the first day of the current Plan Year in which the Plan is adopted, unless a retroactive corrective amendment is permitted under EPCRS, Rev. Proc. 2021-30 (or subsequent updated guidance))**.

Section 4. All Ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are expressly repealed.

Approved by the Mayor and Council of the City of Villa Rica, Georgia, this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Attest:

CITY OF VILLA RICA, GEORGIA

City Clerk

Mayor

(SEAL)

Approved:

City Attorney

The terms of the foregoing Adoption Agreement are approved by the Board of Trustees of Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Board of Trustees of Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System has caused its Seal and the signatures of its duly authorized officers to be affixed this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Board of Trustees
Georgia Municipal Employees
Benefit System

(SEAL)

Secretary

**GEORGIA MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES
BENEFIT SYSTEM**

**BASIC DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT PLAN
DOCUMENT**

AMENDED AND RESTATED

Third Six-Year Cycle, 2020 Cumulative List

**Administered by:
Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System
201 Pryor Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Telephone: 404-688-0472
Facsimile: 678-686-6289**

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APPENDIX – REFERENCED SECTIONS OF O.C.G.A.

BASIC PLAN DOCUMENT

ARTICLE I.

PURPOSE OF PLAN

The Georgia Municipal Employees Retirement System Plan ("Plan") is hereby amended and restated for the Third Six-Year Cycle, in compliance with the 2020 Cumulative List, pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System. The Plan is a governmental qualified defined benefit plan under Internal Revenue Code Sections 401(a) and 414(d) and is intended to be adopted by Employers in Georgia.

The Plan is intended to comply with certain provisions of the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015 ("PATH Act"); as well as the additional guidance included in the 2020 Cumulative List under Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") Notice 2020-14 to the extent applicable to the Plan. Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, the Plan establishes the rights and obligations with respect to individuals who are Employees on and after such dates, as applicable, and to transactions under the Plan on and after such dates, as applicable. Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, the rights and benefits, if any, of individuals who are not Employees on or after such dates, as applicable, shall be determined in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Plan that were in effect on the date that their employment terminated.

Any Municipal Corporation accepted by the Board as an Adopting Employer may become a party to the Plan as of the first day of any Plan Year, or such other date specified by the Adopting Employer, by delivering to the Administrator an appropriate Ordinance of the Governing Authority adopting the Plan. Any other Employer accepted by the Board as an Adopting Employer may become a party to the Plan as of the first day of any Plan Year, or such other date specified by the Adopting Employer, by delivering to the Administrator an appropriate resolution or ordinance (as applicable) of the Governing Authority adopting the Plan. With the

consent of the Board, such organization shall become an Adopting Employer hereunder, as of the specified date, and shall be subject to the terms and provisions of the Plan as then in effect and thereafter amended.

The Plan document consists of this Basic Plan Document, the Adoption Agreement, and any Addendum of each Employer and any amendments to the Basic Plan Document, the Adoption Agreement, and any Addendum. The Plan, generally effective as of the date set forth in the Adoption Agreement for each Employer, except as otherwise specifically provided herein, is established for the purpose of providing retirement and other benefits to Participants.

This Plan is intended to be a pre-approved plan, to be used with a completed Adoption Agreement.

ARTICLE II.

DEFINITIONS

This Article covers all generally applicable definitions used in this Plan, except for definitions related to service, which are in Article III. Except as otherwise provided in the Employer's Adoption Agreement or any Addendum, the definition of terms contained in this Article II and Article III shall govern the meaning of such terms used in the Adoption Agreement. When the initial letter of a word or phrase is capitalized herein, the meaning of such word or phrase shall be as follows, unless a different meaning is plainly required by the content:

Section 2.01. **"Accrued Benefit"** shall mean, as of any date, the Normal Retirement benefit payable to a Participant at the Participant's Normal Retirement Date computed in accordance with the provisions of Article VI and the Adoption Agreement, based upon the Participant's Total Credited Service and Final Average Earnings (if applicable) as of the date that the Participant's Accrued Benefit is being determined.

Section 2.02. **"Actuarial Equivalent"** shall mean a benefit of approximately equal value when computed on the basis of the actuarial assumptions contained in Article XII.

Section 2.03. **"Actuary"** shall mean an individual, or firm, appointed or approved by the Board of Trustees to perform actuarial calculations necessary in the funding of the Plan.

Section 2.04. **"Addendum"** means any Addendum to an Adoption Agreement submitted to the IRS for review under the pre-approved program and entered into by an Adopting Employer.

Section 2.05. **"Adjustment Date"** means January 1 or such other date in a calendar year on which a Cost of Living Adjustment is applied to a Retired Participant's or Post-Retirement Beneficiary's benefit pursuant to an Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto.

Section 2.06. **"Administrator"** shall mean the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System or its designee.

Section 2.07. **"Adopting Employer"** shall mean an Employer who adopts this Plan through the adoption of the Adoption Agreement.

Section 2.08. **"Adoption Agreement"** shall mean the Adoption Agreement adopted by an Adopting Employer, which Adoption Agreement contains certain terms of the Plan, and

whenever applicable shall include any Addendum amending provisions of the Adoption Agreement.

Section 2.09. **"Applicable Form"** shall mean the appropriate form as designated and furnished by the Administrator to make the election or provide the notice required by the Plan. In those circumstances where a written election or consent is not required by the Plan or the Code, the Administrator may prescribe an oral, electronic, or telephonic form in lieu of or in addition to a written form.

Section 2.10. **"Board of Trustees"** or **"Board"** shall mean the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System.

Section 2.11. **"Bona Fide Separation from Service"** shall mean, with respect to a Participant who Terminates employment on or after September 26, 2014, the Participant Terminated Employment with the Participant's Adopting Employer without an agreement for re-employment and did not return to service with the Adopting Employer as an Eligible Employee, Ineligible Employee, or independent contractor or in any other capacity, except as described below, for at least six (6) calendar months after the date of said Termination of Employment, provided that the Employer shall be required to provide any information to GMEBS necessary to verify an Employee's Bona Fide Separation from Service. A Bona Fide Separation from Service shall alternatively mean that an Eligible Employee Terminated Employment with the Adopting Employer and returned to service with the Adopting Employer as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority, even if such Employee did not incur a six (6) month break in service prior to becoming an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority.

Section 2.12. **"Child"** or **"Children"** shall mean any natural or adopted child of the Participant or Terminated Vested Participant, as applicable, who is younger than age twenty-two

(22) as of the date of the Participant's or Terminated Vested Participant's death. The term "adopted child" shall include any child who is legally adopted by the Participant and any child who is a member of the Participant's household if placed with the Participant by an authorized placement agency for legal adoption by the Participant. The term "child" does not include a foster child.

Section 2.13. **"Code"** shall mean the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as applicable to governmental plans, as amended from time to time, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as applicable to governmental plans.

Section 2.14. **"Code Section 415(d) Cost of Living Adjustment"** shall mean the cost of living adjustment prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury under Code Section 415(d) for any applicable year.

Section 2.15. **"Contract"** shall mean the entire contents of the Ordinance or Resolution adopting this Plan, the Employer's Adoption Agreement and any Addendum thereto, the Basic Plan Document, the GMEBS Trust Agreement, and any amendments made hereafter.

Section 2.16. **"Contributions"** shall mean payments made by Employers (and Employees, if applicable) to GMEBS to provide the benefits specified in the Plan.

Section 2.17. **"Cost of Living Base Figure"** shall mean, with respect to Employers who elect in the Adoption Agreement to provide cost-of-living adjustments in benefits received under the Plan, the Consumer Price Index figure (All Urban Consumers Table – All Items, 1982-1984 Base Period) issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor for the month that is 14 months prior to the month of the Adjustment Date used to determine the Current Cost-of-Living Index Figure. However, if a Participant or Beneficiary has been drawing benefits for less than twelve (12) months, the Cost-of-Living Base

Figure shall mean the Consumer Price Index figure (All Urban Consumers Table – All Items, 1982-1984 Base Period) issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor for the month that is two (2) months prior to the month when benefit payments commenced.

Section 2.18. "Covered Compensation AIME." shall mean the portion of the Average Indexed Monthly Earnings (A.I.M.E.), annualized, as defined by the December 1977 amendments to the federal Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (O.A.S.D.I.), not subject to the fifteen percent (15%) benefit rate as defined in the amendments and as adjusted to the year of termination of employment as provided for in said amendments.

Section 2.19. "Covered Compensation Dynamic Break Point" shall mean, for any calendar year, the average of the maximum amount of earnings for which taxes are payable under the Social Security Act during the period of calendar years: (1) beginning with the later of 1959 or the calendar year thirty-five (35) years before the year for which Social Security Covered Compensation is being computed, and (2) ending with the calendar year preceding the year for which Social Security Compensation is being computed. The amount of Covered Compensation for a Participant shall be determined as of the date of the Participant's most recent Termination or the Participant's date of death, whichever is applicable.

Section 2.20. "Covered Compensation Table Break Point" shall mean the amount listed in the table below, opposite the year of birth of the Participant:

Year of Birth	Covered Compensation Amount	Year of Birth	Covered Compensation Amount	Year of Birth	Covered Compensation Amount
1903 or earlier	\$4,944	1916	\$6,432	1929	\$6,900
1904	5,160	1917	6,480	1930	6,984

1905	5,352	1918	6,528	1931	7,080
1906	5,520	1919	6,576	1932	7,176
1907	5,652	1920	6,612	1933	7,260
1908	5,784	1921	6,660	1934	7,332
1909	5,892	1922	6,696	1935	7,416
1910	6,000	1923	6,720	1936	7,500
1911	6,084	1924	6,756	1937	7,572
1912	6,168	1925	6,792	1938	7,656
1913	6,240	1926	6,816	1939	7,728
1914	6,312	1927	6,840	1940	7,764
1915	6,372	1928	6,864	1941	7,800
				or later	

Section 2.21. "Current Average Cost-of-Living Index Figure" shall mean, with respect to Employers who elect in the Adoption Agreement to provide cost-of-living adjustments in benefits received under the Plan, the Consumer Price Index figure (All Urban Consumers Table – All Items, 1982-1984 Base Period) that was most recently issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor for the month that is two months prior to the month of the Adjustment Date.

Section 2.22. "Default Beneficiary" shall mean, with respect to a Participant who dies prior to July 1, 2015, the person(s) or entity to whom a pre-retirement death benefit is payable in the absence of a beneficiary designation by the Participant or in the event there is no designated Primary or Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary to whom a pre-retirement death benefit is payable, determined in accordance with and subject to Section 8.06.

Section 2.23. "Disability" shall mean, with respect to those Adopting Employers who elect in the Adoption Agreement to provide disability retirement benefits and unless otherwise provided in an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, the following:

(a) A physical or mental disability of a Participant who because of such disability becomes entitled to receive disability insurance benefits under the Federal Social Security Act, as amended, provided that the following conditions are satisfied:

(1) Such disability commenced on a specified date during the period of the Participant's employment with the Adopting Employer, as evidenced by a Social Security Administration (SSA) disability award submitted with the Participant's disability retirement application, reflecting a disability onset date on or before the Participant's Termination date; provided, however, that in the event a Participant has filed more than one disability application with the SSA and the SSA disability award reflects a disability onset date after the Participant's Termination date, and where due to SSA administrative res judicata rules the disability onset date reflected in the SSA disability award immediately follows the date that a prior SSA disability award was denied, then the Administrator may consider other documents submitted with the Participant's application for a SSA disability award to determine the disability onset date if the Participant provides such documents to the Administrator and the Administrator deems such documents sufficient to establish that the disability onset date is on or before the Participant's Termination date;

(2) In no event will the disability onset date be earlier than the latest disability onset date alleged by the Participant in the Participant's SSA disability application(s); and

(3) The Participant's disability was not intentionally self-inflicted, incurred in the commission of a felonious enterprise, or the result of the abuse or illegal use of narcotics or drugs; or

(b) A Participant who is not disabled in accordance with the definition under subsection (a) above solely because the Participant lacks the quarters of Social Security coverage required under the Federal Social Security Act, as amended, shall qualify for Disability if the Pension Committee determines that the Participant is permanently disabled on the basis of

a certificate signed by at least two (2) physicians, (one physician selected and paid by the disabled Participant and one selected and paid by the Employer) stating that:

(1) The Participant is permanently disabled as defined in Internal Revenue Code Section 72(m); and

(2) Such disability commenced on a specified date during the period of the Participant's employment with the Adopting Employer; and

(3) Such disability was not intentionally self-inflicted, incurred in the commission of a felonious enterprise, or the result of the abuse or illegal use of narcotics or drugs.

(c) Neither the Adopting Employer nor the Administrator is required to independently investigate or confirm the cause(es) of a Participant's disability.

Section 2.24. "Disability Retirement Date" shall mean, with respect to those Adopting Employers who elect to provide Disability retirement benefits in the Adoption Agreement and with respect to Participants who Terminate Employment due to Disability, the first day of the first calendar month coinciding with or next following: (a) the date on which a Participant becomes entitled to receive a monthly disability insurance benefit under the Federal Social Security Act, as amended; (b) the date on which the Participant's Disability is determined by the Pension Committee to have commenced, in the case of Disability determinations made by the Pension Committee pursuant to Section 2.23(b); or (c) the date determined in accordance with the provisions of an Employer's General Addendum, as applicable. However, in no event will the Disability Retirement Date be earlier than the first day of the calendar month coinciding with or next following the date of the Participant's Termination of Employment as a result of Disability.

Section 2.25. "Early Retirement Date" shall mean the first day of the month coinciding with or next following the day a Participant qualifies for Early Retirement as specified in the Adoption Agreement, as of which the Participant actually Retires.

Section 2.26. "Earnings" shall mean, unless otherwise specified by the Employer in an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, the total gross earnings paid to a Participant by the Employer, as reflected in the Employer's payroll records and shall include salary, wages, bonuses, overtime, and compensation for unused sick, vacation, paid-time-off, personal, or any other paid leave. Earnings shall not be reduced for compensation deferred pursuant to Code Sections 401(k), 403(b) or 457, compensation redirected pursuant to Code Section 125 or 132(f)(4), or contributions picked-up under Code Section 414(h) during the Plan Year. Unless otherwise specified in an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, Earnings shall not include perquisites or allowances for a car or house rent, or compensation for severance pay.

For any Plan Year beginning after December 31, 2001, the annual earnings of a Participant for any year taken into account under the Plan shall not exceed Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) (as increased by the Cost of Living Adjustment for the year, pursuant to Code Section 401(a)(17)(B)). Notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph, in determining benefit accruals in Plan Years beginning after December 31, 2001, the limit hereunder for determination periods beginning before January 1, 2002, shall be Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000).

Annual earnings means Earnings during the Plan Year or such other consecutive twelve (12) month period over which Earnings are otherwise determined under the Plan (the determination period). The Cost of Living Adjustment for a calendar year applies to annual earnings for the determination period that begins with or within such a calendar year. If a short

Plan Year occurs, the annual earnings limit is an amount equal to the otherwise applicable annual earnings limit multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of months in the short Plan Year, and the denominator of which is twelve (12).

Section 2.27. **"Effective Date"** shall mean the original effective date of the Adopting Employer's GMEBS-administered defined benefit plan as specified in the Adoption Agreement.

Section 2.28. **"Eligible Employee"** shall mean any Employee who is designated as an Eligible Employee in the Adoption Agreement and who satisfies any eligibility conditions applicable to the class of Eligible Employees to which the Employee belongs.

Section 2.29. **"Eligible Regular Employee"** shall mean any Regular Employee who satisfies the minimum hour and other eligibility conditions applicable to Regular Employees in the Employer's Adoption Agreement.

Section 2.30. **"Employee"** shall mean any person who is regularly employed in the services of the Employer as an employee and shall include elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority and Municipal Legal Officers if they are included as Eligible Employees in the Adoption Agreement. However, notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan to the contrary, the term "Employee" does not include: (a) an individual who is a nonresident alien and who receives no earned income (within the meaning of Code Section 911(d)(2)) from an Employer which constitutes income from sources within the United States within the meaning of Code Section 861(a)(3); (b) a leased employee; or (c) any person treated in good faith by an Employer as an independent contractor, regardless of whether such person is later determined to be a common law employee for tax purposes.

Section 2.31. **"Employer"** shall mean an Employer as defined in O.C.G.A. § 47-5-2(9) (a copy of which is included in the Appendix hereto). No employer which is not

permitted to participate in a qualified governmental pension plan as defined in Code Section 401(a) and 414(d) shall be permitted to participate in this Plan.

Section 2.32. **"Enrollment Date"** shall mean the date that an Eligible Employee first becomes a Participant under this Plan.

Section 2.33. **"FMLA"** shall mean the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended from time to time.

Section 2.34. **"Firefighter"** shall mean an Eligible Regular Employee of the Adopting Employer who is either certified as a firefighter pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 25-4-2(4) (a copy of which is included in the Appendix hereto) or who would otherwise be required to be certified as a firefighter but who is exempt pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 25-4-12 (a copy of which is included in the Appendix hereto).

Section 2.35. **"Final Average Earnings"** shall mean, unless otherwise elected in an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, the arithmetic monthly average of the Earnings paid to a Participant by the Adopting Employer for a specified number of consecutive months of Credited Service preceding the Participant's most recent Termination in which the Participant's Earnings were the highest, multiplied by twelve (12). In computing Final Average Earnings, Earnings shall include, if applicable and authorized by the Adopting Employer in an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, severance payments made prior to, on or after the Participant's Termination Date. The number of months to be used in determining Final Average Earnings shall be designated by the Adopting Employer in the Adoption Agreement or an Addendum thereto. The Administrator shall prescribe a formula for the determination of Final Average Earnings. Calculation of Final Average Earnings shall be subject to the following:

(a) If a Participant terminates employment or is on an unpaid leave of absence and later returns to employment with the Employer, the period(s) prior to and following such absence from employment shall be considered consecutive.

(b) If a Participant has not completed the number of consecutive months of Credited Service necessary to compute Final Average Earnings under this Section as of the date of such Participant's most recent Termination preceding Retirement, then Final Average Earnings shall be determined by dividing total Earnings for the Participant's entire period of Credited Service by such Participant's total number of months of Credited Service and multiplying the quotient by twelve (12). In computing the number of months of Credited Service for this purpose, incomplete months of Credited Service shall be converted to fractional equivalents of months and included in the computation.

Section 2.36. **"Governing Authority"** shall mean the entity named in the Adoption Agreement which is authorized to act for the Adopting Employer.

Section 2.37. **"In-Service Distribution"** shall mean commencement of benefits to a Participant who has satisfied the requirements for Retirement prior to the Participant's Termination of Employment or continuation of benefits to a Retired Participant who returns to service without first completing a Bona Fide Separation from Service.

Section 2.38. **"Ineligible Employee"** shall mean an Employee of the Adopting Employer who is not an Eligible Employee.

Section 2.39. **"Interest"** shall mean a pro rata share of any and all interest, dividends, and capital gains or losses earned on the invested or reinvested funds of the GMEBS Investment Fund.

Section 2.40. **"Investment Fund"** or **"GMEBS Retirement Trust Fund"** shall mean the total amounts of all Contributions plus Interest, invested or uninvested, held by the Board of Trustees in the GMEBS Retirement Trust Fund for all GMEBS Employers and their Employees where applicable.

Section 2.41. **"Late Retirement Date"** shall mean the first day of the month coinciding with or next following the day the Participant qualifies for Late Retirement, as specified in Section 6.03, as of which the Participant actually retires. The Plan shall not provide for a maximum retirement age.

Section 2.42. **"Military Service"** shall mean, unless otherwise specified in the Adoption Agreement, service performed while on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States if the Participant was granted an honorable discharge. Except as otherwise required by federal or state law, Military Service shall not include service which is credited toward retirement under any other local, state, or federal retirement or pension plan.

Section 2.43. **"Monthly Retirement Benefit"** shall mean the monthly benefit as provided in Article VI or any optional benefit payable in lieu thereof as provided in Article VII.

Section 2.44. **"Municipal Legal Officer"** shall mean, with respect to those Employers who elect to include municipal legal officers as Eligible Employees, only those municipal legal officers specifically designated in the Adoption Agreement for inclusion as Eligible Employees, provided that such officer otherwise meets the Basic Plan Document's definition of Employee.

Section 2.45. **"Normal Retirement Date"** or **"Alternative Normal Retirement Date"** shall mean the first day of the month coinciding with or next following the date the Participant qualifies for Normal Retirement as specified in the Employer's Adoption Agreement.

An Employer may also establish alternative Normal Retirement qualifications in the Adoption Agreement. In such case, the Participant's Alternative Normal Retirement Date shall mean the first day of the month coinciding with or next following the date the Participant meets the alternative Normal Retirement qualifications.

Section 2.46. **"Participant"** or **"Participating Employee"** shall mean any Eligible Employee who is or may become eligible to receive a benefit of any type from the Plan and who has commenced participation in the Plan under Article IV.

Section 2.47. **"Pension Committee"** shall mean the committee named in the Adoption Agreement to represent the Adopting Employer in the administration of the Plan.

Section 2.48. **"Plan"** shall mean the provisions of this Basic Plan Document, along with the Employer's Adoption Agreement (including any Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, if applicable), setting forth the Employees to be covered, the benefits to be provided, and the conditions of retirement, and all amendments thereto which may hereafter be made.

Section 2.49. **"Plan Representative"** shall mean the Plan Representative designated in the Employer's Adoption Agreement. The Plan Representative must have full authority to represent the Governing Authority in all communications with GMEBS and the Adopting Employer's Employees. The Pension Committee Secretary may serve as the Plan Representative.

Section 2.50. **"Plan Year"** shall mean a twelve (12) consecutive month period specified as such in the Adoption Agreement.

Section 2.51. **"Police Officer"** shall mean an Eligible Regular Employee employed by the Adopting Employer's Police Department who is either certified or registered as a peace officer pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 35-8-2(8) (a copy of which is included in the Appendix hereto).

Section 2.52. **"Post-Retirement Beneficiary"** shall mean the person designated by the Participant, in writing and on the Applicable Form, to receive a post-retirement survivor benefit in accordance with and subject to the provisions of Article VII and Section 8.12.

Section 2.53. **"Primary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary"** shall mean the person designated by the Participant, in writing and on an Applicable Form, to receive a pre-retirement death benefit, in accordance with and subject to the provisions of Article VIII.

Section 2.54. **"Provider"** means the Georgia Municipal Association, Inc. who is the pre-approved plan provider sponsoring the Plan on behalf of GMEBS.

Section 2.55. **"Regular Employee"** shall mean any Employee, other than an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officer, who is regularly employed in the services of the Adopting Employer.

Section 2.56. **"Resolution"** shall mean a resolution duly adopted by an Employer.

Section 2.57. **"Retired Participant"** shall mean any Participant who has Terminated Employment with the Employer and who is receiving a benefit provided under the Plan.

Section 2.58. **"Retirement"** or **"Retires"** shall mean withdrawal from Service with a retirement allowance granted under the provisions of the Plan.

Section 2.59. **"Retirement System," "System," or "GMEBS"** shall mean the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System created by O.C.G.A. Section 47-5-1 et seq. (a copy of which is included in the Appendix hereto).

Section 2.60. **"Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary"** shall mean the person designated by the Participant, in writing and on the Applicable Form, to receive a pre-retirement death benefit in the event the Primary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary does not survive the Participant, in accordance with and subject to the provisions of Article VIII.

Section 2.61. **"Section"** shall mean, when not preceded by the word Code or ERISA, a section of the Basic Plan Document.

Section 2.62. **"Spouse"** shall mean, notwithstanding any other provision in an Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum to the contrary, (i) effective on or after September 16, 2013, to the extent required by federal law, and (ii) effective on or after September 26, 2014, for all purposes, a person who, as of the date of the Participant's, Retired Participant's or Terminated Vested Participant's death, as applicable, is lawfully joined with the Participant or Terminated Vested Participant in a marriage which is recognized under the laws of any state or foreign jurisdiction, whether opposite-sex or same-sex and regardless of whether or not the spouse resides in the state or foreign jurisdiction in which such marriage occurred.

Section 2.63. **"Terminated Vested Participant"** shall mean any Participant who has Terminated Employment with the Adopting Employer and who has a Vested Benefit under any provision of the Adopting Employer's Plan but is not yet a Retired Participant.

Section 2.64. **"Termination," "Terminate Employment," "Termination of Employment," or "Terminated"** shall mean a severance of employment with the Employer, including Retirement, resignation or discharge, lapse of recall rights after layoff, death, or vacation of office by a Regular Employee, an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority or a Municipal Legal Officer. Provided, however, that Termination shall not include: (i) absence from active employment which is not treated by the Adopting Employer as a Termination of Employment; (ii) absence due to military service to the extent required under USERRA and Code Section 414(u)(8)(A), (iii) absence due to leave which qualifies as family or medical leave under the FMLA, to the extent required under the FMLA; or (iv) absence due to an authorized leave of absence for any reason if approved by the Adopting Employer. Unless

otherwise required by law or unless the terms of the leave otherwise specify, if an Employee on an authorized leave of absence fails to return to active employment upon expiration of the leave of absence, the Employee will be considered terminated as of the date immediately preceding the approved leave period.

Section 2.65. **"Trust Fund"** mean the total amounts, invested or uninvested, held at any time by the Board in trust for the Employer under the GMEBS Trust Agreement, a separate document for the establishment and administration of the Trust Fund.

Section 2.66. **"Vested," "Vesting," "Vested Right," or "Vested Benefit"** shall mean the rights of a Terminated Vested Participant as specified in Article IX.

ARTICLE III.

SERVICE

Section 3.01. **"Current Credited Service"** shall mean the number of years and complete months of Service of a Participant with the Adopting Employer from the Participant's Enrollment Date to the Participant's Termination, which are credited as Current Credited Service for purposes of meeting the Plan's requirements for vesting, retirement and death benefit eligibility, and/or for purposes of computing the amount of benefits payable under the Plan, determined in accordance with and subject to any limitations established in the Basic Plan Document and the Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum. Current Credited Service shall include unused paid time off which the Employer elects to treat as Current Credited Service for a Terminated Vested Participant for certain purposes, as provided and subject to any limitations contained in the Adoption Agreement; provided, however, that leave conversions will be permitted only if (i) the leave is for unused accrued paid time off for vacation and/or sick leave or for comparable paid-time-off under an established leave policy without regard to whether the leave is due to illness or incapacity, (ii) the leave policy qualifies as a bona fide sick

and/or vacation leave plan for purposes of Code Section 409A and Treasury Regulation § 1.409A-1(a)(5), (iii) the Plan provides for service credit for an Employee's unused paid time off, provided that the eligibility requirements for participation in the Plan do not permit an Employee to become a Participant only in the Plan Year in which the Employee terminates employment, (iv) the conversion is automatic, the employee has no right to request a cash payment for the leave, and no such payment is made, (v) the unused paid time off is converted to service credit under a formula specified in the Adoption Agreement and which satisfies the definitely determinable standard of Treasury Regulation § 1.401-1(b)(1)(i), (vi) the Adopting Employer's Plan otherwise provides for service credit unrelated to the conversion of any Employee's unused paid time off, and (vii) the Participant's annual benefit, as adjusted by the leave conversion, does not exceed the limit under Code Section 415(b).

Section 3.02. "USERRA Military Service Credit."

(a) USERRA Military Service Credit. Notwithstanding any provision of this Plan to the contrary, contributions, benefits, and service credit with respect to qualified military service shall be provided in accordance with Code Section 414(u). Code Section 414(u) provides that: (i) individuals reemployed under the Uniform Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 ("USERRA") must be treated as not having incurred a break in Service because of qualified military service, (ii) periods of qualified military service must be counted for vesting and benefit accrual purposes, except that periods of qualified military service must not be counted for benefit accrual purposes where the individual would have been required to make Employee Contributions under the Adopting Employer's Plan if the individual had remained continuously employed by the Adopting Employer during said period of qualified military service and the individual fails to make-up said Employee Contributions as provided herein,

(iii) make-up of Employee Contributions up to the maximum the individual would have been required to make if continuously employed must be allowed, in one lump sum payment or in installments, during the period beginning on reemployment and lasting for the lesser of three (3) times the period of qualified military service or five (5) years, (iv) any Employer Contributions contingent on make-up Employee Contributions must be made by the Employer, if and to the extent the individual contributes make-up Employee Contributions as provided herein, (v) earnings are not required to be credited unless and until the Employee contributes make-up contributions, (vi) make-up Contributions are based on compensation the individual would have received during the period of qualified military service (if not reasonably certain, compensation for the 12 month period (or, if shorter, the period of employment) immediately preceding qualified military service can be used), and (vii) make-up Contributions are subject to the limitations of Code Sections 402(g), 415, and 404(a) for the year to which the contribution relates, not the year in which the contribution is made.

(b) Ordered Military Leave under Georgia Law. To the extent not provided under subsection (a), the Plan will grant Credited Service for a period of "ordered" military service in accordance with and subject to the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 38-2-279(f) (a copy of which is included in the Appendix hereto) to a Participant who was an Eligible Employee when such ordered military service commenced, if and to the extent that the Participant (or in case of the Participant's death during the period of military service, the Participant's Pre-Retirement Beneficiary or the legal representative of the Participant's estate) makes up any required Employee Contributions as provided herein. To obtain Credited Service for the period of ordered military service, the Participant must make-up the required Employee Contributions in one lump sum payment or in installments during a period that begins upon commencement of

such ordered military service and ends no later than five (5) years after the period of military service ends. If the Participant dies during the period of military service, the Participant's Pre-Retirement Beneficiary or the legal representative of the Participant's estate must make up the required Employee Contributions no later than one (1) year following proof of the Participant's death. The amount of Employee Contributions required to be made to receive Credited Service for a period of military service shall be determined in the same manner as provided under USERRA and HEART and subsection (a) above.

(c) Effective with respect to deaths occurring on or after January 1, 2007, while a Participant is performing qualified military service (as defined in chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code), to the extent required by Code Section 401(a)(37), survivors of the Participant are entitled to any additional benefits that the Plan would provide if the Participant had resumed employment and then died, such as accelerated vesting or survivor benefits that are contingent on the Participant's death while employed. In any event, a deceased Participant's period of qualified military service must be counted for vesting purposes.

(d) Beginning January 1, 2009, to the extent required by Code Sections 3401(h) and 414(u)(2), an individual receiving differential wage payments (while the individual is performing qualified military service (as defined in chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code)) from an Employer shall be treated as employed by that Employer, and the differential wage payment shall be treated as compensation for purposes of applying the limits on annual additions under Code Section 415(c). This provision shall be applied to all similarly situated individuals in a reasonably equivalent manner.

(e) Effective with respect to deaths occurring on or after January 1, 2009, while a Participant is performing qualified military service (as defined in chapter 43 of title 38, United

States Code), to the extent permitted by Code Section 414(u)(8), for benefit accrual and vesting purposes, the Participant will be treated as having returned to employment on the day before the death and as having terminated on the date of death. This provision shall be applied to all similarly situated individuals in a reasonably equivalent manner.

Section 3.03. **"Credited Past Service"** shall mean the number of years and complete months of Service of a Participant with the Adopting Employer prior to the Participant's Enrollment Date which are treated as Credited Past Service under the Employer's Adoption Agreement for purposes of meeting the Plan's requirements for participation, vesting, retirement and death benefit eligibility, and/or or for purposes of computing the amount of benefits payable under the Plan, subject to any limitations established in the Basic Plan Document, Adoption Agreement or Addendum.

Section 3.04. **"Prior Governmental Service"** shall mean government service preceding the Eligible Employee's employment or reemployment date with the Adopting Employer, usually for an entity other than the Adopting Employer, which the Employer elects to treat as Credited Service for certain purposes, as provided and subject to any limitations contained in the Adoption Agreement

Section 3.05. **"Prior Military Service"** shall mean Military Service not covered by Section 3.02 which the Employer elects to treat as Credited Service for certain purposes, as provided and subject to any limitations contained in the Adoption Agreement.

Section 3.06. **"Service"** shall mean regular service rendered as an Eligible Employee of the Adopting Employer. Service may include absence from active employment with the Adopting Employer under conditions which are not treated by the Employer as a Termination of Employment, subject to Article IV concerning leaves of absence and any other conditions or

limitations specified in the Basic Plan Document, Adoption Agreement or Addendum. For those Employers who elect in the Adoption Agreement to include elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officers as Eligible Employees, Service also means any tenure of office held by an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority or a Municipal Legal Officer, provided that such tenure of office does not include any calendar period during which any elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officer is also in the regular service of the Employer as an Eligible Employee in another capacity. No Participant may receive credit for more than one (1) year of Service in any twelve (12) month period.

Section 3.07. "Total Credited Service" shall mean the sum of the Participant's Current Credited Service, Credited Past Service, Prior Military Service, and Prior Governmental Service, as specified in this Article and covered per the Employer's Adoption Agreement, subject to any limitations imposed under the Basic Plan Document or the Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum. The term Total Credited Service includes any Service required to be included in Total Credited Service by USERRA, or any other applicable federal or state law. Full months of Total Credited Service shall be treated as fractions of one (1) year. Partial months shall not be included in the calculation. The Employer may specify in the Adoption Agreement a maximum number of years that may be included as Total Credited Service. If an Employer elects in its Adoption Agreement to require Employee Contributions, Total Credited Service shall not include any period of time for which the Employee is required but fails to make such Employee Contributions to the Plan. If a Participant has received a cash single sum payment of the present value of the Participant's Plan benefit pursuant to Section 7.05 of the Basic Plan Document upon or following termination with an Adopting Employer and

subsequently returns to Service with such Adopting Employer, the Participant's prior Credited Service with the Adopting Employer for which the cash single sum payment was paid shall be counted for purposes of meeting the Plan's requirements for participation, vesting, and retirement and death benefit eligibility but shall not be counted as Credited Service for purposes of benefit computation.

An Employee excluded from participation because of age shall receive credit for all Service as required by law.

ARTICLE IV.

ELIGIBILITY, QUALIFICATION AND PARTICIPATION

Section 4.01. Classes of Eligible Employees. The Employer shall designate in the Adoption Agreement the class(es) of Employees which are eligible to participate in the Plan. Provided, however, that if a person does not meet the definition of "Employee" contained in Article II, such person may not be included in any Eligible Employee class.

Section 4.02. Qualifications for Participation.

(a) **Minimum Service Requirement.** With respect to each class of Eligible Regular Employees, the Employer may specify in the Adoption Agreement a minimum number of work hours per week and/or a minimum number of work months per year which are required to be scheduled in order to establish and maintain the Employee's status as an Eligible Regular Employee. It shall be the responsibility of the Adopting Employer to determine whether these requirements are and continue to be satisfied. In determining whether said requirements are satisfied, the following rules shall apply:

(1) If an Employee is otherwise includable in an Eligible Regular Employee class but does not meet the minimum service requirements established by the Employer for said class pursuant to subsection (a) above, the Employee shall not be considered an

Eligible Employee, unless and until such requirements are satisfied. If an Eligible Regular Employee who has not yet become a Participant no longer meets said minimum service requirement but remains an Employee of the Employer, such Employee shall no longer be considered an Eligible Regular Employee, unless and until the Employee again satisfies the minimum requirement.

(2) No period of employment during which an Employee fails to satisfy the Employer's minimum service requirement and no leave of absence granted to such Employee shall be counted in determining whether any waiting period for participation established by the Employer pursuant to subsection (b) below has been satisfied. However, provided the Employee remains continuously employed by the Employer, such periods shall not be considered a break in Service under subsection (c)(1) below for purposes of satisfying said waiting period.

(b) Waiting Period. Effective January 1, 2015 with respect to Eligible Regular Employees in service with the Adopting Employer on or after said date, Eligible Regular Employees shall not have a waiting period before participating in the Plan. Likewise, effective January 1, 2015, elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority and Municipal Legal Officers, if eligible to participate in the Plan, shall not have a waiting period before participating in the Plan. Notwithstanding subsection 20.01(f) of the Basic Plan Document, in the event that an Adopting Employer has specified in an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement in effect immediately prior to January 1, 2015 that any class or classes of Eligible Employees shall be subject to a waiting period before participating in the Plan, such provision shall no longer be effective on or after January 1, 2015.

(c) Prior to January 1, 2015, unless otherwise specified by the Adopting Employer in an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, Eligible Regular Employees were required to complete one (1) year of continuous, uninterrupted service with the Adopting Employer in order to commence participation in the Plan. In determining whether an applicable waiting period was satisfied, the following rules shall apply:

(1) Breaks in Service. If an Eligible Regular Employee has a break in service prior to satisfying the waiting period for participation and later becomes reemployed by the Adopting Employer, such Employee shall be required to again satisfy the waiting period in order to be eligible to participate in the Plan. Service rendered prior to said break in service shall not be taken into account in determining whether the waiting period has been satisfied.

(2) Employed on Effective Date; Waiting Period Satisfied. If an Eligible Regular Employee is employed by the Adopting Employer on the Effective Date of the Plan and has completed a period of continuous, uninterrupted service as an Eligible Employee immediately prior to the Effective Date equal to or exceeding the length of the required waiting period, then the Employee shall be considered to have satisfied the waiting period and shall be eligible to commence participation in the Plan on the first day of the month immediately following or coinciding with the Effective Date of the Plan.

(3) Employed on Effective Date; Waiting Period Not Satisfied. If an Eligible Regular Employee is employed by the Adopting Employer on the Effective Date of the Plan but has not completed a period of continuous, uninterrupted service as an Eligible Regular Employee immediately prior to the Effective Date equal to or exceeding the length of the required waiting period, then the Employee shall be eligible to commence

participation in the Plan on the first day of the month immediately following or coinciding with the date that the Employee completes the minimum period of continuous, uninterrupted service as an Eligible Regular Employee necessary to satisfy the required waiting period.

(4) Employed After the Effective Date. If an Eligible Regular Employee is initially employed by the Adopting Employer after the Effective Date of the Plan, said Employee shall be eligible to commence participation in the Plan on the first day of the month immediately following or coinciding with the date that the Employee completes the minimum period of continuous, uninterrupted service as an Eligible Regular Employee necessary to satisfy the required waiting period.

(5) Treatment of Leaves of Absence. For purposes of determining whether the waiting period for participation has been satisfied, service shall include any period of absence from employment which is required to be taken into account for such purpose under USERRA, the FMLA, or any other applicable federal or state law. Unless otherwise required by law or unless the terms of the leave otherwise specify, an authorized leave of absence granted to an Eligible Regular Employee by the Adopting Employer shall be counted as Credited Service for purposes of determining whether the waiting period for participation has been satisfied. However, unless otherwise required by law or unless the terms of the leave otherwise specify, if an Eligible Regular Employee on an authorized leave of absence fails to return to active employment or office upon expiration of the leave of absence, the Eligible Regular Employee shall be considered to have incurred a break in service for purposes of meeting the waiting period for participation as of the date preceding the approved leave period.

(6) Treatment of Service as an Ineligible Employee. If an Employee of the Adopting Employer who is not an Eligible Employee becomes an Eligible Regular Employee while remaining continuously employed by the Adopting Employer, said Eligible Employee shall become eligible to commence participation on the first day of the month immediately following or coinciding with the date the Employee meets the eligibility requirements for participation under this Article. For purposes of satisfying any waiting period imposed by the Adopting Employer, and unless otherwise specified in the Adoption Agreement, the Eligible Regular Employee's prior period of employment as an Ineligible Employee shall be credited in the same manner as service as an Eligible Regular Employee provided that during said prior period of service as an Ineligible Employee, the Employee satisfied any minimum service requirement established by the Employer pursuant to Section 4.02(a). Unless otherwise specified in the Adoption Agreement, if an Eligible Regular Employee becomes an Ineligible Employee prior to satisfying the waiting period for participation in the Plan, said Employee's service as an Ineligible Employee shall be credited in the same manner as service as an Eligible Regular Employee for purposes of satisfying said waiting period, provided that the Ineligible Employee satisfies the applicable minimum service requirements established for Eligible Employees pursuant to Section 4.02(a). However, in no event will an Ineligible Employee be permitted to become a Participant in the Plan unless and until said Employee has satisfied the waiting period and has again become an Eligible Employee. For purposes of satisfying the waiting period, leaves of absence granted to an Ineligible Employee shall be treated in the same manner as leaves of absence for Eligible Regular Employees under paragraph (5) above.

(7) Prior Participation in Another GMEBS Plan. An Eligible Regular Employee who is hired after the Effective Date of the Plan shall be eligible to become a Participant on the first day of the month immediately following or coinciding with the date on which the Employee is employed by the Adopting Employer, regardless of any waiting period requirement established by the Employer, provided that: (i) said Employee's immediate prior employment was with another Adopting Employer in the GMEBS; (ii) said Employee was a Participant in the previous Adopting Employer's GMEBS retirement plan; and (iii) said Employee satisfies any minimum service requirement established by the Adopting Employer pursuant to Section 4.02(a) for the Employee's class.

Section 4.03. Establishing Participation in the Plan.

(a) Mandatory vs. Optional Participation. Participation in the Plan shall be considered mandatory for all classes of Eligible Employees unless, with respect to a particular class, the Employer specifies in the Adoption Agreement that participation is optional for members of said class.

(b) Mandatory Participation. If participation is mandatory for a class of Eligible Employees, then, except as otherwise provided in subsection (e) below, all Eligible Employees in the class shall become Participants in the Plan as of the date they are employed, provided that they satisfy the Adopting Employer's eligibility requirements for participation. With respect to Eligible Employees initially employed or reemployed prior to January 1, 2015, if participation is mandatory for a class of Eligible Employees, then except as provided in subsection (e) below, all Eligible Employees in the class shall become Participants in the Plan on the first day of the month immediately following or coinciding with the date they satisfy the applicable waiting

period and any other eligibility requirements for participation; provided, however, that any Eligible Employee who was employed prior to January 1, 2015, was subject to a waiting period before participating in the Plan, and had not satisfied such waiting period prior to January 1, 2015 shall commence participation in the Plan effective January 1, 2015. Eligible Employees shall provide to the Pension Committee on an Applicable Form such participation enrollment information as shall be required by the Pension Committee, which shall include the Eligible Employee's acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Plan. Notwithstanding an Eligible Employee's failure to complete the Applicable Form, the Eligible Employee shall become a Participant as specified in the Adoption Agreement.

(c) Optional Participation. The Employer may specify in the Adoption Agreement that participation is optional for certain classes of Eligible Employees, including but not limited to Employees in the following categories: elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority, Municipal Legal Officers, City Manager, and Department Heads. If participation is optional for an Eligible Employee, then the Eligible Employee may elect to become a Participant at the Eligible Employee's option by filing with the Pension Committee, on an Applicable Form, such information as shall be required to enroll in the Plan, which shall include the Eligible Employee's acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Plan. The election to participate must be made within 120 days after the later of: the date the Eligible Employee commences employment with the Adopting Employer, the date the Eligible Employee is elected or appointed to office, or the date participation in the Plan is first permitted for members of a class to which the Eligible Employee belongs. The election to participate shall be irrevocable, and the failure to make an election within the 120-day time limit specified above shall be deemed an irrevocable election not to participate in the Plan. If Employee contributions are required under the

Adopting Employer's Plan, then Eligible Employees who apply for participation within the 120 day period may be required to make retroactive contributions in order to receive credit under the Plan for creditable Service prior the date they apply to participate in the Plan.

(d) Participation in the Plan shall not give any Eligible Employee the right to be retained in the employ of the Adopting Employer nor, upon dismissal, to have any right or interest in the Trust Fund other than as herein provided.

(e) Notwithstanding anything in this Section 4.03 to the contrary, if within 120 days following the date on which an Employee is first employed or first takes office with an Adopting Employer, the Employee enters into a written agreement or employment contract with the Adopting Employer pursuant to which the Employee agrees that the Employee will not participate in the Plan, the Employee shall be ineligible to participate in the Plan regardless of whether the Employee otherwise satisfies the eligibility requirements for participation in the Plan. The Employer shall notify the Administrator if and when an Employee has entered into such an agreement with the Employer and provide such information to the Administrator as necessary to confirm the existence of said agreement. A subsequent change in the terms of said agreement will not make the Employee eligible to participate in the Plan unless the Adopting Employer amends its Adoption Agreement to specifically require participation by said Employee.

Section 4.04. Change in Employment Status.

(a) Transfer to Ineligible Status. Unless otherwise specified by the Employer in the Adoption Agreement, if a Participant's employment status changes such that the Participant becomes an Ineligible Employee, said Employee shall cease to accrue benefits under the Plan for any purpose and the Employee's interest under the Plan, if any, shall be only such as existed immediately before the Employee became an Ineligible Employee, unless and until the

Employee again becomes a Participant. In no event will the Employee's service or earnings as an Ineligible Employee be taken into account for purposes of meeting the Plan's minimum service requirements for vesting, retirement eligibility, death benefit eligibility, or for purposes of computing the amount of any benefit payable under the Plan. However, said period of service as an Ineligible Employee shall not be considered a break in Service under Section 4.06, provided the Ineligible Employee remains continuously employed by the Adopting Employer. If the Ineligible Employee does not again become a Participant prior to Retirement or Termination of Employment, the Employee's Vested Benefit, if any, shall be paid as provided in Article IX.

(b) Transfer Back to Eligible Status. If an Ineligible Employee described in subsection (a) above remains continuously employed by the Adopting Employer and has another change in employment status such that the Employee again becomes a Participant, the Employee shall thereafter be entitled to accrue benefits in accordance with the terms of the Plan as in effect as of the date of the subsequent change in employment status. In no event, however, shall such a Participant receive a greater benefit under the Plan than that which the Participant would have received had the Participant not had a change in employment status.

Section 4.05. Participant Leaves of Absence.

(a) USERRA, FMLA Leave – Notwithstanding any provision of this Plan to the contrary, if any period of absence is required to be counted under USERRA, the FMLA or any other applicable federal or state law as Current Credited Service for the purpose of computing the amount of any benefit payable under the Plan, or for purposes of meeting the Plan's minimum service requirements for vesting, retirement or death benefit eligibility, then said period of absence shall be counted as such in accordance with and subject to the requirements of such law.

(b) Other Leaves of Absence. Unless otherwise required by law or unless the terms of the leave otherwise specify, an authorized leave of absence granted to a Participant by the Adopting Employer will be counted as Current Credited Service for the purpose of computing the amount of any benefit payable under the Plan, and for purposes of meeting the Plan's minimum service requirements for vesting and benefit eligibility. However, if the Participant does not return to active employment upon expiration of the authorized leave period, then subsection (c) shall apply.

(c) Failure to Return to Service. Unless otherwise required by law or unless the terms of the leave otherwise specify, if a Participant does not return to active employment with the Employer upon expiration of a leave of absence, the Participant's interest under the Plan, if any, including the Participant's Current Credited Service for the purpose of computing the amount of any benefit payable under the Plan, and for purposes of meeting the Plan's minimum service requirements for vesting and any minimum service requirements for retirement or death benefit eligibility, will be limited to that accrued as of the date preceding the approved leave period.

(d) Unused Leave. The Adopting Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement to credit certain unused leave at termination or retirement for which the Participant is not paid as Credited Service, subject to the terms and limits specified in the Basic Plan Document, Adoption Agreement or Addendum.

Section 4.06. Non-Vested Participant Breaks in Service.

Except as otherwise provided in the Adoption Agreement, this Section shall apply only to Participants who are Eligible Regular Employees. If a non-vested Participant experiences a break in service, the Participant's Current Credited Service shall not include any Service rendered

prior to the break in service, unless the Participant returns to employment with the Adopting Employer and performs the lesser of: service equal to the break in service, or service equal to one (1) year. The following limitations shall apply in administering the break in service rule:

(a) Absence of Less Than One (1) Year. If a Participant terminates employment with the Adopting Employer and returns to employment with the Adopting Employer within one (1) year after said termination, the Participant shall not be deemed to have incurred a break in service. Except as otherwise required under this Section, however, the time the Participant was absent shall not be taken into account for any purpose under the Plan.

(b) Interim Employment with Another GMEBS Employer. If a Participant terminates employment with the Adopting Employer and returns to employment with the Adopting Employer after having spent the interim period in the continuous employment of another Employer in the GMEBS, the Participant shall not be deemed to have incurred a break in Service. The time the Participant was absent may be taken into account for purposes of determining whether the Participant has met the minimum service requirements for vesting and retirement eligibility under the Adopting Employer's Plan, as provided by and subject to the provisions of Section 9.05 concerning portability. However, in no event shall the time the Participant was absent from the Adopting Employer be taken into account for the purpose of computing the amount of any benefit payable under the Adopting Employer's Plan.

(c) Treatment of Leaves of Absence. No leave of absence or other period of absence from employment shall be considered a break in Service if it is not permitted to be treated as such under USERRA, the FMLA, or any other applicable federal or state law. Unless otherwise required by law or unless the terms of the leave otherwise specify, any other authorized leave of absence granted to a Participant shall not be deemed a break in Service, provided the Participant

was regularly employed by the Employer immediately prior to the Participant's leave of absence and the Participant is reemployed by the Employer upon expiration of the leave of absence. Unless otherwise required by law or unless the terms of the leave otherwise specify, if a Participant does not return to active employment upon expiration of the approved leave period, the Participant will be considered to have incurred a break in Service under this Section as of the date immediately preceding the approved leave period.

(d) Transfer to Ineligible Employee Status. Unless otherwise specified by the Employer in the Adoption Agreement, if a Participant's employment status changes such that the Participant becomes an Ineligible Employee pursuant to Section 4.04, the period of time spent as an Ineligible Employee shall not be considered a break in Service under this Section, provided the Participant remains employed by the Adopting Employer. Unless otherwise specified by the Adopting Employer, leaves of absence granted to an Ineligible Employee will not be considered a break in Service under this Section, provided the Ineligible Employee returns to active employment with the Employer upon expiration of the approved leave period and the requirements of subsection (c) are otherwise satisfied with respect to such leave of absence.

(e) Graduated Vesting. If the Adopting Employer has established a graduated vesting schedule in the Adoption Agreement, and a Participant who is partially vested Terminates Employment with the Adopting Employer and subsequently returns to employment with the Adopting Employer, the Participant shall not be deemed to have incurred a break in service. Except as otherwise required under this Section, however, the time the Participant was absent shall not be taken into account for any purpose under the Plan.

(f) Repeated Breaks in Service. If a non-vested Participant has a break in Service, returns to employment with the Adopting Employer, and experiences one or more additional

breaks in Service prior to satisfying the one (1) year Service requirement necessary to work off the initial break, then the Participant's Current Credited Service shall not include any Service rendered prior to the most recent break in Service, unless upon the Participant's return to employment with the Employer following the most recent break in Service the Participant performs Service for a period of at least one (1) year.

ARTICLE V.

RETIREMENT ELIGIBILITY

(a) The Retirement prerequisites of a Participant under this Plan are contingent upon the type of Retirement offered by the Employer in the Adoption Agreement and selected by the Participant: that is, Normal Retirement, Alternative Normal Retirement, Early Retirement, Late Retirement, or Disability Retirement, as applicable. The provision of an Alternative Normal Retirement benefit or the designation of an Alternative Normal Retirement Date in the Adoption Agreement shall not be construed to establish an Alternative Normal Retirement Age or Alternative Normal Retirement Date for purposes of the definition of Accrued Benefit under Section 2.01, for purposes of computing death benefits under Article VIII, or for purposes of applying the actuarial equivalent conversion provisions of Article XII. The minimum age and service requirements and other prerequisites associated with each type of Retirement for each class of Eligible Employees shall be as specified in the pertinent sections of the Adoption Agreement. Except as otherwise provided in the Basic Plan Document, Adoption Agreement or Addendum with respect to In-Service Distributions for those who remain in service after they qualify for Normal Retirement or Alternative Normal Retirement, receipt of Retirement benefits shall also be contingent upon Termination of Employment.

(b) Provided a Participant is otherwise eligible to receive a Retirement benefit under the Plan, Retirement is contingent upon the satisfactory completion of the Applicable Form provided for such purpose and the acceptance of the Applicable Form by the Pension Committee.

(c) Retirement applications shall be prepared and submitted at such time as to reach the office of GMEBS no earlier than ninety (90) days and no later than thirty (30) days prior to a Participant's effective Retirement Date. A Participant's effective Retirement date shall be the first day of the month coinciding with or following the date the Participant has satisfied all of the prerequisites for Retirement as specified in this Article V, and actually Retires.

ARTICLE VI.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Section 6.01. Normal Retirement Benefit.

(a) A Participant, upon Retirement on or after the Participant's Normal Retirement Date (or Alternative Normal Retirement Date, as applicable), shall receive a Monthly Retirement Benefit under which payments shall commence on the first day of the month in which the Participant's effective Retirement Date occurs and shall be payable on the first day of each month thereafter during the Participant's lifetime. Normal Retirement benefits (not including Alternative Normal Retirement benefits or the In-Service Distribution of Normal or Alternative Normal Retirement benefits) shall be paid retroactively to the first day of the month following the month in which the Participant's Termination occurs (or, if the Participant's Termination occurs on the first of the month, the first day of the month in which the Participant's Termination occurs) or if later, the first day of the month in which the Participant's Normal Retirement Date occurs. The amount of the Monthly Retirement Benefit shall be determined based upon the applicable benefit formula specified in the Adoption Agreement and in effect at the Participant's Termination. If the Participant elects a form of benefit payment other than the standard form, the

amount of the Monthly Retirement Benefit will be adjusted in accordance with and subject to the terms of the option elected (see Section 7.01).

(b) No interest shall be paid on the retroactive payment of Normal Retirement benefits.

Section 6.02. Early Retirement Benefit.

(a) A Participant, upon Retirement on or after the Participant's Early Retirement Date and before the Participant's Normal Retirement Date or Alternative Normal Retirement Date, may receive a Monthly Retirement Benefit under which payments shall commence on the first day of the month in which the Participant's effective Retirement Date occurs and shall be payable on the first day of each month thereafter during the lifetime of the Participant. The amount of such Monthly Retirement Benefit shall be computed in the same manner as for a Normal Retirement benefit, but reduced on an Actuarially Equivalent basis in accordance with the actuarial table contained in Section 12.01. An Adopting Employer may adopt in the Adoption Agreement an alternative early retirement actuarial reduction table for one or more classes of Eligible Employees, provided the adoption of such table satisfies the requirements of Code Section 401(a)(25).

(b) Provided the Employer has elected in the Adoption Agreement to provide Disability benefits, a Participant who is otherwise eligible for an Early Retirement benefit may apply for and receive an Early Retirement benefit (i) while a Disability Retirement benefit determination is pending, or (ii) while waiting for an approved Disability Retirement benefit to commence. Upon a determination that the Participant is entitled to receive a Disability Retirement benefit, the Participant's benefit will be changed to a Disability Retirement benefit (if greater), retroactive to the Disability Retirement Date, provided that the requirements of Section

6.04(b) relating to making application for retroactive payments of Disability Retirement benefits are met. If said requirements are not met but the Participant otherwise qualifies for a Disability Retirement benefit, the Participant's benefit will be changed to a Disability Retirement benefit as of the first day of the month coinciding with or following the date that the Participant submits documentation sufficient to confirm the Participant's eligibility for a Disability Retirement benefit, as described in Section 6.04(c). However, no change in the form of benefit payment or designation of the Post-Retirement Beneficiary may be made, and no Post-Retirement Beneficiary may be named if one had not been previously named.

(c) Early Retirement benefits shall be paid retroactively to a date (first day of the month) designated on the Participant's retirement application, provided that such date may be no earlier than the later of: 1) four (4) full calendar months prior to the date of the Pension Committee Secretary's execution of the Participant's retirement application; or 2) the Participant's Early Retirement Date. No interest shall be paid on the retroactive payment of Early Retirement benefits.

Section 6.03. Late Retirement Benefit.

(a) A Participant may Retire from the active Service of the Adopting Employer on the first day of any month after the Participant's Normal Retirement Date, in which case the Participant shall receive a Late Retirement benefit. For purposes of this provision and except as otherwise provided in an Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum, a Participant will be treated as having Retired from the active service of the Adopting Employer if the Participant submits a GMEBS retirement application no later than thirty-one (31) days after the Participant's Termination of Employment and said application is approved by GMEBS. The Late Retirement benefit shall be calculated in the same manner as the Normal Retirement benefit. However, the

Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement or Addendum thereto to provide for an increased Late Retirement benefit, in which case the Late Retirement Benefit shall be calculated in the same manner as the Normal Retirement Benefit, but increased as provided in the Adoption Agreement or Addendum, as applicable.

Section 6.04. Disability Benefit.

(a) Where the Employer has elected in the Adoption Agreement to provide Disability benefits, a Participant who becomes Disabled and Terminates Employment due to Disability and is otherwise entitled to receive a Disability Retirement benefit, shall receive such benefit in accordance with and subject to the requirements of this Section.

(b) Requirements for Payment as of Disability Retirement Date - Disability Retirement benefit payments shall be payable during a Participant's Disability as of the first day of the month coinciding with or next following, and may be paid retroactively to, the Participant's Disability Retirement Date, provided the following requirements are satisfied:

(1) Application for Disability Award Must Be Filed Within 1 Year After Termination — No later than one (1) year after the Participant's Termination of Employment due to Disability, the Participant must file an application for a federal Social Security Administration (SSA) disability award or, if applicable under Section 2.23, an application for determination of Disability by the Pension Committee; and

(2) GMEBS Retirement Application Form and Disability Award Must Be Submitted Within 1 Year of Termination, or if Later, Within 6 Months After Date of Disability Award; Proof of Application for Disability Award Before Expiration of 1 Year Following Termination Due to Disability — The Participant must submit the following to the Pension Committee Secretary within one (1) year after the Participant's Termination

of Employment due to Disability or within six (6) months after the date of such award or determination, whichever is later:

- (i) the Participant's GMEBS Retirement Application Form;
- (ii) the SSA Disability Award (or, if applicable under Section 2.23, the Pension Committee determination of Disability) reflecting a disability onset date on or before the Participant's Termination date; and
- (iii) documentation the Administrator deems sufficient to establish that the Participant filed an application for a federal SSA disability award (or, if applicable under Section 2.23, an application for determination of Disability by the Pension Committee) before the expiration of one (1) year following Termination of employment due to Disability. Such documentation may include a copy of such application, a copy of the Disability award or determination received in response to such application, or an affidavit completed by the Participant (on the GMEBS retirement application or another Applicable Form provided for such purpose) in which the Participant affirms that such application has been filed.

(3) Special Rule in Case of Disability Award on Subsequent SSA Disability Application - In the event that a Participant's application for a SSA disability award is denied, the Participant must make any subsequent application for a SSA disability award within six (6) months following such denial becoming final, must allege in the subsequent SSA application a disability onset date that is on or before the Participant's Termination date, and where the Participant is subsequently granted a SSA disability award, the Participant must submit the following to the Pension Committee Secretary

within six (6) months after the date of such favorable award, or if later, one (1) year after the Participant's Termination of Employment:

(i) a GMEBS retirement application form;

(ii) the Participant's SSA disability award reflecting a disability onset date on or before the Participant's Termination date or reflecting a disability onset date that immediately follows the date of denial of the Participant's prior SSA disability application (due to application of Social Security Administration res judicata rules) but the Participant's actual Disability onset date was on or before the Participant's Termination date as provided under Section 2.23; and

(iii) documentation the Administrator deems sufficient to establish that within six (6) months after the SSA's denial of the Participant's initial application for a disability award, the Participant filed a subsequent application for a SSA disability award in accordance with this subsection 6.04(b)(3). Such documentation may include a copy of such application, a copy of the Disability award or determination received in response to such application, or an affidavit completed by the Participant (on the GMEBS retirement application or another Applicable Form provided for such purpose) in which the Participant affirms that such application has been filed.

(c) Prospective Payment Following Retirement Application — If the Participant who has Terminated Employment due to Disability is otherwise eligible to receive a Disability Retirement benefit and except as otherwise permitted under subsection 6.04(b) above with respect to payment of Disability Retirement benefits retroactive to the Participant's Disability Retirement Date, Disability Retirement benefits shall be payable as of the first day of the month

following or coinciding with the date of acceptance of the Participant's completed GMEBS retirement application form by the Pension Committee, provided such application includes: (1) a Social Security Administration (SSA) disability award reflecting a disability onset date on or before the Participant's Termination date; or (2) if applicable under Section 2.23, a Pension Committee determination of Disability reflecting a Disability onset date on or before the Participant's Termination date; or (3) where the Participant has received a SSA disability award in response to a subsequent SSA disability application as provided under Section 2.23, documentation which the Administrator deems sufficient to establish that the disability onset date reflected in the SSA disability award immediately follows the date of denial of the Participant's prior SSA disability application (due to application of Social Security Administration res judicata rules) and that the Participant's actual Disability onset date was on or before the Participant's Termination date. In no event shall Disability Retirement benefits be payable before the Participant's Disability Retirement Date.

(d) Amount of Disability Retirement Benefit - The amount of the monthly Disability Retirement benefit shall be determined as provided in the Adoption Agreement. The Adopting Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement to specify another method for calculation of the benefit, and require an offset against the monthly Disability Retirement benefit for other types of payments received by the Participant. The Participant shall receive the monthly Disability Retirement benefit provided in this Section, or any other Monthly Retirement Benefit granted under the Plan for which the Participant is eligible if such benefit is greater than the aforesaid monthly Disability Retirement benefit. However, under no circumstances shall any Retired Participant be entitled at one time to more than one type of Retirement benefit granted under the Plan.

(e) No interest shall be paid on the retroactive payment of Disability benefits.

(f) Where an Employer has executed or executes a General Addendum to the Employer's Adoption Agreement which contains provisions on payment of Disability Retirement benefits that conflict with the procedures or time limitations established in this Section 6.04, said provisions of the General Addendum shall govern to the extent they conflict with this Section 6.04.

Section 6.05. Cost of Living Adjustment.

(a) An Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement to provide for a variable annual cost-of-living adjustment in the amount of Monthly Retirement Benefits payable under the Plan to Participants or their Beneficiaries. In such event, the amount of benefits payable under the Plan shall be adjusted as provided in this Section, except as otherwise provided in the Employer's Adoption Agreement.

(b) The Current Average Cost-of-Living Index Figure as defined in Section 2.21 shall be ascertained as of the Adopting Employer's Adjustment Date in each year.

(c) Each Monthly Retirement Benefit then being received by Participants who terminate after the date specified in the Adoption Agreement and their Beneficiaries shall thereupon be adjusted as follows:

(1) Each Monthly Retirement Benefit shall be increased by the percentage that the Current Average Cost-of-Living Index Figure increased over each recipient's Cost-of-Living Base Figure, as defined in Section 2.17. If the Current Average Cost-of-Living Index Figure is less than the Cost-of-Living Base Figure, no reduction in the Monthly Retirement Benefit, shall be effected. Increased benefits are payable on the Adjustment Date.

(2) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, no increase in the amount of a Monthly Retirement Benefit due to changes in the Current Average Cost-of-Living Index Figure effective at any annual Adjustment Date shall be in excess of a certain percentage of the amount of the Monthly Retirement Benefit payable immediately prior to each Participant's or Beneficiary's applicable adjustment date. Said percentage limit shall be designated by the Employer in the Adoption Agreement.

(d) An Adopting Employer may implement one-time or ad-hoc cost-of-living adjustments by adopting an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement to effect said increase.

(e) In lieu of the variable cost-of-living adjustment referred to in subsections (a)-(c) above, the Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement to provide for a fixed annual cost-of-living adjustment, subject to any limitations imposed by the Internal Revenue Code or regulations issued thereunder.

Section 6.06. In-Service Distribution; Suspension of Benefits Following Return to Service.

(a) **General Rules.**

(1) Unless otherwise provided in this Section and in the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto, a Participant shall be required to Terminate Employment with an Adopting Employer prior to commencing Early, Normal or Alternative Normal Retirement benefits under such Employer's GMEBS Plan. Likewise, unless otherwise provided in this Section and in the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto, if a Retired Participant returns to service as an Eligible Employee with an Adopting Employer from whose Trust Fund the Retired Participant is receiving a Monthly

Retirement Benefit, said Monthly Retirement Benefit shall be suspended as of the date of said return to service.

(2) Re-Computation of Benefit in Case of Suspension. In any case where the payment of a Participant's Retirement benefit shall have been suspended, the Retirement benefit payable on the Participant's re-retirement (whether before or after the Participant's Normal Retirement Date) shall be the benefit computed in accordance with this Article on the basis of the Participant's aggregate Total Credited Service and Final Average Earnings, if applicable, at the time of the Participant's subsequent re-retirement, but reduced by the Actuarial Equivalent of any Retirement benefits received by the Participant prior to said suspension, and by any actuarial factors used in calculating the benefit payable at the time of the Participant's previous Retirement. For purposes of this subsection, the term "Actuarial Equivalent" shall mean an amount equal to the value of Retirement benefits received, determined as of the date of the Participant's Re-retirement and computed on the basis of the actuarial assumptions contained in Section 12.06. In no event shall the resulting benefit be less than the benefit payable immediately prior to the Participant's return to service with the Adopting Employer. A Retired Participant who is reemployed as an Eligible Employee shall not be authorized to change the form of benefit payment on the Participant's subsequent re-retirement, or to change the Post-Retirement Beneficiary, or to name a Post-Retirement Beneficiary if one had not been previously named. For the purposes of this Section, any such Participant's Credited Service subsequent to reemployment by the Employer as an Eligible Employee shall commence as of the date of the Participant's reemployment as an Eligible Employee.

(3) Minimum Age Parameters for In-Service Distribution. In order to commence or continue receiving Normal or Alternative Normal Retirement benefits without a Bona Fide Separation from Service, if permitted under the Employer's Plan, a Participant shall be required to satisfy the following minimum age and other requirements:

(A) For a Participant who is not a "public safety employee" at the time the Participant applies for Normal or Alternative Normal Retirement benefits (and a Participant who is a public safety employee at the time the Participant applies for Normal or Alternative Normal Retirement benefits unless subparagraph 6.06(a)(3)(B) below applies), the Participant must be at least age sixty-two (62) (or such lower age specified under applicable federal law as a safe-harbor age for distributions during working retirement) to receive an In-Service Distribution.

(B) For a Participant who is a "public safety employee" in the service of the Employer at the time the Participant applies for Normal or Alternative Normal Retirement benefits, the Participant must be at least age sixty-two (62) (or such lower age specified under applicable federal law as a safe-harbor age for distributions during working retirement) to receive an In-Service Distribution; provided, however, that if the Adopting Employer's Plan provides for a Normal Retirement Age or Alternative Normal Retirement Age which applies only to public safety employees and which is at least age fifty (50) (or such lower age specified under applicable federal law as a safe-harbor age for distributions during working retirement), the Participant may receive an In-Service Distribution as long as the Participant is at least such age. For purposes of this subparagraph (B),

"public safety employees" are employees of the Adopting Employer who provide police protection, firefighting services, or emergency medical services for any area within the jurisdiction of the Adopting Employer.

(C) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, effective for Employees hired during Plan Years beginning on or after the later of: January 1, 2017; or the close of the first regular legislative session of the legislative body with the authority to amend the plan that begins on or after the date that is 3 months after the final regulations are published in the Federal Register, the Plan will comply with the final Normal Retirement age regulations applicable to governmental plans established in Treas. Reg. 1.401(a) – 1, as amended.

(b) Exception to General Rule; In-Service Distribution for Eligible Employees; Continuation of Retirement Benefits Following Return to Service as an Eligible Employee After a Bona Fide Separation from Service.

(1) In-Service Distribution Absent Termination or Bona Fide Separation from Service Upon Qualifying for Normal Retirement. Notwithstanding the general rules described in subsection 6.06(a)(1), an Adopting Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto to permit In-Service Distribution to Participants (or certain classes of Participants) who have satisfied the eligibility requirements for Normal Retirement or Alternative Normal Retirement, as applicable, under the Adopting Employer's Plan while remaining Eligible Employees under the Plan, in accordance with and subject to the requirements of this paragraph. An Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto to permit Participants or certain classes of Participants who have (i) satisfied the qualifications for Normal Retirement or

Alternative Normal Retirement, as applicable, (ii) satisfied the minimum age parameters set forth in subparagraph 6.06(a)(3), and (iii) applied for such Retirement benefits on the Applicable Form to apply for and begin receiving their Retirement benefit as an In-Service Distribution while in service as an Eligible Employee even though they have not yet Terminated Employment with the Employer or to continue receiving Normal or Alternative Normal Retirement benefits following a return to Service as an Eligible Employee without first incurring a Bona Fide Separation from Service.

(2) Exception to General Rule; Continuing to Draw Early, Normal or Alternative Normal Retirement Benefits After Returning to Service as Eligible Employee Following a Bona Fide Separation from Service. Notwithstanding the requirement for suspension of benefits upon reemployment under subsection 6.06(a)(1) above, an Adopting Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement or any addendum thereto to permit Retired Participants or certain classes of Retired Participants who return to service as Eligible Employees following a Bona Fide Separation from Service to continue receiving Early, Normal or Alternative Normal Retirement benefits following such return to service, regardless of the Participant's age, in accordance with and subject to the following requirements:

(A) Reemployment as Eligible Employee after Normal Retirement Date. An Adopting Employer may elect (notwithstanding required suspension under Section 6.06(a)(1)) in the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto to permit Retired Participants or certain classes of Retired Participants to continue receiving Retirement benefits if they return to service with the Adopting Employer as an Eligible Employee on or after their Normal Retirement Date or

Alternative Normal Retirement Date, as applicable, and after a Bona Fide Separation from Service. If the Employer has made such an election in the Adoption Agreement or Addendum, then Retired Participants who are designated in the Adoption Agreement or Addendum as eligible to continue receiving Retirement benefits following their return to service as an Eligible Employee may continue to receive their Monthly Retirement Benefit if they return to service with the Adopting Employer as an Eligible Employee after a Bona Fide Separation from Service and on or after their Normal Retirement Date or Alternative Normal Retirement Date, as applicable.

(B) Reemployment as Eligible Employee Before Normal Retirement Date.

(i) Suspension of Early Retirement Benefits until Normal Retirement Date; Resumption of Benefits upon Attainment of Normal Retirement Date. An Adopting Employer may elect (notwithstanding required suspension under Section 6.06(a)(1)) in the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto to provide that, with respect to Retired Participants or certain classes of Retired Participants, if such a Retired Participant returns to Service as an Eligible Employee before the Normal Retirement Date (or Alternative Normal Retirement Date, as applicable), and after a Bona Fide Separation from Service, and remains employed until the Normal Retirement Date (or Alternative Normal Retirement Date, as applicable), the Participant may apply for and receive a Monthly Retirement Benefit on or after the Normal Retirement

Date (or Alternative Normal Retirement Date, as applicable), notwithstanding continued service with the Employer, provided that the Participant satisfies the minimum age parameters for an In-Service Distribution pursuant to Section 6.06(a)(3). Said Monthly Retirement Benefit shall be computed in accordance with this Article, based upon the Participant's Total Credited Service and Final Average Earnings, if applicable, through the date the Participant recommences receipt of a Monthly Retirement Benefit pursuant to this subsection. However, except as otherwise provided in the Adoption Agreement or in an Addendum thereto, said Monthly Retirement Benefit shall be reduced by the Actuarial Equivalent of any Retirement benefits received by the Participant prior to said suspension, and by any actuarial factors used in calculating the benefit payable at the time of the previous Retirement. For purposes of this subsection, the term "Actuarial Equivalent" shall mean an amount equal to the value of Retirement benefit payments received, determined as of the date the Participant recommences receipt of a Monthly Retirement Benefit, and computed on the basis of the actuarial assumptions contained in Section 12.06. In no event shall the resulting Monthly Retirement Benefit be less than the Participant's benefit payable immediately prior to said suspension.

(ii) Exception to General Rule; Continuation of Early Retirement Benefits Upon Return to Service as Eligible Employee Following Bona Fide Separation from Service. Notwithstanding the

requirement for suspension of benefits upon reemployment under subsection 6.06(a)(1) above, an Adopting Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto to permit Retired Participants or certain classes of Retired Participants who are receiving an Early Retirement benefit to continue receiving said benefit if they return to Service with the Employer after a Bona Fide Separation from Service as an Eligible Employee at any time on or after their Early Retirement Date but before their Normal Retirement Date (or Alternative Normal Retirement Date, as applicable). If the Employer has made such an election, and if a Retired Participant belongs to a class for which such continuation of benefit payments is permitted, then upon the Retired Participant's return to service with the Employer as an Eligible Employee after the Early Retirement Date and after a Bona Fide Separation from Service (or at least a six-month separation from Service, as applicable), the Retired Participant may continue to receive a Monthly Retirement Benefit during the period of reemployment.

(3) A Participant who receives an In-Service Distribution of Retirement benefits while serving as an Eligible Employee or who receives Retirement Benefits following a return to service as an Eligible Employee shall not be authorized to change the form of benefit payment, or to change the Post-Retirement Beneficiary on the Participant's subsequent termination of employment, or to name a Post-Retirement Beneficiary if one had not been previously named.

(4) With respect to Participants described in Section 6.06(b)(1) and (2) above, except as otherwise provided in the Adoption Agreement or in an Addendum thereto, upon said Participants' subsequent termination of employment or vacation of office, as applicable, their Monthly Retirement Benefit shall be computed in accordance with this Article on the basis of their aggregate Total Credited Service and Final Average Earnings, if applicable, at the time of such termination of employment or vacation of office, but it shall be reduced by the Actuarial Equivalent of any Retirement benefits received prior to re-retirement, and by any actuarial factors used in calculating the benefit payable at the previous Retirement. For purposes of this subsection, the term "Actuarial Equivalent" shall mean an amount equal to the value of Retirement benefits received, determined as of the date of the Participant's re-retirement and computed on the basis of the actuarial assumptions contained in Section 12.06. In no event shall the resulting benefit be less than the benefit payable immediately prior to the Participant's re-retirement.

(c) Exception to General Rule; In-Service Distribution for Individuals Who Are Not Eligible Employees; Continuation of Retirement Benefits Following Return to Service in a Capacity Other Than as an Eligible Employee After a Bona Fide Separation from Service.

(1) In-Service Distribution Prior to Termination. Notwithstanding the general rule in Section 6.06(a)(1) and except as may be otherwise provided in the Adoption Agreement or an Addendum thereto, regardless of whether an Employer elects to permit active Participants to receive In-Service Distributions while serving as Eligible Employees under the Plan pursuant to paragraph 6.06(b)(1) above, an individual who is in service with the Adopting Employer, who previously accrued a benefit as an Eligible Employee under the Plan but who is not currently an Eligible Employee under the Plan,

may commence receipt of Retirement benefits while still in service with the Adopting Employer provided that such individual (i) has satisfied the Adopting Employer's qualifications for Early Retirement, Normal Retirement or Alternative Normal Retirement; (ii) has satisfied the minimum age and other applicable requirements established in subparagraph 6.06(a)(3) above; and (iii) applies for such Retirement benefit on the Applicable Form.

(2) Continued Receipt of Retirement Benefits Upon Return to Service in a Capacity Other Than as an Eligible Employee. Except as may be otherwise provided in the Adoption Agreement or an Addendum thereto, an Adopting Employer may engage any Retired Participant receiving benefits hereunder in a capacity other than as an Eligible Employee and such engagement shall not terminate or suspend such benefits. Effective with respect to Retired Participants who return to service in a capacity other than as an Eligible Employee, in order to continue receiving benefits after returning to service, the Retired Participant (i) must have had a Bona Fide Separation from Service prior to returning to service in a capacity other than as an Eligible Employee under the Plan; or (ii) must satisfy the minimum age parameters established in subparagraph 6.06(a)(3) above.

(3) An individual who receives Retirement benefits while in the service of the Adopting Employer pursuant to paragraphs 6.06(c)(1) and (2) above shall not be authorized to change the form of benefit payment, or to change the Post-Retirement Beneficiary on the Participant's subsequent Termination of Employment, or to name a Post-Retirement Beneficiary if one had not been previously named. An individual who commences or continues receiving benefits while in the service of the Adopting

Employer in a capacity other than as an Eligible Employee pursuant to paragraph 6.06(c)(1) or 6.06(c)(2) shall not accrue benefits or service credit for any purpose under the Plan during the individual's period of continued service with the Adopting Employer during which the individual is not an Eligible Employee.

(4) In the event that an individual described in paragraph 6.06(c)(1) or (2) subsequently becomes an Eligible Employee under the Plan, the provisions applicable to In-Service Distribution to Eligible Employees or to Retired Participants who return to Service with the Adopting Employer as an Eligible Employee, as applicable, under subsection 6.06(b) above and the Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum shall apply with respect to such individual. Except as otherwise provided in the Adoption Agreement or in an Addendum thereto, upon such a Participant's subsequent Termination of Employment or vacation of office, as applicable, the Participant's Monthly Retirement Benefit shall be computed in accordance with this Article on the basis of the Participant's aggregate Total Credited Service and Final Average Earnings, if applicable, at the time of such Termination of Employment or vacation of office. However, this Monthly Retirement Benefit shall be reduced by the Actuarial Equivalent of any Retirement benefits received prior to re-retirement, and by any actuarial factors used in calculating the benefit payable at the previous Retirement. For purposes of this subsection, the term "Actuarial Equivalent" shall mean an amount equal to the value of Retirement benefits received, determined as of the date of the Participant's re-retirement and computed on the basis of the actuarial assumptions contained in Section 12.06. In no event shall the resulting benefit be less than the benefit payable immediately prior to the Participant's re-retirement.

(d) Death in Service After Retirement. If a Retired Participant who returns to service with an Adopting Employer as an Eligible Employee or an active Participant commences Retirement benefits while remaining in service as an Eligible Employee and dies during the period of continuous employment or during the period of reemployment, as applicable, and before re-retirement, then the Participant's Post-Retirement Beneficiary, if any, shall be entitled to receive the monthly post-retirement survivor benefit payable, if any, taking into account any additional Credited Service accrued prior to the date of the Participant's death in-service. Such post-retirement survivor benefit shall be reduced by the Actuarial Equivalent of any Retirement benefits received by the Participant prior to said Participant's death. In no event shall the resulting post-retirement survivor benefit (after any actuarial reduction provided for in the preceding sentence) be less than the benefit that would have been payable to such Post-Retirement Beneficiary had the Participant not been employed as an Eligible Employee on or after the Participant's Retirement Date. This provision shall not be interpreted to permit payment to a Pre-Retirement Beneficiary in the event of a Retired Participant's death during reemployment.

(e) Suspension of Disability Benefits.

(1) Any Disability Retirement Benefit payable under the Plan to any Participant shall be suspended as of the first day of the month coinciding with or following the date the Participant's Disability ceases. A Participant's Disability shall be considered to have ceased upon the earliest of the following dates: (1) with respect to Participants whose entitlement to a Disability benefit is based upon receipt of disability insurance benefits under the Federal Social Security Act, the date as of which the Social Security Administration determines that the Participant is no longer disabled; or (2) with

respect to Participants whose entitlement to a Disability benefit is based upon a determination by the Pension Committee, the date as of which the Pension Committee determines that the Participant is no longer disabled as defined under Code Section 72(m), based upon an examination by a physician chosen by the Pension Committee. With respect to those Participants whose entitlement to a Disability benefit is based upon receipt of disability insurance benefits under the Federal Social Security Act, the Participant shall be required to notify the Pension Committee Secretary within sixty (60) days after the Participant receives notice that the Social Security Administration has determined that the Participant is no longer disabled. With respect to those Participants whose entitlement to a Disability benefit is based upon receipt of disability insurance benefits under the Federal Social Security Act, the Pension Committee shall have the right to require the Participant to prove at any time, as a condition for continued receipt of Disability benefits under the Plan, continued eligibility for receipt of disability insurance benefits under the Federal Social Security Act, as amended. With respect to Participants whose entitlement to a Disability benefit is based upon a determination of Disability by the Pension Committee, the Pension Committee shall have the right to require, as a condition for continued receipt of Disability benefits, that the Participant be examined at any time by a physician chosen by the Pension Committee. In the event that any Participant fails or refuses to submit to a physical examination or to obtain and provide other information requested by the Pension Committee to confirm continuation of a Disability, then the Participant's Disability benefits shall be suspended as of the first day of the month following expiration of the ninety (90) day period following the Pension Committee's request for such examination or information, unless the Pension Committee

determines in its discretion that the failure to comply within ninety (90) days was due to circumstances beyond the Participant's control, in which case the ninety (90) day time limit may be extended by the Pension Committee and suspension may be deferred as determined by the Pension Committee.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of this subsection 6.06(e) to the contrary, and except as otherwise provided in an Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum thereto, in the event that a Participant, who shall have retired or been retired for Disability, returns to service as an Eligible Regular Employee or becomes an Eligible Regular Employee of said Employer, the Participant's Disability Retirement benefit shall be suspended as of the date of such return to or commencement of service as an Eligible Regular Employee.

(3) Nothing in paragraph 6.06(e)(2) shall be construed to require the suspension of a Participant's Disability Retirement benefit upon the Participant's return to service as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority after the commencement of such benefit unless and until the Participant is determined to no longer have a Disability, or unless suspension of a Participant's Disability Retirement benefits is otherwise required under subparagraph 6.06(e)(1).

(f) Suspension of Disability Benefit; Right to Other Benefits.

(1) In any case where the payment of a Participant's Disability Retirement benefit is suspended, regardless of whether the Participant returns to service with the Employer, the period of absence from employment due to such Disability shall not be counted as Credited Service. Any Participant who shall have Retired or been Retired for Disability and who has been or shall be subsequently declared ineligible for a Disability

Retirement benefit because of the cessation of said Disability, or as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection 6.06(e) above, shall have a right to any benefit afforded under any other provision of this Plan to which the Participant or the Participant's beneficiary might otherwise be entitled. In such case, any Disability Retirement payments made prior to the required suspension date shall be retained by the Retiree and disregarded in computing any other benefit payable under the Plan.

(2) Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing herein shall be construed to allow a Retired Participant who shall have Retired or been Retired due to Disability, who returns to service with the Employer, and who subsequently re-retires to elect a different benefit payment form or name a new post-retirement beneficiary upon re-retirement.

(3) Unless otherwise provided in an Employer's Adoption Agreement or in an Addendum thereto, in the event that a Retired Participant who is receiving a Disability Retirement benefit returns to service as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority, and the Participant's Disability Retirement benefit is not suspended, any Disability Retirement payments made prior to the Participant's return to service or during such period(s) of service as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority following such return shall be retained by the Participant and disregarded in computing any other benefit payable under the Plan upon the Participant's subsequent vacation of office.

ARTICLE VII.

OPTIONAL FORMS OF RETIREMENT INCOME

Section 7.01. Standard Benefit Payment Form; Other Payment Options. With respect to retirement applications received by GMEBS on or after July 1, 2011, a Participant may elect, or may revoke a previous election and make a new election, at any time prior to the

Participant's effective Retirement Date, to have Retirement benefits payable under the standard benefit payment option or under one of the other benefit payment options set forth in Section 7.03. The standard benefit payment option is a monthly retirement benefit payable to the Participant during the Participant's lifetime only. At the death of the Participant all payments will cease and no further benefits will be payable to the estate of the Participant or other persons, except as otherwise provided in Subsection 8.12(b). The standard benefit payment form is referred to in the Basic Plan Document as Option A. The benefit shall be paid in accordance with and subject to the terms of the benefit payment option elected. Election of any option shall be made by the Participant in writing on the Applicable Form, and shall be subject to approval by GMEBS.

Section 7.02. Designation of Post-Retirement Beneficiary. With respect to retirement applications received by GMEBS on or after July 1, 2011, if the Participant elects Option B (Joint and Survivor Option with Pop-Up) or Option C (Period Certain and Life Option.) in Section 7.03, the Participant shall designate a Post-Retirement Beneficiary to receive a survivor benefit in accordance with and subject to the terms of such Option. Designation of a Post-Retirement Beneficiary may be revoked or changed by the Participant by submitting a new completed Retirement Application at any time prior to the Participant's effective Retirement date. Only the last such designation of a Post-Retirement Beneficiary shall have effect, and any new designation of a Post-Retirement Beneficiary shall invalidate, supersede, and revoke any prior designation.

Section 7.03. Description of Options. With respect to retirement applications received by GMEBS on or after July 1, 2011, the amount of any optional benefit set forth below shall be the Actuarial Equivalent of the amount of the standard benefit that would otherwise be

payable to the Participant under Section 7.01 (monthly retirement benefit payable to the Participant during the Participant's lifetime only, referred to as "OPTION A").

(a) OPTION B: Joint and Survivor Option with Pop-Up. A retirement benefit computed and paid in the same manner as Option A above, but with a decrease in the retirement benefit to account for the survivor benefit and the pop-up benefit provided under this Option B. If the Participant elects Option B, then the Participant will receive a decreased retirement benefit which shall be payable during the lifetime of the Participant. If the Participant's designated Post-Retirement Beneficiary should survive the Participant (except as provided in subsections (1) and (2) below with respect to the Post-Retirement Beneficiary's death before the Participant or the divorce of the Participant and Post-Retirement Beneficiary) the benefit shall continue to be paid to the Post-Retirement Beneficiary after the Participant's death during the lifetime of the Post-Retirement Beneficiary in the same amount (100%) or in such smaller amount (75%, 50%, or 25%), as the Participant has designated on the retirement application. This option shall be known as Option B. The Participant's retirement benefit under Option B shall be calculated in accordance with Section 12.02(a) or Section 12.02(b), whichever is applicable.

(1) Death of Post-Retirement Beneficiary Before Participant — In the event that the Participant's Post-Retirement Beneficiary dies before the Participant and after Retirement benefit payments have commenced, and provided the Participant furnishes GMEBS with proper proof of the Beneficiary's death within one (1) year after such death, the requirement for a reduction in the Participant's monthly retirement benefit on account of the Participant's election of Option B shall no longer apply (resulting in an increase, or "pop-up", in the Participant's monthly retirement benefit), effective as of the first day of the month following the Post-Retirement Beneficiary's death. Effective with respect to

monthly payments made on and after such date, the amount of the Participant's monthly retirement benefit shall be equal to the monthly amount that would have otherwise been payable to the Participant under Article VI, had the Participant elected Option A. However, if the Participant fails to furnish the Plan with proper proof of the Post-Retirement Beneficiary's death within the one (1) year period referred to above, then said change in monthly retirement benefit shall not become effective until the first day of the month following the date such proof is submitted to GMEBS. If the Post-Retirement Beneficiary does not survive the Participant, all payments shall cease at the death of the Participant and no further benefits will accrue to the Participant's estate or to other persons.

(2) Divorce of Participant and Post-Retirement Beneficiary—If the Participant designates the Participant's Spouse as Post-Retirement Beneficiary and provides GMEBS with proof that GMEBS in its sole discretion deems sufficient to establish that the Post-Retirement Beneficiary is the Participant's Spouse as of the Participant's effective retirement date, and if the Participant and the Post-Retirement Beneficiary become divorced after retirement benefit payments have commenced, then the Participant is permitted but not required to request a "pop-up" in the Participant's monthly retirement benefit, in accordance with and subject to the requirements of this subsection (2). A Participant who requests a pop-up pursuant to this subsection (2) will be bound by the provisions of this subsection and any other terms and conditions for receipt of said pop-up as set forth in an Applicable Form provided by GMEBS for such purpose. Such Participant shall furnish proof to GMEBS which GMEBS in its sole discretion deems sufficient to confirm the Participant's divorce from the Post-Retirement Beneficiary and

the Participant's eligibility for the pop-up benefit provided herein, which may include but may not be limited to a court-certified copy of a valid divorce decree. In the event that the conditions of this subsection (2) are satisfied, the requirement for a reduction in the Participant's monthly retirement benefit on account of the election of Option B will no longer apply; provided, however, that GMEBS may deny the Participant's application for the pop-up in the event that GMEBS, in its sole discretion, determines that such denial is prudent or necessary based on the terms of the applicable divorce decree. Any change in the monthly retirement benefit resulting from the pop-up, if approved by GMEBS, will be effective as of the first day of the month following GMEBS' receipt of said Applicable Form completed by the Participant, and after GMEBS' receipt of said proof evidencing divorce. Effective with respect to monthly payments made on and after such date, the amount of the Participant's monthly retirement benefit will be equal to the monthly amount that would have otherwise been payable to the Participant under Article VI had the Participant elected Option A. On and after said date, the Participant's Post-Retirement Beneficiary will not be eligible to receive any survivor benefits following the Participant's death, notwithstanding any prior designation made by the Participant or the later remarriage of the Participant and the Post-Retirement Beneficiary. All payments shall cease at the death of the Participant and no further benefits will accrue to the Participant's estate or to other persons. This provision shall not be construed to permit a Participant to change the form of benefit payment, to change the Post-Retirement Beneficiary after the Participant's effective Retirement date, or to name a new Post-Retirement Beneficiary following the Participant's divorce from the Post-Retirement Beneficiary. Nor shall this provision be construed to require or permit payment of all or

a portion of a Participant's retirement benefit to a former spouse pursuant to a domestic relations order.

(b) OPTION C: Period Certain and Life Option. A decreased benefit payable monthly to the Participant during the Participant's lifetime and, in the event of the Participant's death within a period of specified years, either five (5), ten (10), fifteen (15), or twenty (20) years after benefit commencement, the same monthly amount shall be payable for the balance of such period to the Post-Retirement Beneficiary designated by the Participant. If the Post-Retirement Beneficiary survives the Participant but dies before the end of such period, any unpaid monthly amounts that would have otherwise been payable to the Post-Retirement Beneficiary for the remainder of said period following the Post-Retirement Beneficiary's death shall be paid to the Post-Retirement Beneficiary's estate. If the Post-Retirement Beneficiary does not survive the Participant, all payments shall cease at the death of the Participant and no further benefits will accrue to the Participant's estate or to other persons except as provided in Article VIII. This option shall be known as Option C. The Retirement benefit under Option C shall be calculated in accordance with Section 12.03.

Section 7.04. Cancellation of Election. The election by a Participant of any option in this Article VII shall be null and void if either the Participant or the Participant's designated Post-Retirement Beneficiary dies before the Participant's effective Retirement date.

Section 7.05. Rule for Small Benefits.

(a) Effective January 1, 2002, the present value of a Plan benefit shall be distributed in a cash single sum payment to the Participant, Terminated Vested Participant, or Pre-Retirement Beneficiary, as applicable, if the present value of said Plan benefit payable to the

recipient does not exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) on the date of distribution. The present value of said Plan benefit shall be determined in accordance with Article XII.

(b) Effective for distributions commencing on or after March 28, 2005, if a distribution to be made under subsection (a) is greater than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000), is an eligible rollover distribution, and the recipient of the distribution does not elect to have the distribution paid directly to an eligible retirement plan specified by the recipient in a direct rollover or does not elect to receive the distribution directly, the Administrator will pay the distribution in a direct rollover to an individual retirement plan designated by the Administrator.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b), effective on and after July 1, 2007, no distribution will be made under this Section unless and until the recipient of the distribution makes an election to either have the distribution paid directly to an eligible retirement plan specified by the recipient in a direct rollover or to receive the distribution directly in cash.

Section 7.06. Distributions.

(a) Distributions payable as of any date shall be made on or as soon as administratively feasible after that date.

(b) In a contributory plan, interest shall be paid on any refund of employee contributions only as specified in the Adoption Agreement.

Section 7.07. Compliance with Internal Revenue Section 401(a)(9). All distributions shall be made in compliance with Article X.

Section 7.08. Compliance with Internal Revenue Section 415. All benefit options must comply with the limitations of Code Section 415, pursuant to Article XI and as applicable to governmental plans.

ARTICLE VIII.

DEATH BENEFITS

Section 8.01. **Death in Service Prior to Retirement.** In the event a Participant's employment or term of office is Terminated by reason of death prior to Retirement, there shall be paid to the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary the in-service death benefit elected by the Employer in the Adoption Agreement, provided the requirements of this Article are satisfied and except as otherwise provided under this Article.

Section 8.02. **Actuarial Reserve In-Service Death Benefit.** An Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement to provide the Actuarial Reserve In-Service Death Benefit for one or more classes of Eligible Employees. In such case, the Employer shall designate in the Adoption Agreement the minimum service and other eligibility requirements a Participant must satisfy in order to be entitled to receive such benefit. Provided a Participant satisfies such requirements, then in the event the Participant's employment with the Adopting Employer is terminated by reason of the Participant's death prior to Retirement, and except as otherwise provided in Section 8.07(b), there shall be paid to the Participant's Pre-Retirement Beneficiary a lifetime monthly death benefit actuarially equivalent to the reserve required for the Participant's anticipated Normal Retirement benefit. In calculating the Normal Retirement benefit under the provisions of this Section, the following assumptions shall be used:

(a) The Participant's age at the time of death is equal to the Normal Retirement Age as specified by the Employer in the Adoption Agreement, or the Participant's attained age if said attained age is greater than the Normal Retirement Age; and

(b) The Participant's Total Credited Service shall include the amount of Total Credited Service accrued prior to the date of the Participant's death. The Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement to include additional imputed Credited Service in the calculation, but in

no event shall the amount of Total Credited Service used in the calculation exceed the sum of actual service performed plus ten (10) calendar years. The death benefit under this Section shall be calculated using the factors contained in Section 12.04.

(c) With respect to those Adopting Employers who have elected in their Adoption Agreement to provide the Actuarial Reserve In-Service Death Benefit, an Eligible Regular Employee must have at least one (1) year of Credited Service with the Adopting Employer to be eligible for the Actuarial Reserve In-Service Death Benefit; provided, however, that this one (1) year minimum shall not apply with respect to an Eligible Regular Employee whose immediate prior employment was with another GMEBS Adopting Employer and who had at least one (1) year of Credited Service with such prior GMEBS Adopting Employer. The one (1) year minimum and the exceptions thereto described in this subsection 8.02(c) shall not supersede eligibility conditions specified in an Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum thereto which specify a requirement of more or less than one (1) year of Credited Service with the Adopting Employer and/or other minimum age or service requirements that are inconsistent with this Section 8.02 to be eligible for the Actuarial Reserve In-Service Death Benefit. Except as otherwise provided in an Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum thereto, elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority shall not be subject to a minimum Service requirement to be eligible for the Actuarial Reserve In-Service Death Benefit.

Section 8.03. Auto A In-Service Death Benefit. An Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement to provide the Auto A in-service death benefit for one or more classes of Eligible Employees. In such case, the Employer shall designate in the Adoption Agreement the minimum Service and other eligibility requirements a Participant must satisfy in order to be entitled to such benefit. Provided a Participant satisfies such requirements, then in the event that

the Participant's employment with the Adopting Employer is terminated by reason of the Participant's death prior to Retirement, and except as otherwise provided in Section 8.06(b), there shall be paid to the Participant's Pre-Retirement Beneficiary a lifetime monthly death benefit, as follows:

(a) Monthly Death Benefit Payable to Spouse. If the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary to whom the in-service death benefit is payable under this Section is the Participant's Spouse, then the lifetime monthly death benefit payable to said Spouse shall commence on the first day of the month coinciding with or immediately following the date of the Participant's death. Alternatively, the Spouse may elect to defer benefit payment commencement until the first day of any month up to and including the date the Participant would have attained Normal Retirement Age as defined in the Employer's Adoption Agreement. A Spouse shall be considered to have deferred benefit payment commencement until the first day of the month following the date the Spouse makes application for payment of death benefits. If the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary to whom the in-service death benefit is payable under this Section is not the Spouse of the Participant, then the lifetime monthly death benefit payable to said Beneficiary shall commence on the first day of the month coinciding with or immediately following the date of the Participant's death.

(b) Computation of Monthly Death Benefits. Benefits under this Section shall be computed as of the date of the Participant's death, based upon the applicable benefit formula in effect on said date, as follows:

(1) Participant Death Before Early Retirement Age; Payment Before Early Retirement Age. If a Participant dies before attaining Early Retirement Age as defined in the Employer's Adoption Agreement, and if benefit payments commence to a Pre-

Retirement Beneficiary before the Participant would have attained Early Retirement Age, then the monthly death benefit payable to said beneficiary shall be the Actuarial Equivalent of the monthly Retirement benefit amount that would have otherwise been payable to the Participant, assuming the Participant: (i) terminated employment on the Participant's date of death; (ii) survived until Normal Retirement Age as defined in the Adoption Agreement; and (iii) elected to retire upon attaining Normal Retirement Age with the optional form of Retirement payment designated in Section 7.03 as Option B at one hundred percent (100%), and then died. Said benefit shall be calculated in accordance with the actuarial assumptions specified in Section 12.06.

(2) Participant Death Before Early Retirement Age; Deferred Payment by Spouse Until After Early Retirement Age. If the Participant dies before attaining Early Retirement Age as defined in the Employer's Adoption Agreement and a Spouse who is eligible to receive the in-service death benefit hereunder defers payment until a date which is on or after the date the Participant would have attained Early Retirement Age, then the monthly death benefit payable to the Spouse Beneficiary shall be the monthly Retirement benefit that would have otherwise been payable to the Participant, assuming that the Participant: (i) terminated employment on the date of death; (ii) survived until the date upon which the deferred benefit payments commence in accordance with the Spouse Beneficiary's selected benefit commencement date; and, (iii) elected to retire on the benefit commencement date with the optional form of Retirement payment designated in Section 7.03 as Option B at one hundred percent (100%), and then died.

(3) Participant Death After Early Retirement Age; Payment Upon Death. If the Participant dies after attaining Early Retirement Age as defined in the Employer's

Adoption Agreement, and if benefit payments commence to a Pre-Retirement Beneficiary on the first day of the month coinciding with or immediately following the date of the Participant's death, then the monthly death benefit payable to said Pre-Retirement Beneficiary shall be the monthly benefit that would have otherwise been payable to the Participant, assuming the Participant: (i) retired on the date of death, and (ii) elected the optional form of Retirement payment designated in Section 7.03 as Option B at one hundred percent (100%), and then died.

(4) Participant Death After Early Retirement Age; Deferred Payment by Spouse. If the Participant dies after attaining Early Retirement Age as defined in the Employer's Adoption Agreement, and if a Spouse who is eligible to receive the Auto A in-service death benefit hereunder defers payment in accordance with this Section, then the monthly benefit payable to the Spouse Beneficiary shall be the monthly Retirement benefit that would have otherwise been payable to the Participant, assuming that the Participant: (i) terminated employment on the Participant's date of death; (ii) survived until the date upon which the deferred benefit payments commence in accordance with the Spouse beneficiary's selected commencement date, and (ii) elected to retire on the benefit commencement date with the optional form of Retirement payment designated in Section 7.03 as Option B at one hundred percent (100%), and then died.

Section 8.04. Designation of Beneficiary. Unless otherwise provided in the Adoption Agreement or an Addendum thereto, a Participant may designate, on an Applicable Form provided for that purpose, one person as Primary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary. If the Participant's employment with the Employer is terminated by reason of the Participant's death prior to the Participant's Retirement and if as of the date of the Participant's death the Participant has

satisfied the minimum service and other eligibility requirements to be entitled to an in-service pre-retirement death benefit, said Primary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary shall receive the monthly pre-retirement death benefit elected by the Employer in the Adoption Agreement, provided the Primary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary survives the Participant by at least thirty-two (32) days in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 47-1-15 (a copy of which is included in the Appendix hereto). The Participant may additionally designate, on an Applicable Form provided for that purpose, one person as Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary. The monthly death benefit otherwise payable to the Primary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary hereunder shall be payable to the Participant's designated Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary in the event that: (1) the Participant's employment with the Employer is terminated by reason of the Participant's death prior to the Participant's Retirement; (2) the Primary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary does not survive the Participant by at least thirty-two (32) days; and (3) the Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary survives the Participant by at least thirty-two (32) days.

Section 8.05. Change of Beneficiary. Designation of a Primary or Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary may be changed by the Participant in writing on an Applicable Form provided for that purpose at any time prior to Retirement. Only the last such designation prior to Retirement shall have effect and any new designation of a Primary or Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary invalidates, supersedes, and revokes any prior designation.

Section 8.06. Auto A In-Service Pre-Retirement Death Benefit; Default Beneficiary; Payment to Surviving Spouse or to Estate Where Benefit Not Payable to Designated Primary or Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in an Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum, in the absence of a designation by the Participant, or if there is no Primary or

Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary to whom the Auto A in-service pre-retirement death benefit is payable under this Article, then the Auto A in-service pre-retirement death benefit shall be paid to the Participant's surviving Spouse in accordance with this subsection. In such case, the Participant's surviving Spouse shall be considered the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary under the Plan. For purposes of this subsection, the term "surviving" shall mean surviving the Participant by at least thirty-two (32) days.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in an Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum, if there is no Pre-Retirement Beneficiary (i.e., a designated Pre-Retirement Beneficiary or surviving Spouse) to whom the Auto A in-service death benefit is payable, then a lump sum payment equal to fifty percent (50%) of the Actuarial Equivalent of the Participant's Vested Accrued Benefit, if any, shall be paid to the Participant's estate in lieu of the lifetime monthly benefit which would otherwise be payable to the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary. Such lump sum Actuarial Equivalent shall be determined as if the Participant had Terminated Employment on the date immediately preceding the Participant's date of death and received a lump sum distribution of said benefit under Section 7.05, determined without reference to the maximum cash-out limits of said Section, and using the assumptions set forth in Section 12.06.

Section 8.07. Actuarial Reserve In-Service Pre-Retirement Death Benefit; Payment to Surviving Spouse or to Estate Where Benefit Not Payable to Designated Primary or Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in an Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum, with respect to the Actuarial Reserve in-service death benefit only, if there is no Primary or Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary to whom the death benefit is payable, then the Actuarial Reserve in-service pre-retirement death benefit shall be paid to the Participant's

surviving Spouse in accordance with this Section, in which case the Participant's surviving Spouse shall be considered the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary under the Plan. For purposes of this Section, the term "surviving" shall mean surviving the Participant by at least thirty-two (32) days.

(b) If there is no Pre-Retirement Beneficiary (i.e., a designated Pre-Retirement Beneficiary or surviving Spouse) to whom the death benefit is payable, then the Actuarial Equivalent of the Participant's vested Accrued Retirement Benefit shall be paid to the Participant's estate in lieu of the lifetime monthly benefit which would otherwise be payable to a Pre-Retirement Beneficiary. Such Actuarial Equivalent shall be determined as if the Participant had terminated employment on the date immediately preceding the Participant's date of death and received a lump sum distribution of benefits under Section 7.05, determined without reference to the maximum cash-out limits of said Section, and using the assumptions set forth in Section 12.06.

Section 8.08. Terminated Vested Death Benefits. If the Employer elects in the Adoption Agreement to provide a death benefit for Terminated Vested Participants or for certain classes of Terminated Vested Participants, then in the event such a Terminated Vested Participant dies before the effective Retirement Date, there shall be paid to the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary the terminated vested death benefit specified in the Adoption Agreement, provided the requirements of this Article are satisfied and except as otherwise provided in this Article. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, effective October 1, 2016, an Adopting Employer that had not previously elected in its Adoption Agreement or Addendum thereto to provide a Terminated Vested death benefit to one or more classes of Participants shall be deemed to have elected by default to provide the Terminated Vested Auto A Death Benefit to such class or classes of Participants who terminate employment on or after such date.

Section 8.09. Terminated Vested Auto A Death Benefit. The Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement to provide the Auto A Death Benefit for one or more classes of Terminated Vested Participants. In such case, the Employer shall designate in the Adoption Agreement the minimum Service and other eligibility requirements a Terminated Vested Participant must satisfy in order to be entitled to such benefit. Provided a Terminated Vested Participant satisfies such requirements, then in the event that the Terminated Vested Participant dies prior to said Participant's effective Retirement date, the Participant's Pre-Retirement Beneficiary may apply to receive a lifetime monthly death benefit subject to the provisions of this Section. If the Terminated Vested Participant's Pre-Retirement Beneficiary is the Terminated Vested Participant's Spouse, then the lifetime monthly death benefit payable to the Spouse Beneficiary under this Section shall commence on the first day of the month coinciding with or immediately following the date of the Terminated Vested Participant's death. Alternatively, the Spouse Beneficiary may elect to defer benefit payment commencement until the first day of any month up to and including the date the Participant would have attained Normal Retirement Age as determined under the Employer's Adoption Agreement. A Spouse designated as beneficiary shall be considered to have deferred benefit payment commencement until the first day of the month following the date the Spouse makes application for payment of death benefits. If the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary is not the Spouse of the Terminated Vested Participant, then the lifetime monthly death benefit payable to the beneficiary under this Section shall commence on the first day of the month coinciding with or immediately following the date of the Terminated Vested Participant's death. Benefits under this Section shall be computed as follows:

(a) Terminated Vested Participant Death Before Early Retirement Age; Payment Before Early Retirement Age. If a Terminated Vested Participant dies before attaining Early Retirement Age as defined in the Adoption Agreement, and if benefit payments commence to a beneficiary before the Terminated Vested Participant would have attained Early Retirement Age, then the monthly death benefit payable to the beneficiary shall be the Actuarial Equivalent of the monthly Retirement benefit amount that would have otherwise been payable to the Terminated Vested Participant, assuming: (i) the Terminated Vested Participant survived until Normal Retirement Age; and (ii) the Terminated Vested Participant elected the optional form of Retirement payment designated herein as Option B at one hundred percent (100%), and then died. Said benefit shall be calculated in accordance with the actuarial assumptions specified in Section 12.06.

(b) Terminated Vested Participant Death Before Early Retirement Age; Deferred Payment by Spouse Until After Early Retirement Age. If the Terminated Vested Participant dies before attaining Early Retirement Age as defined in the Adoption Agreement and a Spouse designated as beneficiary defers payment until a date which is on or after the date the Terminated Vested Participant would have attained Early Retirement Age, then the monthly death benefit payable to the Spouse shall be the monthly Retirement benefit that would have otherwise been payable to the Terminated Vested Participant, assuming that: (i) the Terminated Vested Participant survived until the date upon which the deferred benefit payments commence in accordance with the Spouse's selected benefit commencement date; and, (ii) the Terminated Vested Participant elected on such date to retire with the optional form of Retirement payment designated herein as Option B at one hundred percent (100%), and then died.

(c) Terminated Vested Participant Death After Early Retirement Age; Payment Upon Death. If the Terminated Vested Participant dies after attaining Early Retirement Age as defined in the Adoption Agreement, and if benefit payments commence to a beneficiary on the first day of the month coinciding with or immediately following the date of the Terminated Vested Participant's death, then the monthly death benefit payable to the beneficiary shall be the monthly benefit that would have otherwise been payable to the Terminated Vested Participant, assuming: (i) the Terminated Vested Participant retired on the date of death, and (ii) the Terminated Vested Participant elected the optional form of Retirement payment designated herein as Option B at one hundred percent (100%), and then died.

(d) Terminated Vested Participant Death After Early Retirement Age; Deferred Payment by Spouse. If the Terminated Vested Participant dies after attaining Early Retirement Age, and if a Spouse designated as beneficiary defers payment in accordance with this Section, then the monthly benefit payable to the Spouse shall be the monthly Retirement benefit that would have otherwise been payable to the Terminated Vested Participant, assuming that: (i) the Terminated Vested Participant survived until the date upon which the deferred benefit payments commence in accordance with the Spouse's selected commencement date, and (ii) the Terminated Vested Participant elected to retire on such date with the optional form of Retirement payment designated herein as Option B at one hundred percent (100%), and then died.

(e) Auto A Terminated Vested Death Benefit; Payment to Surviving Spouse or to Estate Where Benefit Not Payable to Designated Primary or Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary. Effective with respect to deaths occurring on or after July 1, 2015, and except as otherwise provided in an Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum, in the absence of a designation by the Participant, or if there is no Primary or Secondary Pre-

Retirement Beneficiary to whom the terminated vested Auto A death benefit is payable under this Article, then said pre-retirement death benefit shall be paid to the Participant's surviving Spouse in accordance with this Section, in which case the surviving Spouse will be considered the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary under the Plan. For purposes of this Section 8.09(e), the term "surviving" shall mean surviving the Participant by at least thirty-two (32) days. If there is no Pre-Retirement Beneficiary (i.e., a designated Pre-Retirement Beneficiary or surviving Spouse) to whom the terminated vested Auto A death benefit is payable, then a lump sum payment equal to fifty percent (50%) of the Actuarial Equivalent of the Participant's vested Accrued Benefit, if any, shall be paid to the Participant's estate in lieu of the lifetime monthly benefit which would otherwise be payable to a Pre-Retirement Beneficiary. Such lump sum Actuarial Equivalent shall be determined as if the Participant had received a lump sum distribution of said benefit under Section 7.05, calculated as of the date on which the payment is made, without reference to the maximum cash-out limits of said Section, and using the assumptions set forth in Section 12.06.

(f) Calculation of Benefits. Benefits under this Section shall be calculated taking into account only the Participant's Total Credited Service and Final Average Earnings (where applicable) as of the date of the Participant's Termination of Employment with Adopting Employer, and the applicable benefit formula in effect on the date of said Termination.

Section 8.10. Accrued Retirement Benefit.

An Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement to provide a death benefit consisting of the Accrued Benefit for one or more classes of Terminated Vested Participants. In such case, the Employer shall designate the minimum service and other eligibility requirements a Terminated Vested Participant must satisfy in order to be entitled to such benefit. Provided a Terminated

Vested Participant satisfies such requirements, then in the event that the Terminated Vested Participant dies prior to the effective Retirement date, the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary may apply to receive a lifetime monthly death benefit subject to the provisions of this subsection. Said benefit shall commence on the first day of the month coinciding with or immediately following the date of the Terminated Vested Participant's death. The monthly death benefit payable to the Participant's Pre-Retirement Beneficiary shall be the Actuarial Equivalent of the Terminated Vested Participant's Accrued Benefit, determined as of the date of the Participant's death, taking into account the Participant's Total Credited Service, Final Average Earnings, and the benefit formula in effect as of the date of the Participant's Termination. Except as otherwise provided in an Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum, if there is no Primary or Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary to whom said pre-retirement death benefit is payable, said pre-retirement death benefit shall be paid to the Participant's surviving Spouse in accordance with this subsection, in which case the surviving Spouse will be considered the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary under the Plan. For purposes of this subsection, the term "surviving" shall mean surviving the Participant by at least thirty-two (32) days. If there is no Pre-Retirement Beneficiary to whom the benefit is payable, then a lump sum payment equal to fifty percent (50%) of the Actuarial Equivalent of the Participant's vested Accrued Benefit, if any, shall be paid to the Participant's estate in lieu of the lifetime monthly benefit which would otherwise be payable to a Pre-Retirement Beneficiary. Such lump sum Actuarial Equivalent shall be determined as if the Participant had received a lump sum distribution of said benefits under Section 7.05, calculated as of the date on which the payment is made, without reference to the maximum cash-out limits of said Section, and using the assumptions set forth in Section 12.06.

Section 8.11. Designation of Terminated Vested Pre-Retirement Beneficiary. The Primary and Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary designated by the Participant to receive in-service death benefits under Section 8.04 shall automatically be considered the Participant's Primary and Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary for purposes of payment of terminated vested pre-retirement death benefits, if any, under the Employer's Plan. If the Participant changes said beneficiary designation in accordance with Section 8.05, the Participant's designation under this Section shall be considered changed as well to reflect the new designation. In the absence of a designation by the Participant, or if there is no Primary or Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary to whom a terminated vested pre-retirement death benefit is payable upon the Participant's death, then the terminated vested pre-retirement death benefit otherwise payable, if any, shall be paid to the Participant's surviving Spouse in accordance with and subject to the applicable provisions of this Article, in which case the surviving Spouse will be considered the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary under the Plan. For purposes of this Section, the term "surviving" shall mean surviving the Participant by at least thirty-two (32) days. If there is no Pre-Retirement Beneficiary to whom a death benefit is payable, the death benefit shall be payable to the Participant's estate in accordance with and subject to the applicable provisions of this Article.

Section 8.12. Participant Death After Retirement Benefit Commencement. With respect to retirement applications received by GMEBS on or after July 1, 2011, upon the death of a Retired Participant subsequent to Retirement, there shall be payable to the Participant's designated Post-Retirement Beneficiary, a benefit to be determined as follows:

(a) If the Participant has elected a form of payment that does not permit designation of a Post-Retirement Beneficiary (Option A), as provided in Article VII, or if the Participant has

elected a form of payment that does permit such designation (Option B or C) and the Participant's designated Post-Retirement Beneficiary does not survive the Participant, no further payment of any kind whatsoever shall be made at the death of the Participant, except as provided in subsection (b) below.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in an Addendum to the Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement, in the event that a Retired Participant who has elected a form of payment that does not permit designation of a Post-Retirement Beneficiary (Option A), as provided in Article VII, dies after Retirement benefit payments have commenced but before the Retired Participant has received at least thirty-six (36) monthly Retirement benefit payments, a one-time lump sum death benefit shall become payable which shall be equal to the amount of the Participant's initial Retirement benefit (determined as of the date such monthly Retirement benefit commenced) multiplied by thirty-six (36); provided, however, that the total amount of such lump-sum death benefit shall be reduced by the aggregate amount of Retirement benefits paid to such Retired Participant. The one-time lump sum death benefit shall be payable to the Retired Participant's surviving Spouse. In such case, the Participant's surviving Spouse shall be considered the designated beneficiary under the Plan for purposes of this subsection (b). In the event that: (1) such Retired Participant does not have a Spouse at the time of the Retired Participant's death; or (2) such Retired Participant does have a Spouse at the time of the Retired Participant's death but such Spouse does not survive the Retired Participant by at least thirty-two (32) days; or (3) such Retired Participant does have a Spouse at the time of the Retired Participant's death but such Spouse does not within six (6) months following the Retired Participant's death provide the Administrator with documentation which the Administrator deems sufficient to verify that she said individual was the Retired Participant's Spouse at the time

of the Retired Participant's death, the lump-sum death benefit described in this subsection 8.12(b) shall be paid to the estate of the Retired Participant. The lump sum death benefit described in this subsection 8.12(b) shall not be considered part of the standard benefit payment form (Option A) for purposes of determining actuarial equivalence. The lump sum death benefit paid pursuant to this subsection 8.12(b) shall be included in determining the sum of all benefits paid to the Participant for purposes of determining the amount of any refund of Employee Contributions payable under Section 13.06. For purposes of this subsection, the term "surviving" shall mean surviving the Retired Participant by at least thirty-two (32) days.

(c) If the Participant has elected a form of payment that permits designation of a Post-Retirement Beneficiary (Option B or C) as provided in Article VII, and the Participant's designated Post-Retirement Beneficiary survives him, benefits shall be payable to the Post-Retirement Beneficiary as provided by the option elected, commencing the month following the Participant's last benefit payment month.

ARTICLE IX.

TERMINATION BEFORE RETIREMENT; VESTING

Section 9.01. Vesting Requirement for Deferred Retirement Benefit. An Employer may establish different vesting requirements for different classes of Eligible Employees in the Adoption Agreement. A Participant whose employment is terminated for any reason other than death or Retirement shall be entitled to a Vested right in the Accrued Benefit only if the Participant meets the Qualifications for a deferred Vested Retirement benefit specified in the Adoption Agreement. Payment of such Vested Retirement Benefit shall commence on the first day of the month in which the effective Retirement Date occurs and shall be payable on the first day of each month thereafter during the lifetime of the Participant, unless the Participant elects an optional form of benefit payment under Article VII. The amount of such Monthly Retirement

Benefit shall be computed in the manner prescribed for Normal or Early Retirement in Article VI, as applicable, but based upon the Participant's Final Average Earnings (if applicable) and Total Credited Service up to the Participant's date of Termination of Employment with the Adopting Employer. Unless otherwise provided in the Adoption Agreement or in an Addendum thereto, in the event that an Eligible Regular Employee terminates employment with an Adopting Employer and returns to service with such Adopting Employer as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority, the portion of the monthly benefit attributable to Credited Service as an Eligible Regular Employee shall be computed based upon Credited Service as an Eligible Regular Employee and the benefit formula in effect as of the latest termination of employment as an Eligible Regular Employee. Likewise, in the event that an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority vacates such office and returns to service with the Adopting Employer as an Eligible Regular Employee, the portion of the monthly benefit attributable to Credited Service as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority shall be computed based upon Credited Service as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority and the benefit formula in effect as of such individual's latest vacation of such office. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan to the contrary, if a Participant has satisfied the requirements for Normal Retirement as of the Participant's date of Termination, the Participant shall be one hundred percent (100%) Vested in the Normal Retirement benefit.

Section 9.02. Termination of Tenure of Office Before Retirement. Unless otherwise specified by the Employer in the Adoption Agreement, a Participant who is an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority or a Municipal Legal Officer, and who vacates office for any reason other than death or Retirement shall be entitled to a Vested right in the portion of said Participant's Accrued Benefit attributable to the Participant's Credited Service as

an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority only if said Participant meets the qualifications for a deferred Vested benefit applicable to elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority and Municipal Legal Officers as specified in the Adoption Agreement. Unless otherwise specified in the Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum thereto, if a Participant has Credited Service both as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority or a Municipal Legal Officer and as an Eligible Regular Employee of the Adopting Employer, the Participant's combined Total Credited Service shall be taken into account in determining whether the Participant has satisfied the minimum service requirements for vesting under the Plan and the minimum service requirements for benefit eligibility under the Plan that are applicable to Eligible Regular Employees, Municipal Legal Officers, and/or elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority, as applicable.

Section 9.03. Immediate Vesting in Disability Retirement Benefit. If the Employer elects in the Adoption Agreement to provide Disability benefits, and unless otherwise specified in the Adoption Agreement, a Participant who is Disabled and otherwise meets the Plan's eligibility requirements for payment of a Disability Retirement Benefit shall be considered 100% Vested in such benefit.

Section 9.04. Involuntary Termination Without Cause. Notwithstanding any more restrictive vesting requirement imposed by the Employer in the Adoption Agreement, a Participant whose employment is terminated involuntarily and without cause shall be entitled to a one hundred percent (100%) Vested Benefit if said Participant has completed five (5) years of Total Credited Service. For the purpose of this condition, "cause" for dismissal shall mean negligence or inefficiency in performing the duties of the position held, unfitness to perform

assigned duties, insubordination, or misconduct reflecting discredit on the Adopting Employer or upon the Governing Authority.

Section 9.05. Portability between Adopting Employers.

(a) This Section applies to a Participant, other than an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officer, whose employment is terminated either voluntarily or involuntarily after participation in the Plan, provided that with respect to a Participant who terminates employment on or after January 1, 2015, such Participant has at least one (1) year of Credited Service with the Employer. This one (1) year minimum shall not apply with respect to a Participant,

(1) whose immediate prior employment was with another GMEBS Employer, and under whose Plan in effect prior to January 1, 2015, the Participant was subject to a waiting period and the Participant had satisfied such waiting period prior to the Participant's Termination of Employment with such prior GMEBS Employer, or

(2) (A) who is not described in paragraph 9.05(a)(1) above, and whose Employer's Plan contained an Addendum provision which was in effect prior to January 1, 2015, which provided for a waiting period of less than one (1) year to commence participation in the Plan, and (B) who was employed with said Employer prior to January 1, 2015 and satisfied such time limitation prior to Termination. With respect to an Employee described in this paragraph 9.05(a)(2), this Section shall become applicable to such Employee once the Employee has satisfied such waiting period.

(b) Subject to any limitations or conditions contained in the Employer's Adoption Agreement, in determining whether a Participant has satisfied the minimum service requirements for Vesting and the minimum service requirements for Retirement and, for Participants who

terminate on or after September 26, 2014, pre-retirement death benefit eligibility, under the Adoption Agreement of any GMEBS Adopting Employer, the Participant's Total Credited Service with all other of the Participant's past and future Adopting Employers shall be taken into account. In no event, however, shall service with one GMEBS Employer be used to calculate the benefit amount due the Participant from another GMEBS Employer. Prior to January 1, 2015, except as otherwise provided in Section 4.02(c)(7) concerning immediate participation for Participants who transfer from one GMEBS Adopting Employer to another, service with one GMEBS Adopting Employer may not be used to establish participation in another Adopting Employer's plan.

Section 9.06. Forfeiture of Benefits for Certain Crimes.

(a) Survivor benefits or refunds otherwise payable to a person upon the death of a Participant, Terminated Vested Participant, Retired Participant, or beneficiary shall be forfeited if the person commits or conspires to commit murder or involuntary manslaughter against a Participant, Terminated Vested Participant, Retired Participant, or beneficiary, in accordance with and subject to the applicable provisions of O.C.G.A. § 47-1-24 (a copy of which is included in the Appendix hereto). The terms of said code section are incorporated herein by reference, including any future amendments thereto.

(b) If the Adopting Employer receives information that a beneficiary has been convicted of any crime referenced in this Section which could potentially result in reduction or forfeiture of benefits, the Adopting Employer shall notify the Administrator when it receives notice of such conviction.

Section 9.07. Forfeitures.

(a) If the Adopting Employer is unable to determine the whereabouts of and payment information for any Participant, beneficiary or surviving Spouse to whom a payment (e.g., a payment of Retirement, Disability or Death benefits) is due and provide such information to the Administrator within a period of six (6) months from the later of: 1) the date on which the Administrator became aware that such payment became due and payable, or 2) the date on which the Administrator became unable to continue processing payments to the Participant, beneficiary or surviving Spouse due to changes in such individual's bank account, address, or other necessary information, the Administrator shall direct that the payment and all remaining payments, if any, otherwise due to the Participant, beneficiary or surviving Spouse be cancelled on the records of the Plan and the amount thereof be treated as a forfeiture. Likewise, if the Adopting Employer is unable to determine the whereabouts of and payment information for any Participant, surviving Spouse or estate, as applicable, to whom a return of Employee Contributions due pursuant to Section 13.03 or Section 13.06 of this Basic Plan Document or pursuant to the Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement or an Addendum thereto and provide such information to the Administrator within a period of six (6) months from such Participant's Termination of Employment (for non-vested Participants and for vested Participants whose Employee Contributions are required to be refunded following termination provided a refund to vested Participants does not result in forfeiture of Credited Service under the Plan), a vested Participant's request for a return of contributions, or, in a case of failure to exhaust, the date of a Participant's death, the Administrator shall direct that the return of Employee Contributions otherwise due to the Participant, surviving Spouse or estate, as applicable, be cancelled on the

records of the Plan and the amount thereof be treated as a forfeiture and placed in the Employer's GMEBS Trust Fund.

(b) In the event that a payment (e.g., a return of Employee Contributions, or a payment of Retirement, Disability or Death benefits) is due to the estate of a Participant or beneficiary but the Administrator is unable to process such payment due to the absence of said estate or lack of information needed to process payment to said estate, or, following the expiration of six (6) months after the date on which the payment is issued the payment remains outstanding, the Administrator shall so notify the Adopting Employer. The Adopting Employer shall attempt to locate documents establishing such estate, a correct address or bank account or other necessary information to process such payment. If the Adopting Employer is unable to ascertain such documentation or information within six (6) months after receiving notice from the Administrator of the outstanding payment, the Administrator shall direct that the payment be cancelled on the records of the Plan and the amount thereof be treated as a forfeiture.

(c) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Section, if a Participant, beneficiary or surviving Spouse whose whereabouts or payment information is unknown and whose benefits are forfeited pursuant to this Section subsequently claims such benefits on the Applicable Form, such forfeited benefit shall be reinstated and shall be paid retroactively, without interest, to the date of the first cancelled payment. Likewise, if the executor of an estate to which a payment was forfeited pursuant to paragraph (b) above subsequently claims such benefits on the Applicable Form, the forfeited benefit shall be reinstated and shall be paid, without interest, to the estate.

(d) Forfeitures arising from the inability to determine the whereabouts of or payment information for a Participant, beneficiary or surviving Spouse, or arising from Termination of

Employment, withdrawal or any other reason may not be applied to increase the benefits any individual would otherwise receive under the Plan. Forfeitures will remain Trust assets, and as such, may be used to reduce an Adopting Employer's contribution.

(e) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, in the event that a return of Employee Contributions otherwise due to a Participant, to a surviving Spouse, to the estate of a Participant or of a Pre-Retirement or Post-Retirement Beneficiary, or to another individual or estate, as applicable, is cancelled on the records of the Plan and the amount thereof is treated as a forfeiture pursuant to this Section 9.07, including subsection (c), interest on such Employee Contributions shall cease to accrue as of the date on which the Administrator directs that the return of Employee Contributions be cancelled.

(f) An Adopting Employer shall take the following actions to locate any Participant, beneficiary or surviving Spouse to whom benefits are owed, consistent with IRS Revenue Procedure 2021-30 (or subsequent updated guidance):

(1) Search Plan and related Plan, Adopting Employer, and publicly-available records or directories for alternative contact information.

(2) A mailing via U. S. Postal Service certified mail to the last known mailing address, and contact through appropriate means for any address or contact information (including email addresses and telephone numbers) available to the Adopting Employer.

(3) Use of at least one of the following search methods: (i) a commercial locator service, (ii) a credit reporting agency, or (iii) internet search tools for locating individuals.

ARTICLE X.

DISTRIBUTION AND ROLLOVER RULES

Section 10.01. Distribution Rules Imposed by Federal Law. Notwithstanding any provision of this Plan to the contrary, any distribution under the Plan shall be made in accordance with Code Section 401(a)(9) and the Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder, including the incidental benefit rules under Code Section 401(a)(9)(G), and shall comply with the following rules:

(a) With respect to distributions under the Plan made for calendar years beginning on or after January 1, 2002, the Plan shall apply the minimum distribution requirements of Code Section 401(a)(9) in accordance with the Final Regulations under Code Section 401(a)(9) that were issued on April 17, 2002, and June 15, 2004, notwithstanding any provision of the Plan to the contrary. GMEBS is coordinating the compliance with the Final Regulations to comply with the good faith reasonable standard of Pension Protection Act of 2006 Section 823.

(b) A Participant's entire interest will be distributed, or begin to be distributed, to the Participant no later than the Participant's required beginning date. For purposes of this Section, "required beginning date" means April 1 of the calendar year following the later of (i) the calendar year in which the Participant reaches age seventy and one-half (70½), or (ii) the calendar year in which the Participant Retires.

(c) If the Participant dies before distributions begin, the Participant's entire interest will be distributed, or begin to be distributed, no later than as follows:

(1) If the Participant's surviving spouse is the Participant's sole designated beneficiary, then distributions to the surviving spouse will begin by December 31 of the calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which the Participant died, or

by December 31 of the calendar year in which the Participant would have attained age seventy and one-half (70½), if later.

(2) If the Participant's surviving spouse is not the Participant's sole designated beneficiary, then distributions to the designated beneficiary will begin by December 31 of the calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which the Participant died, over the life of the designated beneficiary or over a period certain not exceeding:

(A) unless the annuity starting date is before the first distribution calendar year, the life expectancy of the designated beneficiary determined using the beneficiary's age as of the beneficiary's birthday in the calendar year immediately following the calendar year of the Participant's death; or

(B) if the annuity starting date is before the first distribution calendar year, the life expectancy of the designated beneficiary determined using the beneficiary's age as of the beneficiary's birthday in the calendar year that contains the annuity starting date.

(3) If there is no designated beneficiary as of September 30 of the year following the year of the Participant's death, the Participant's entire interest will be distributed by December 31 of the calendar year containing the fifth anniversary of the Participant's death.

(4) If the Participant's surviving spouse is the Participant's sole designated beneficiary and the surviving spouse dies after the Participant but before distributions to the surviving spouse begin, this subsection (c), other than (c)(1), will apply as if the surviving spouse were the Participant.

If annuity payments irrevocably commence to the Participant before the Participant's required beginning date (or to the Participant's surviving spouse before the date distributions are required to begin to the surviving spouse under this subsection (c)), the date distributions are considered to begin is the date distributions actually commence.

(d) The amount that must be distributed on or before the Participant's required beginning date (or, if the Participant dies before distributions begin, the date distributions are required to begin under subsection (c)) is the payment that is required for one payment interval. The second payment need not be made until the end of the next payment interval even if that payment interval ends in the next calendar year. Payment intervals are the periods for which payments are received, e.g., bi-monthly, monthly, semi-annually, or annually. All of the Participant's benefit accruals as of the last day of the first distribution calendar year will be included in the calculation of the amount of the annuity payments for payment intervals ending on or after the Participant's required beginning date.

(e) Any additional benefits accruing to the Participant in a calendar year after the first distribution year will be distributed beginning with the first payment interval ending in the calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which such amount accrues.

(f) If the Participant's interest is being distributed in the form of a joint and survivor annuity for the joint lives of the Participant and a non-spouse beneficiary, annuity payments to be made on or after the Participant's required beginning date to the designated beneficiary after the Participant's death must not at any time exceed the applicable percentage of the annuity payment for such period that would have been payable to the Participant using the applicable table set forth in the Treasury Regulations. If the form of distribution combines a joint and survivor annuity for the joint lives of the Participant and a non-spouse beneficiary and a period certain

annuity, the requirement in the preceding sentence will apply to annuity payments to be made to the designated beneficiary after the expiration of the period certain.

(g) Unless the Participant's spouse is the sole designated beneficiary and the form of distribution is a period certain and no life annuity, the period certain for an annuity distribution commencing during the Participant's lifetime may not exceed the applicable distribution period for the Participant under applicable simple life table set forth in the Treasury Regulations for the calendar year that contains the annuity starting date. If the annuity starting date precedes the year in which the Participant reaches age seventy (70), the applicable distribution period for the Participant is the distribution period for age seventy (70) under the applicable single life table as set forth in the Treasury Regulations plus the excess of seventy (70) over the age of the Participant as of the Participant's birthday in the year that contains the annuity starting date. If the Participant's spouse is the Participant's sole designated beneficiary and the form of distribution is a period certain and no life annuity, the period certain may not exceed the longer of the Participant's applicable distribution period, as determined under this Section, or the joint life and last survivor expectancy of the Participant and the Participant's spouse as determined under the applicable joint life table set forth in the Treasury Regulations, using the Participant's and spouse's attained ages as of the Participant's and spouse's birthdays in the calendar year that contains the annuity starting date.

(h) A Participant or beneficiary eligible for benefits from an Adopting Employer's Plan must complete and return the Applicable Form provided for such purpose in order to commence distribution of benefits. Any excise tax under Code Section 4974 that results from a failure to timely apply for distribution of benefits under the Plan shall be the responsibility of the Participant or beneficiary, as applicable.

Section 10.02. Rollover of Distributions. Notwithstanding any provision of the Plan to the contrary that would otherwise limit a Distributee's election under this Section, a Distributee may elect, at the time and in the manner prescribed by the Administrator, to have any portion of an Eligible Rollover Distribution paid directly to an Eligible Retirement Plan specified by the Distributee in a Direct Rollover. The following definitions shall apply to this Section:

(a) An "Eligible Rollover Distribution" is any distribution of all or any portion of the balance to the credit of the Distributee, except that an Eligible Rollover Distribution does not include: (i) any distribution that is one of a series of substantially equal periodic payments (not less frequently than annually) made for the life (or life expectancy) of the Distributee or the joint lives (or joint life expectancies) of the Distributee and the Distributee's designated beneficiary, or for a specified period of ten (10) years or more; (ii) any distribution to the extent such distribution is required under Code Section 401(a)(9); (iii) the portion of any distribution that is not includible in gross income; or (iv) any other distributions which the Internal Revenue Service does not consider eligible for rollover treatment, such as certain corrective distributions necessary to comply with the provisions of Code Section 402(g) or 415. Effective January 1, 2002, an Eligible Rollover Distribution also includes a distribution to a surviving spouse. Effective January 1, 2002, a portion of a distribution will not fail to be an Eligible Rollover Distribution merely because the portion consists of after-tax Employee Contributions that are not includible in gross income. However, such portion may be transferred only to a (1) traditional individual retirement account or annuity described in IRC 408(a) or (b) (a "traditional IRA") or a Roth individual retirement account or annuity described in IRC 408(A) (a "Roth IRA"), or (2) to a qualified defined contribution defined benefit or annuity plan described in IRC 401(a) or 403(a) or to an annuity contract described in IRC 403(b), if such plan or contract provides for

separate accounting for amounts so transferred (including interest thereon), including separately accounting for the portion of such distribution which is includible in gross income and the portion of such distribution which is not so includible.

(b) An "Eligible Retirement Plan" is any one of the following that accepts the Distributee's Eligible Rollover Distribution: (i) a traditional IRA; (ii) a Roth IRA; (iii) an annuity plan described in Code Section 403(a); or (iv) a qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plan described in Code Section 401(a). Effective for distributions made after December 31, 2001, an Eligible Retirement Plan will also include an eligible deferred compensation plan described in Code Section 457(b) which is maintained by an eligible employer described in Code Section 457(e)(1)(A) that agrees to separately account for amounts transferred into that plan; or an annuity plan described in Code Section 403(b); effective for distributions made after December 31, 2007, an Eligible Retirement Plan will also include a Roth IRA described in Code Section 408A; and effective for distributions made after December 18, 2015, an Eligible Retirement Plan will also include a SIMPLE IRA as described in Code Section 408(p), provided that the rollover contribution is made after the two-year period beginning on the date the Distributee first participated in any qualified salary reduction arrangement maintained by the Distributee's employer under Code Section 408(p)(2), as described in Code Section 72(t)(6). The portion of an Eligible Rollover Distribution that is not includible in gross income may be transferred only to an individual retirement account or individual retirement annuity described in Code Sections 408(a) or 408(b), a qualified defined contribution plan described in Code Section 401(a), a qualified plan described in Code Section 403(a), or on or after January 1, 2007, to a qualified defined benefit plan described in Code Section 401(a) or an annuity contract described in Code Section 403(b), that agrees to separately account for amounts so transferred, including separately

accounting for the portion of such distribution which is includible in gross income and the portion of such distribution which is not so includible.

(c) A "Distributee" includes an employee or former employee. A Distributee also includes the employee's or former employee's surviving spouse. A Distributee also includes a nonspouse beneficiary who is a designated beneficiary as defined by Code Section 401(a)(9)(E). However, a nonspouse beneficiary may only make a direct rollover of the distribution to an individual retirement account or individual retirement annuity established for the purpose of receiving the distribution, and the account or annuity will be treated as an "inherited" individual retirement account or annuity.

(d) A "Direct Rollover" is a payment by the Plan to the Eligible Retirement Plan specified by the Distributee.

(e) Notwithstanding subsection (a), if an Eligible Rollover Distribution is expected to total less than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200) during a year, such payment may not be directly rolled over.

Section 10.03. Acceptance of Eligible Rollover Distributions. To the extent permitted by the applicable provisions of the Code and regulations issued thereunder, for the purpose of purchasing Credited Service or repaying withdrawn Employee Contributions (including any Contributions made to purchase prior service credit, as applicable) as permitted under the Plan and the Employer's Adoption Agreement (i) a Participant may contribute to the Plan as a rollover contribution a qualified rollover amount from a qualified plan under Code Section 401(a), an annuity plan under Code Section 403(a), an individual retirement account or annuity under Code Sections 408(a) or (b), a governmental deferred compensation plan under Code Section 457(b), or a tax-sheltered annuity under Code Section 403(b), that is includible in

taxable income; or (ii) a Participant may make a direct rollover to the Plan of a qualified rollover amount from a qualified plan under Code Section 401(a) consisting of after-tax employee contributions that is not includible in taxable income provided that such amount will be separately accounted for under the Plan; provided, further, that the Administrator, in its discretion, determines that the contribution satisfies all applicable requirements of the Code. Such rollovers will be allowed to the extent permitted by law, subject to any conditions, proofs, or acceptance the Administrator deems appropriate.

Section 10.04. Acceptance of Trustee-to-Trustee Transfers. A Participant may make a direct trustee-to-trustee transfer from another Code Section 401(a) qualified retirement plan, a governmental deferred compensation plan under Code Section 457(b), or a tax-sheltered annuity under Code Section 403(b) for the purchase of permissive service credit, as defined in Code Section 415(n)(3)(A) and as permitted under the Plan and the Employer's Adoption Agreement, or for a repayment to which Code Section 415 does not apply by reason of Code Section 415(k)(3), as permitted under the Plan and the Employer's Adoption Agreement. Such transfers will be allowed to the extent permitted by law, subject to any conditions, proofs, or acceptance the Administrator deems appropriate.

ARTICLE XI.

LIMITATIONS ON BENEFITS

Section 11.01. Effective Date. The Plan shall be administered so as to comply with this Article for limitation years beginning on or after July 1, 2007, except as otherwise provided herein.

Section 11.02. Limitation on Annual Benefit.

(a) In no event shall the aggregate annual benefit for a calendar year (the "limitation year") provided under this Plan and all other defined benefit plans (without regard to whether the

plan has terminated) of the Employer for any Participant exceed an amount equal to One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$160,000) as adjusted pursuant to Code Section 415(d)(1)(A).

(b) Adjustment for Benefits Commencing Before Age 62.

(1) If the retirement income benefit under the Plan begins before age sixty-two (62) and occurs in a limitation year beginning on or after July 1, 2007, and the Plan does not have an immediately commencing straight life annuity payable at both age sixty-two (62) and the age of benefit commencement, the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollar (\$160,000) limitation for the Participant's retirement income benefit commencement date is the annual amount of a benefit payable in the form of a straight life annuity commencing at the Participant's retirement income benefit commencement date that is the actuarial equivalent of the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollar (\$160,000) limitation (adjusted under subsection (h) for years of participation less than ten (10), if required) with actuarial equivalence computed using a five percent (5%) interest rate assumption and the applicable mortality table for the retirement income benefit commencement date (expressing the Participant's age based on completed calendar months as of the retirement income benefit commencement date).

(2) If the retirement income benefit under the Plan begins before age sixty-two (62) and occurs in a limitation year beginning on or after July 1, 2007, and the Plan has an immediately commencing straight life annuity payable at both age sixty-two (62) and the age of benefit commencement, the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollar (\$160,000) limitation for the Participant's retirement income benefit commencement date is the lesser of the limitation determined under paragraph (1) and the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollar (\$160,000) limitation (adjusted under subsection (h) for years of

participation less than ten (10), if required) multiplied by the ratio of the annual amount of the immediately commencing straight life annuity under the Plan at the Participant's retirement income benefit commencement date to the annual amount of the immediately commencing straight life annuity under the Plan at age sixty-two (62), both determined without applying the limitations of this Article.

(3) If the retirement income benefit under the Plan begins before age sixty-two (62) and occurs in a limitation year that begins on or after January 1, 2002, but prior to July 1, 2007, the determination as to whether the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$160,000) limitation has been satisfied shall be made by reducing the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$160,000) limitation so that such limitation (as so reduced) equals an annual benefit (beginning when such retirement income benefit begins) which is equivalent to a One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$160,000) annual benefit beginning at age sixty-two (62). The age reduced dollar limit shall be the lesser of the equivalent amount computed using the actuarial table in Section 12.01 of the Plan for actuarial equivalence for early retirement benefits, and the amount computed using five percent (5%) interest and the applicable mortality table (to the extent that the mortality decrement is used prior to age sixty-two (62)).

(c) Adjustment for Benefits Commencing After Age 65.

(1) If the retirement income benefit under the Plan begins after age sixty-five (65) and occurs in a limitation year beginning on or after July 1, 2007, and the Plan does not have an immediately commencing straight life annuity payable at both age sixty-five (65) and the age of benefit commencement, the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollar (\$160,000) limitation at the Participant's retirement income benefit commencement date

is the annual amount of a benefit payable in the form of a straight life annuity commencing at the Participant's retirement income benefit commencement date that is the actuarial equivalent of the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollar (\$160,000) limitation (adjusted under subsection (h) for years of participation less than ten (10), if required), with actuarial equivalence computed using a five percent (5%) interest rate assumption and the applicable mortality table for that retirement income benefit commencement date as specified in Section 11.02(e)(2)(B) of the Plan (expressing the Participant's age based on completed calendar months as of the retirement income benefit commencement date).

(2) If the retirement income benefit under the Plan begins after age sixty-five (65) and occurs in a limitation year beginning on or after July 1, 2007, and the Plan has an immediately commencing straight life annuity payable at both age sixty-five (65) and the age of benefit commencement, the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollar (\$160,000) limitation at the Participant's retirement income benefit commencement date is the lesser of the limitation determined under paragraph (1) and the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollar (\$160,000) limitation (adjusted under subsection (h) for years of participation less than ten (10), if required) multiplied by the ratio of the annual amount of the adjusted immediately commencing straight life annuity under the Plan at the Participant's retirement income benefit commencement date to the annual amount of the adjusted immediately commencing straight life annuity under the Plan at age sixty-five (65), both determined without applying the limitations of this Article. For this purpose, the adjusted immediately commencing straight life annuity under the Plan at the Participant's retirement income benefit commencement date is the annual amount of such annuity payable to the Participant, computed disregarding the Participant's accruals after age

sixty-five (65) but including actuarial adjustments even if those actuarial adjustments are used to offset accruals; and the adjusted immediately commencing straight life annuity under the Plan at age sixty-five (65) is the annual amount of such annuity that would be payable under the Plan to a hypothetical Participant who is age sixty-five (65) and has the same accrued benefit as the Participant.

(3) If the retirement income benefit under the Plan begins after age sixty-five (65) and occurs in a limitation year that begins on or after January 1, 2002, but prior to July 1, 2007, the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollar (\$160,000) limitation for the Participant's retirement income benefit commencement date is the annual amount of a benefit payable in the form of a straight life annuity commencing at the Participant's retirement income benefit commencement date that is the actuarial equivalent of the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollar (\$160,000) limitation (adjusted under subsection (h) for years of participation less than ten (10), if required) with actuarial equivalence computed using whichever of the following produces the smaller annual amount: (i) the actuarial increase factors specified in Section 12.05 of the Plan; or (ii) a five percent (5%) interest rate assumption and the applicable mortality table as specified in Section 11.02(e)(2)(B) of the Plan.

(d) Notwithstanding the other requirements of this section, in adjusting the dollar limitation for the Participant's retirement income benefit commencement date under subsection (b) or (c), as applicable, no adjustment shall be made to the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollar (\$160,000) limitation to reflect the probability of a Participant's death between the retirement income benefit commencement date and age sixty-two (62), or between age sixty-five (65) and the retirement income benefit commencement date, as applicable, if benefits are not forfeited

upon the death of the Participant prior to the retirement income benefit commencement. To the extent benefits are forfeited upon death before the retirement income benefit commencement date, such an adjustment shall be made. Furthermore, notwithstanding the requirements of this section, the adjustments provided for in subsections (b) and (c) shall not apply (i) in the event the Participant's benefit is based on at least fifteen (15) years of service as a full-time employee of any police or fire department or on fifteen (15) years of military service, or (ii) in the case of pre-retirement disability benefits or pre-retirement death benefits.

(e) Adjustment for Form Not Subject to Code Section 417(e)(3). For distributions made in any form other than a straight life annuity or a qualified joint and survivor annuity to which Code Section 417(e)(3) does not apply [generally, a monthly benefit], such benefit shall be adjusted to a straight life annuity, beginning at the same age, which is the actuarial equivalent of such benefit.

(1) For limitation years beginning before July 1, 2007, the actuarially equivalent straight life annuity for purposes of applying the limitations under Code Section 415(b) to benefits is equal to the greater of (or the reduced limitation applicable at the retirement income benefit commencement date which is the "lesser of" when adjusted in accordance with the following assumptions):

(A) the equivalent annual benefit computed using the interest rate and mortality table, or tabular factor, specified in Article XII of the Plan for actuarial equivalence for the particular form of benefit payable, and

(B) the equivalent annual benefit computed using a five percent (5%) interest rate assumption and the applicable mortality table described in Internal

Revenue Service guidance (the mortality table specified in Revenue Ruling 98-1 prior to 2003 or Revenue Ruling 2001-62 on or after January 1, 2003).

(2) For limitation years beginning on or after July 1, 2007, the actuarially equivalent straight life annuity is equal to the greater of (or the reduced limitation applicable at the retirement income benefit commencement date which is the "lesser of" when adjusted in accordance with the following assumptions):

(A) the annual amount of the straight life annuity (if any) payable to the Participant under the Plan commencing at the same retirement income benefit commencement date as the Participant's form of benefit; and

(B) the annual amount of the straight life annuity commencing at the same retirement income benefit commencement date that has the same actuarial present value as the Participant's form of benefit, computed using a five percent (5%) interest rate assumption and the applicable mortality table described in Internal Revenue Service guidance (the mortality table specified in Revenue Ruling 2001-62 on or after January 1, 2003) and, for years after December 31, 2008, the applicable mortality tables described in Code Section 417(e)(3)(B) (Internal Revenue Service Notice 2008-85 or any subsequent Internal Revenue Service guidance implementing Code Section 417(e)(3)(B)).

(f) Adjustment for Form Subject to Code Section 417(e)(3). As required by final Treasury Regulations, for distributions made in any form to which Code Section 417(e)(3) applies [generally, a lump sum benefit], such benefit shall be adjusted to a straight life annuity, beginning at the same age, which is the actuarially equivalent straight life annuity benefit which is the greatest of (or the reduced limitation applicable at the retirement income benefit

commencement date which is the "least of" when adjusted in accordance with the following assumptions):

(1) The annual amount of the straight life annuity commencing at the retirement income benefit commencement date that has the same actuarial present value as the particular form of benefit payable, computed using the interest rate and mortality table, or tabular factor, specified in Article XII of the Plan for actuarial experience;

(2) The annual amount of the straight life annuity commencing at the retirement income benefit commencement date that has the same actuarial present value as the particular form of benefit payable, computed using a five and five-tenths percent (5.5%) interest assumption (or the applicable statutory interest assumption) and (i) for years prior to January 1, 2009, the applicable mortality tables for the distribution under Treasury Regulation Section 1.417(e)-1(d)(2) (the mortality table specified in Revenue Ruling 98-1 prior to 2003 and Revenue Ruling 2001-62 or any subsequent Revenue Ruling modifying the applicable provisions of Revenue Ruling 2001-62) and (ii) for years after December 31, 2008, the applicable mortality tables described in Code Section 417(e)(3)(B) (Notice 2008-85 or any subsequent Internal Revenue Service guidance implementing Code Section 417(e)(3)(B)); or

(3) the annual amount of the straight life annuity commencing at the retirement income benefit commencement date that has the same actuarial present value as the particular form of benefit payable computed using the applicable interest rate for the distribution under Internal Revenue Service guidance (the 30-year Treasury rate prior to January 1, 2008, using the rate in effect for the month prior to retirement; on and after January 1, 2008, using the rate in effect for the first day of the plan year with a one-year

stabilization period; and on and after January 1, 2015, using the rate in effect for the September prior to the plan year of distribution with a one-year stabilization period) and (i) for years prior to January 1, 2009, the applicable mortality tables for the distribution under Treasury Regulation Section 1.417(e)-1(d)(2) (the mortality table specified in Revenue Ruling 98-1 prior to 2003 and Revenue Ruling 2001-62 or any subsequent Revenue Ruling modifying the applicable provisions of Revenue Ruling 2001-62), and (ii) for years after December 31, 2008, the applicable mortality tables described in Code Section 417(e)(3)(B) (Notice 2008-85 or any subsequent Internal Revenue Service guidance implementing Code Section 417(e)(3)(B)), divided by one and five-one-hundredths (1.05). However, effective for benefits commencing during limitation years beginning after December 31, 2008, this paragraph (3) does not apply to a Plan maintained by an eligible employer as defined under Code Section 408(p)(2)(C)(i) (generally, an Employer that had no more than one hundred (100) employees who received at least Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) of compensation from the Employer during the preceding year).

(g) Limitations on benefits under this Article shall not apply where the total annual benefits payable to a Participant under this Plan and all other qualified defined benefit plans (whether or not terminated) of the Employer do not exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) in the aggregate. This minimum limitation is not applicable for a Participant whose Employer maintains or has maintained a defined contribution plan in which such Participant participated.

(h) The Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) minimum limitation, if provided, must be reduced where a Participant has less than ten (10) years of service with the Employer at the time the Participant begins to receive retirement benefits under the Plan, and the maximum dollar

limitation must be reduced where a Participant has less than ten (10) years of participation when retirement benefits under the Plan commence. These adjustments are made by multiplying the applicable limitations by the appropriate fraction:

(A) For the Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) minimum limitation – Years of service with the employer as of and including, the current limitation year divided by ten (10); or

(B) For the maximum dollar limitation – Years of participation with the employer as of and including, the current limitation year divided by ten (10).

(i) For purposes of applying the limits under Code Section 415(b) (Limit), the following will apply:

(1) prior to any limitation year beginning on or after July 1, 2007, adjustments under Section 6.05, will be taken into consideration when determining a Participant's applicable Limit;

(2) for any limitation year beginning on or after July 1, 2007:

(A) a Participant's applicable Limit will be applied to the Participant's annual benefit in the Participant's first limitation year without regard to any automatic cost of living adjustments under Section 6.05;

(B) to the extent the Participant's benefit equals or exceeds the Limit, the Participant will no longer be eligible for cost of living adjustments under Section 6.05 until such time as the benefit plus the accumulated adjustments under Section 6.05 are less than the Limit;

(C) thereafter, in any subsequent limitation year, a Participant's annual benefit, including any automatic cost of living increases under Section 6.05, shall

be tested under the then applicable benefit Limit including any adjustment to the Code Section 415(b)(1)(A) dollar limit under Code Section 415(d), and the regulations thereunder; but

(D) in no event shall a Participant's benefit payable under the Plan in any limitation year be greater than the Limit applicable at the annuity starting date, as increased in subsequent years pursuant to Code Section 415(d) and the regulations thereunder. If the form of benefit without regard to the automatic benefit increase feature is not a straight life annuity, then the preceding provisions are applied by reducing the Code Section 415(b) limit applicable at the annuity starting date to an actuarially equivalent amount (determined using the assumptions specified in Treasury Regulation Section 1.415(b)-1(c)(2)(ii)) that takes into account the death benefits under the form of benefit.

Section 11.03. Limitation on Annual Additions.

(a) Effective beginning on and after January 1, 2002, to the extent required under Code Section 415(c), in no event shall the "annual addition" for a Participant for any calendar year (the "limitation year"), exceed the lesser of:

(1) Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000)), as adjusted for increases in the cost of living under Code Section 415(d); or

(2) One hundred percent (100%) of the "compensation" of such Participant received from an Adopting Employer during the limitation year.

(b) For purposes of this Section, "compensation" means all of a Participant's wages as defined in Code Section 3401(a) for the purposes of income tax withholding at the source but determined without regard to any rules that limit the remuneration included in wages based on

the nature or location of the employment or the services performed (such as the exception for agricultural labor in Code Section 3401(a)(2)); provided, however, for limitation years beginning after December 31, 1997, compensation shall also include the amount of any elective deferrals, as defined in Code Section 402(g)(3), and any amount contributed or deferred by the Adopting Employer at the election of the Employee and which is not includable in the gross income of the Employee by reason of Code Section 125 or 457, but shall exclude Employee contributions picked up under Code Section 414(h)(2). For limitations years beginning after December 31, 2000, compensation shall also include any amount deferred by the Adopting Employer at the election of the Employee which is not includable in the gross income of the Employee by reason of Code Section 132(f)(4). For limitation years beginning on or after July 1, 2007, the following types of payments, if paid by the later of (i) two and one-half (2½) months following a Participant's Termination of Employment, or (ii) the last day of the limitation year that includes the Participant's Termination of Employment, will be included as compensation for purposes of this Section: payments that, absent a Termination of Employment, would have been paid to the Participant while the Participant continued in employment and that are regular compensation for services rendered, and payments of accrued bona fide sick, vacation, or other leave, but only if the Participant would have been able to use the leave if employment had continued. Any payments not described in the preceding sentence are not considered compensation if paid after severance from employment, even if they are paid within two and one-half (2½) months following severance from employment, except for payments to the individual who does not currently perform services for the Employer by reason of qualified military service (within the meaning of Code Section 414(u)(1)) to the extent these payments do not exceed the amounts the individual would have received if the individual had continued to perform services for the

Employer rather than entering qualified military service. An Employee who is in qualified military service (within the meaning of Code Section 414(u)(1)) shall be treated as receiving compensation from the Employer during such period of qualified military service equal to (i) the compensation the Employee would have received during such period if the Employee were not in qualified military service, determined based on the rate of pay the Employee would have received from the Employer but for the absence during the period of qualified military service, or (ii) if the compensation the Employee would have received during such period was not reasonably certain, the Employee's average compensation from the Employer during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the qualified military service (or, if shorter, the period of employment immediately preceding the qualified military service). For limitation years beginning on or after July 1, 2007, a Participant's compensation for purposes of this Section shall not exceed the annual limit under Code Section 401(a)(17).

(c) For purposes of this Section, "annual addition" means the sum of the following amounts credited to a Participant's accounts for the limitation year under this Plan and any other plan maintained by an Employer: (i) employer contributions; (ii) employee contributions; (iii) forfeitures; and (iv) allocations under a simplified employee pension plan. Amounts allocated after March 31, 1984, to an individual medical account, as defined in Code Section 415(l)(2), which is part of a pension or annuity plan maintained by an Employer are treated as annual additions to a defined contribution plan. Also, amounts derived from contributions paid or accrued after December 31, 1985, in taxable years ending after such date, which are attributable to post-retirement medical benefits, allocated to the separate account of a key employee, as defined in Code Section 419A(d)(3), under a welfare benefit fund, as defined in

Code Section 419(e), maintained by an Employer are treated as annual additions to a defined contribution plan.

(d) If the annual addition for a Participant under the Plan would be greater than the annual addition for such Participant as limited by subsection (a), then the excess shall be corrected as permitted under the IRS Employee Plans Compliance Resolution System (currently set forth in Revenue Procedure 2008-50).

Section 11.04. Code Section 415(e) Limits. For limitation years beginning on and after January 1, 2000, any benefit limitations applied pursuant to Code Section 415(e) shall no longer apply for employees or former employees who are Participants with an accrued benefit under the Plan on or after January 1, 2000.

Section 11.05. Limitations on Service Credit Purchases.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, if an Adopting Employer adopts an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement that provides for service credit purchases, the Administrator may modify a request by a Participant to make an Employee Contribution if the amount of the Contribution would exceed the limits provided in Code Section 415 by using the following methods:

(1) If the law requires a lump sum payment for the purchase of service credit, the Administrator may establish a periodic payment plan for the Participant to avoid a contribution in excess of the limits under Code Sections 415(c) or 415(n).

(2) If payment pursuant to paragraph (1) will not avoid a contribution in excess of the limits imposed by Code Section 415(c), the Administrator may either reduce the Employee Contribution to an amount within the limits of that section or refuse the Participant's Contribution.

(b) Effective for any permissive service credit contributions made in limitation years beginning after December 31, 1997, if a Participant makes one (1) or more contributions to purchase permissive service credit under an Adopting Employer's Plan, then the requirements of this Section will be treated as met only if:

(1) the requirements of Code Section 415(b) are met, determined by treating the accrued benefit derived from all such Contributions as an annual benefit for purposes of Code Section 415(b), or

(2) the requirements of Code Section 415(c) are met, determined by treating all such Contributions as annual additions for purposes of Code Section 415(c).

(3) For purposes of applying paragraph (1), the Plan will not fail to meet the reduced limit under Code Section 415(b)(2)(C) solely by reason of this paragraph (3), and for purposes of applying paragraph (2), the Plan will not fail to meet the percentage limitation under Code Section 415(c)(1)(B) solely by reason of this subsection (b).

(4) For purposes of this subsection (b) the term "permissive service credit" means service credit—

(A) recognized by the Plan for purposes of calculating a Participant's benefit under the Plan,

(B) which such Participant has not received under the Plan, and

(C) which such Participant may receive only by making a voluntary additional contribution, in an amount determined under the Plan, which does not exceed the amount necessary to fund the benefit attributable to such service credit.

Effective for permissive service credit contributions made in limitation years beginning after December 31, 1997, such term may include service credit for periods for which there is no

performance of service, and, notwithstanding subparagraph (B), may include service credited in order to provide an increased benefit for service credit which a Participant is receiving under the Plan.

(5) The Plan will fail to meet the requirements of this subsection (b) if—

(A) more than five (5) years of nonqualified service credit are taken into account for purposes of this paragraph (5), or

(B) any nonqualified service credit is taken into account under this subsection (b) before the Participant has at least five (5) years of participation under the Plan.

(6) For purposes of paragraph (5), effective for permissive service credit contributions made in limitation years beginning after December 31, 1997, the term "nonqualified service credit" means permissive service credit other than that allowed with respect to—

(A) service (including parental, medical, sabbatical, and similar leave) as an employee of the Government of the United States, any State or political subdivision thereof, or any agency or instrumentality of any of the foregoing (other than military service or service for credit which was obtained as a result of a repayment described in Code Section 415(k)(3)),

(B) service (including parental, medical, sabbatical, and similar leave) as an employee (other than as an employee described in subparagraph (A)) of an education organization described in Code Section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii) which is a public, private, or sectarian school which provides elementary or secondary

education (through grade 12), or a comparable level of education, as determined under the applicable law of the jurisdiction in which the service was performed,

(C) service as an employee of an association of employees who are described in subparagraph (A), or

(D) military service (other than qualified military service under Code Section 414(u)) recognized by such governmental plan.

In the case of service described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C), such service will be nonqualified service if recognition of such service would cause a Participant to receive a retirement benefit for the same service under more than one Plan.

(7) In the case of a trustee-to-trustee transfer after December 31, 2001, to which Code Section 403(b)(13)(A) or 457(e)(17)(A) applies (without regard to whether the transfer is made between plans maintained by the same employer)—

(A) the limitations of paragraph (6) will not apply in determining whether the transfer is for the purchase of permissive service credit, and

(B) the distribution rules applicable under federal law to the Plan will apply to such amounts and any benefits attributable to such amounts.

(8) For an eligible Participant, the limitation of Code Section 415(c)(1) shall not be applied to reduce the amount of permissive service credit which may be purchased to an amount less than the amount which was allowed to be purchased under the terms of the Plan as in effect on August 5, 1997. For purposes of this paragraph (8), an eligible Participant is an individual who first became a Participant in the Plan before January 1, 1998.

Section 11.06. Interpretation of this Article.

(a) The annual additions and annual benefit of a Participant shall be adjusted pursuant to this Article so as to produce the maximum annual benefit and maximum annual additions permissible for such Participant.

(b) For purposes of this Section and subject to Code Section 415(f), all defined benefit plans of an Adopting Employer, whether or not terminated, are to be treated as a single defined benefit plan, and all defined contribution plans of an Adopting Employer are to be treated as a single defined contribution plan. However, Adopting Employers shall be considered as separate Employers in accordance with State law. The ability of an Adopting Employer to amend the Adoption Agreement to the extent necessary to satisfy Code Section 415 is provided by and subject to Section 18.01.

ARTICLE XII.

ACTUARIAL EQUIVALENT CONVERSION TABLES

Section 12.01. Early Retirement Reduction Table. Unless otherwise elected in the Adoption Agreement or an Addendum thereto, the following early retirement reduction table is to be used:

<u>Number of Years Before Normal Retirement*</u>	<u>Percentage of Normal Retirement Benefit</u>
0	1.000
1	.933
2	.867
3	.800
4	.733
5	.667
6	.633
7	.600
8	.567
9	.533
10	.500
11	.467

12	.433
13	.400
14	.367
15	.333

*Interpolate for whole months.

Section 12.02. Option B Tables.

(a) Participant Same Age Or Older –

(1) The following table is to be used for Participants who begin drawing Retirement benefits on or after April 1, 2021, with respect to a Participant who is the same age as or older than the Participant's Beneficiary:

Participant Age - Beneficiary Age	Contingent Annuity Factor			
	<u>100%</u>	<u>75%</u>	<u>50%</u>	<u>25%</u>
0	0.848	0.881	0.918	0.957
1	0.841	0.876	0.913	0.955
2	0.834	0.870	0.909	0.952
3	0.827	0.864	0.905	0.950
4	0.820	0.859	0.901	0.948
5	0.814	0.853	0.897	0.946
6	0.807	0.848	0.893	0.944
7	0.801	0.843	0.890	0.942
8	0.795	0.838	0.886	0.940
9	0.790	0.833	0.882	0.938
10	0.784	0.829	0.879	0.936
11	0.779	0.824	0.876	0.934
12	0.774	0.820	0.872	0.932
13	0.769	0.816	0.869	0.930
14	0.764	0.812	0.866	0.928
15	0.760	0.808	0.864	0.927
16	0.756	0.805	0.861	0.925
17	0.752	0.801	0.858	0.924
18	0.748	0.798	0.856	0.922
19	0.744	0.795	0.854	0.921
20	0.741	0.792	0.851	0.920
21 or more	*	*	*	*

*Factor for twenty (20) year age difference minus extrapolation factor below times number of years in excess of twenty (20) that Participant's age exceeds the Participant's Beneficiary's age.

Contingent Annuity Percentage	Extrapolation Factor
100%	.004
75%	.003
50%	.002
25%	.001

(2) The following table is to be used for Participants who begin drawing Retirement benefits on or after January 1, 2013 and prior to April 1, 2021, with respect to a Participant who is the same age or older than the Participant's Beneficiary:

Participant Age – Beneficiary Age	Contingent Annuity Factor			
	<u>100%</u>	<u>75%</u>	<u>50%</u>	<u>25%</u>
0	.833	.870	.909	.952
1	.826	.864	.905	.950
2	.819	.857	.900	.947
3	.811	.851	.896	.945
4	.804	.845	.891	.943
5	.797	.839	.887	.940
6	.790	.833	.882	.938
7	.783	.828	.878	.935
8	.776	.822	.874	.933
9	.769	.816	.870	.930
10	.763	.811	.866	.928
11	.757	.806	.861	.926
12	.751	.800	.858	.923
13	.745	.795	.854	.921
14	.739	.791	.850	.919
15	.733	.786	.846	.917
16	.728	.781	.843	.915
17	.723	.777	.839	.913
18	.718	.772	.836	.911
19	.713	.768	.833	.909
20	.708	.764	.830	.907
21 or more	*	*	*	*

*Factor for twenty (20) year age difference minus extrapolation factor below times number of years in excess of twenty (20) that Participant's age exceeds the Participant's Beneficiary's age.

Contingent

Annuity
Percentage

Extrapolation
Factor

100%	.005
75%	.004
50%	.003
25%	.002

(b) Participant Younger –

(1) The following table is to be used for Participants who begin drawing Retirement benefits on or after April 1, 2021, with respect to a Participant who is younger than the Participant's Beneficiary:

<u>Beneficiary Age - Participant Age</u>	<u>Contingent Annuity Factor</u>			
	<u>100%</u>	<u>75%</u>	<u>50%</u>	<u>25%</u>
1	0.855	0.887	0.922	0.959
2	0.863	0.893	0.926	0.962
3	0.870	0.899	0.930	0.964
4	0.877	0.905	0.935	0.966
5	0.885	0.911	0.939	0.968
6	0.892	0.917	0.943	0.971
7	0.899	0.922	0.947	0.973
8	0.906	0.928	0.951	0.975
9	0.913	0.933	0.955	0.977
10	0.920	0.939	0.958	0.979
11	0.926	0.944	0.962	0.980
12	0.932	0.948	0.965	0.982
13	0.938	0.953	0.968	0.984
14	0.944	0.957	0.971	0.985
15	0.949	0.961	0.974	0.987
16	0.954	0.965	0.977	0.988
17	0.959	0.969	0.979	0.989
18	0.963	0.972	0.981	0.990
19	0.967	0.975	0.983	0.992
20	0.971	0.978	0.985	0.992
21 or more	0.974	0.980	0.987	0.993

(2) The following table is to be used for Participants who begin drawing Retirement benefits on or after January 1, 2013 and prior to April 1, 2021, with respect to a Participant who is younger than the Participant's Beneficiary:

Beneficiary Age – Participant Age	Contingent Annuity Factor			
	<u>100%</u>	<u>75%</u>	<u>50%</u>	<u>25%</u>
1	.841	.876	.914	.955
2	.848	.882	.918	.957
3	.856	.888	.922	.960
4	.863	.894	.926	.962
5	.870	.899	.931	.964
6	.877	.905	.935	.966
7	.885	.911	.939	.968
8	.892	.916	.943	.970
9	.898	.922	.947	.973
10	.905	.927	.950	.974
11	.912	.932	.954	.976
12	.918	.937	.957	.978
13	.924	.942	.960	.980
14	.930	.946	.964	.981
15	.935	.951	.967	.983
16	.941	.955	.969	.984
17	.945	.959	.972	.986
18	.950	.962	.974	.987
19	.955	.966	.977	.988
20	.959	.969	.979	.989
21 or more	.960	.970	.980	.990

Section 12.03. Option C Table.

(a) The following table is to be used for Participants who begin drawing Retirement benefits on or after April 1, 2021:

Period	Factor
5 Years	.985
10 Years	.947
15 Years	.898
20 Years	.846

(b) The following table is to be used for Participants who begin drawing Retirement benefits on or after January 1, 2013 and prior to April 1, 2021:

<u>Period</u>	<u>Factor</u>
5 Years	.973
10 Years	.911
15 Years	.842
20 Years	.780

Section 12.04. Life Annuity Factors to be Used in Computing Actuarial Reserve

Death Benefit.

(a) The following table is to be used for to calculate actuarial reserve death benefits, if any, payable on behalf of a Participant who dies on or after April 1, 2021:

Age	Factor	Age	Factor
21	12.7738	43	12.2346
22	12.7581	44	12.1725
23	12.7424	45	12.1045
24	12.7268	46	12.0302
25	12.7112	47	11.9493
26	12.6959	48	11.8616
27	12.6805	49	11.7667
28	12.6653	50	11.6643
29	12.6500	51	11.5536
30	12.6344	52	11.4383
31	12.6184	53	11.3184
32	12.6017	54	11.1942
33	12.5838	55	11.0658
34	12.5644	56	10.9331
35	12.5427	57	10.7963
36	12.5187	58	10.6551
37	12.4917	59	10.5088
38	12.4613	60	10.3561
39	12.4263	61	10.1959
40	12.3865	62	10.0267
41	12.3414	63	9.8470
42	12.2908	64	9.6560
		65	9.4536

(b) The following table is to be used for to calculate actuarial reserve death benefits, if any, payable on behalf of a Participant who dies on or after January 1, 2013 and prior to April 1, 2021:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Factor</u>
21	12.5773	43	11.4236
22	12.5567	44	11.3274
23	12.5337	45	11.2264
24	12.5082	46	11.1207
25	12.4804	47	11.0102
26	12.4501	48	10.8952
27	12.4170	49	10.7755
28	12.3809	50	10.6509
29	12.3416	51	10.5213
30	12.2994	52	10.3869
31	12.2541	53	10.2479
32	12.2056	54	10.1041
33	12.1535	55	9.9552
34	12.0976	56	9.8010
35	12.0383	57	9.6415
36	11.9754	58	9.4769
37	11.9088	59	9.3076
38	11.8384	60	9.1331
39	11.7640	61	8.9537
40	11.6855	62	8.7698
41	11.6026	63	8.5818
42	11.5154	64	8.3903
		65	8.1958

Section 12.05. Late Retirement Actuarial Increase Factors.

(a) The following table is to be used with respect to Participants who begin drawing Retirement benefits on or after April 1, 2021:

<u>Current Age*</u>	<u>Factor</u>
65	1.0000
66	1.1133
67	1.2425
68	1.3904
69	1.5603
70	1.7566

71	1.9843
72	2.2498
73	2.5613
74	2.9285
75	3.3646

*Assumes Normal Retirement at Age 65

(b) The following table is to be used with respect to Participants who begin drawing Retirement benefits on or after January 1, 2013 and prior to April 1, 2021:

<u>Current Age*</u>	<u>Factor</u>
65	1.0000
66	1.1317
67	1.2850
68	1.4645
69	1.6755
70	1.9246
71	2.2204
72	2.5734
73	2.9967
74	3.5073
75	4.1274

*Assumes Normal Retirement at Age 65

Figure factor using years and months. Divide difference between next highest age factor and age factor lower, by twelve (12), then multiply by number of months. Add this onto age for years factor to arrive at correct factor. (Round off to 4 decimals). Note: If normal retirement age differs from sixty-five (65), factors must be supplied by Actuary.

Section 12.06. Offset Calculations; Other Annuity Forms. Actuarial equivalence factors and conversion factors for other annuity forms shall be computed by an enrolled Actuary on an actuarially equivalent basis. Actual Participant and Beneficiary ages are used for purposes of Section 6.06. Conversion factors for other annuity forms assume the Participant is retiring at age sixty-five (65).

Effective on or after April 1, 2021, the actuarial equivalence factors for Participants for purposes of Section 6.06 and the conversion factors for purposes of other annuity forms are computed using 75% of the Pri-2012 head-count weighted Healthy Retiree Mortality Table for

males with rates multiplied by 1.25 and projected generationally from 2012 using 60% of the male improvement rates under the 2019 OASDI Trustees Report for the intermediate alternative with maturity values calculated as of 2023, plus 25% of the Pri-2012 head-count weighted Healthy Retiree Mortality Table for females with rates multiplied by 1.25 and projected generationally from 2012 using 60% of the female improvement rates under the 2019 OASDI Trustees Report for the intermediate alternative with maturity values calculated as of 2023 and with interest of seven and three-eighths percent (7.375%). Likewise, effective on or after April 1, 2021, the actuarial equivalence factors for Beneficiaries for purposes of Section 6.06 and the conversion factors for purposes of other annuity forms are computed using 25% of the Pri-2012 head-count weighted Healthy Retiree Mortality Table for males with rates multiplied by 1.25 and projected generationally from 2012 using 60% of the male improvement rates under the 2019 OASDI Trustees Report for the intermediate alternative with maturity values calculated as of 2023, plus 75% of the Pri-2012 head-count weighted Healthy Retiree Mortality Table for females with rates multiplied by 1.25 and projected generationally from 2012 using 60% of the female improvement rates under the 2019 OASDI Trustees Report for the intermediate alternative with maturity values calculated as of 2023 and with interest of seven and three-eighths percent (7.375%).

Effective January 1, 2018 through March 31, 2021, the actuarial equivalence factors for purposes of Section 6.06 shall be computed using the male RP 2000 Mortality Table set forward two (2) years for Participants and the female RP 2000 Mortality Table set forward one (1) year for Beneficiaries and with interest of seven and one-half percent (7.5%).

Effective January 1, 2018 through March 31, 2021, the conversion factors for other annuity forms are based on the UP 1984 Mortality Table without age setback and with interest of eight percent (8.0%).

Section 12.07. Lump Sum Payments. Effective January 1, 2001, a single sum distribution of benefits payable under Section 7.05, or upon plan termination, or if required for compliance with Code Section 401(a)(9), shall be computed on the basis of the actual age of the Participant and/or Beneficiary at the time of distribution and under the following actuarial assumptions:

(a) **Interest:** The applicable interest rate established by the Internal Revenue Service under Code Section 417(e)(3) and accompanying regulations, without regard to updates under the Pension Protection Act of 2006, as in effect for the month of September preceding the calendar year during which the distribution is paid.

(b) **Mortality:** The applicable mortality table established by the Internal Revenue Service pursuant to IRC Section 417(e)(3) and accompanying regulations, without regard to updates under the Pension Protection Act of 2006.

(c) **Age at Which Payments Begin:** The greater of the Normal Retirement Date or the age at the time of distribution to the Participant and/or Beneficiary.

ARTICLE XIII.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Section 13.01. Adopting Employer Contributions. The Adopting Employer shall make the necessary Contributions to fund the Plan. The amount of these Contributions shall be based upon the actuarial assumptions adopted by the Board of Trustees, the benefits provided in the Plan, and the number of Participants and their respective ages, Earnings, and lengths of Creditable Service and such other factors as the Board of Trustees shall deem appropriate to

assure proper funding of the Plan. Contributions by the Adopting Employer shall be applied as necessary to assure the payment of Accrued Benefits to Participants and Beneficiaries. Employer Contributions received by GMEBS by the last day of any month shall accrue Interest from the first day of the following month.

Section 13.02. Employee Contributions. Participants or certain classes of Participants may be required to make Contributions to the Plan as specified in the Adoption Agreement. Unless otherwise specified by the Adopting Employer, Employee Contributions shall accrue interest at the same rate and in the same manner as Employer Contributions. When elected by the Adopting Employer to be picked up, the Adopting Employer shall pick up and pay contributions in accordance with Code Section 414(h)(2) as follows:

(1) The contributions, although designated as Employee contributions, shall be paid by that Adopting Employer in lieu of contributions by the Employee as elected by the Adopting Employer in the Adoption Agreement, which shall be effective on a prospective basis and constitute written formal action to implement the pick-up, and

(2) The Employee must not be given the option, on or after the effective date of the pick-up, to have a cash or deferred election right (within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.401(k)-1(a)(3)) with respect to designated Employee contributions, which includes not having the option of receiving the amounts directly instead of having them paid to the Plan.

Section 13.03. Withdrawal of Employee Contributions.

(a) Unless otherwise specified in the Adoption Agreement, if a non-vested Participant's employment is terminated for any reason other than death, the Participant shall request a withdrawal of the Participant's Employee Contributions plus interest, if any.

(b) Unless otherwise specified in the Adoption Agreement, if a vested Participant's employment is terminated for any reason other than death or Retirement, the Participant may request a withdrawal of the Participant's Employee Contributions (including any Contributions made to purchase prior service credit) plus interest, unless the Participant chooses to claim the Participant's vested benefit, in which case the Participant's Employee Contributions shall not be withdrawn.

(c) Upon the Participant's termination, the Pension Committee shall provide notice to the Participant of the opportunity to withdraw Employee Contributions (including any Contributions made to purchase prior service credit, if permitted under the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto), and the Participant shall have sixty (60) days after receipt of such notice to submit a request for withdrawal on an Applicable Form provided for that purpose. Failure to make such a request within this sixty (60) day period shall result in the forfeiture of a vested Participant's right to request withdrawal upon termination and shall result in forfeiture of a non-vested Participant's right to the accrual of further interest. Unless otherwise specified in the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto, upon withdrawal of Employee Contributions (including any Contributions made to purchase prior service credit, if permitted under the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto) pursuant to this Section, the Participant shall forfeit for the Participant, the Participant's heirs and assigns all the Participant's rights, title, and interest in the Plan, except as provided in subsection (d) below. Employee Contributions shall be returned to the Participant within ninety (90) days of the receipt of the Participant's request. A Participant may not withdraw Employee Contributions (including any Contributions made to purchase prior service credit, if permitted under the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto) as long as the Participant remains in the employment of the Adopting Employer and the

Participant may not borrow against Employee Contributions (including any Contributions made to purchase prior service credit, if permitted under the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto) at any time. A partial withdrawal of Employee Contributions is not permitted. Unless otherwise provided in the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto, if a Participant who has made both mandatory Employee Contributions and Contributions to purchase prior service credit withdraws any of such Contributions, all mandatory Employee Contributions and Contributions to purchase prior service credit shall be withdrawn.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in the Employer's Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto, if a Participant withdraws Employee Contributions (including any Contributions made to purchase prior service credit, if permitted under the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto) in accordance with this Section, and if such Participant later resumes employment with the Adopting Employer in an Eligible Employee class, then any service credit or benefit amount forfeited by virtue of the withdrawal may be reinstated upon the Participant's reemployment with the Adopting Employer, provided: (1) the Participant repays within six (6) months following the reemployment date and prior to Termination of Employment with the Adopting Employer all amounts previously withdrawn plus interest at the assumed actuarial rate of return for the GMEBS Retirement Fund established by the Board as of date of repayment, compounded annually from the date of return of contributions through the date of repayment; and (2) provided the Participant satisfied the break in service rules, as applicable. Repayment of Employee Contributions (including any Contributions made to purchase prior service credit) under this subsection shall be made in a single lump sum, by a rollover or transfer of pre-tax funds described in Sections 10.03 and 10.04 of this Plan, a lump sum payment of after-tax funds,

after-tax payroll deductions, or any other method established by the Board, subject to any limitations included in the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto.

(e) For purposes of this Section, the amount of "interest" shall be determined as of the date that the withdrawal under this Section is made, and the amount of interest shall comply with any applicable provisions of Section 4(i)(10)(B)(i) of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act ("ADEA").

Section 13.04. Cessation of Contributions Without Penalty. The Employer may provide in the Adoption Agreement that Participants who have met certain retirement benefit eligibility requirements shall no longer be required to make contributions to the Plan. Effective on or after October 1, 2016, Participants who are receiving an In-Service Distribution or who are otherwise receiving Retirement benefits while employed with the Adopting Employer shall not be required to make contributions to the Plan.

Section 13.05. Continued Contributions During Leave of Absence. Subject to the applicable limits of Code Section 415, if the terms of an authorized leave of absence permit the Participant to continue accumulating Credited Service during said leave of absence, the Participant shall be required to continue making Employee Contributions in the same amount and at the same rate as immediately prior to the commencement of the leave of absence.

Section 13.06. Return of Contributions Upon Failure to Exhaust.

(a) **Death of a Retired Participant.** If a Retired Participant elects the Option A form of benefit payment, and if upon the death of the Participant the sum of all benefits paid to the Participant does not equal or exceed the amount of the Participant's Employee Contributions plus interest posted thereon, then a lump sum payment in the amount of the difference, less any amounts paid to the Retired Participant's surviving Spouse or to the Retired Participant's estate

pursuant to Section 8.12, shall be paid to the Retired Participant's designated beneficiary as defined in this subsection (a), or if there is no such designated beneficiary, to the Retired Participant's estate. In the event that 1) a Retired Participant elects retirement benefit payment Option B or C, 2) the Post-Retirement Beneficiary predeceases the Participant, and 3) upon the death of the Retired Participant, the sum of all benefits paid does not equal or exceed the amount of the Participant's Employee Contributions plus interest posted thereon, then a lump sum payment in the amount of the difference shall be paid to the Retired Participant's designated beneficiary as defined in this subsection (a), or if there is no such designated beneficiary, to the Participant's estate. In the event that 1) a Retired Participant elects retirement benefit payment Option B or C, 2) the Post-Retirement Beneficiary survives the Retired Participant and dies after such Beneficiary has begun receiving survivor benefit payments, and 3) the sum of all benefits paid does not equal or exceed the amount of the Participant's Employee contributions plus interest posted thereon, said lump sum payment shall be paid to the Post-Retirement Beneficiary's designated beneficiary as defined in this subsection (a) or, if there is no such designated beneficiary, to the Post-Retirement Beneficiary's estate. For purposes of this subsection, the term "designated beneficiary" shall mean the surviving Spouse of the Retired Participant or Post-Retirement Beneficiary, as applicable, and the term "surviving" shall mean surviving the Retired Participant or Post-Retirement Beneficiary, as applicable, by at least thirty-two (32) days.

(b) In-Service Death of Participant Before Satisfying Pre-Retirement Death Benefit Eligibility Requirements; Death of Terminated Vested Participant Where No Terminated Vested Death Benefit Is Payable. If a Participant dies in the Service of an Adopting Employer before satisfying the eligibility requirements for an in-service death benefit, the Participant's Employee

Contributions plus interest posted thereon, if any, shall be paid to the Participant's designated beneficiary as defined in this subsection (b), or if there is no such designated beneficiary, to the Participant's estate. If a Terminated Vested Participant dies before Retirement and the Plan does not provide for Terminated Vested death benefits to be payable upon the death of such Participant, the Participant's Employee Contributions plus interest posted thereon, if any, shall be paid to the Participant's designated beneficiary as defined in this subsection (b), or if there is no such designated beneficiary, to the Participant's estate. For purposes of this subsection, the term "designated beneficiary" shall mean the surviving Spouse of the Participant and the term "surviving" shall mean surviving the Participant by at least thirty-two (32) days.

(c) Death of a Participant or Terminated Vested Participant After Satisfying Pre-Retirement Death Benefit Eligibility Requirements. The following provision shall apply in the event that a Participant or Terminated Vested Participant who has satisfied the eligibility requirements for a pre-retirement death benefit dies before Retirement, and payments are made to a Pre-Retirement Beneficiary under the Plan. In the event the sum of all pre-retirement benefits paid to a Pre-Retirement Beneficiary(ies) by virtue of the death of a Participant or Terminated Participant, as applicable, does not equal or exceed the amount of the Participant's or Terminated Participant's Employee Contributions plus interest posted thereon, a lump sum payment in the amount of the difference shall be paid to the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary's designated beneficiary as defined in this subsection (c), or if there is no such designated beneficiary, to the estate of the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary (or the designated beneficiary or estate of the last Pre-Retirement Beneficiary receiving payment, as applicable with respect to Plans that permit payment to multiple Pre-Retirement Beneficiaries). For purposes of this subsection, the term "designated beneficiary" shall mean the surviving Spouse of the Pre-

Retirement Beneficiary and the term "surviving" shall mean surviving the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary by at least thirty-two (32) days.

(d) For purposes of this Section, the amount of "interest posted" shall be determined as of the date that the lump sum payment payable under this Section is distributed, and the amount of interest posted shall comply with any applicable provisions of Section 4(i)(10)(B)(i) of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act ("ADEA").

ARTICLE XIV.

PENSION COMMITTEE

Section 14.01. Creation and Composition. There shall be a Pension Committee for each Adopting Employer. Unless otherwise specified in the Adoption Agreement, the Pension Committee shall be composed of the following:

For Municipal Corporations:

- (a) City Clerk and City Manager.
- (b) Two (2) Employee representatives appointed by the Governing Authority.
- (c) Three (3) appointed members of the Governing Authority.

For Other Adopting Employers:

- (a) Executive Director.
- (b) Two (2) Employee representatives appointed by the Governing Authority.
- (c) Four (4) appointed members of the Governing Authority.

Section 14.02. Responsibilities. The Pension Committee shall have the following responsibilities:

(a) In its dealings with GMEBS or its duly appointed representatives, the Pension Committee shall:

(1) Assure that accurate and complete information is furnished to GMEBS with respect to eligibility for participation, Total Credited Service, Earnings, and Final Average Earnings of Eligible Employees, including elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority and Municipal Legal Officers if they are designated as Eligible Employees in the Adoption Agreement.

(2) Assure the collection and remittance to GMEBS of all required Contributions (including Employee Contributions, if applicable).

(3) Collect, and furnish to GMEBS, in accordance with its rules and regulations, all reports, forms, and other records required or necessary to administer the Plan, including but not limited to completed applications for participation (if applicable), employee elections to participate (if participation is optional for a particular class), employee census reports reflecting information necessary to complete the annual plan valuation, completed pre-retirement beneficiary designation forms, completed leave of absence reports, and completed retirement applications (including disability retirement applications, if the Adopting Employer has elected in its Adoption Agreement to provide disability retirement benefits).

(4) Provide reasonable prior notice to GMEBS of any amendments that the Adopting Employer intends to make to the Adoption Agreement.

(5) Notify GMEBS of the termination of Participating Employees, and, if they are permitted in the Adoption Agreement to participate in the Plan, the vacation of office by elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority and Municipal Legal Officers. Said notification should indicate whether the Employee has been involuntarily

terminated without cause (see Section 9.04 concerning 5-year vesting for Employees involuntarily terminated without cause).

(6) Notify GMEBS when the Adopting Employer learns that an Eligible Employee, Participant, Terminated Vested Participant, Retired Participant or Beneficiary has been convicted of a public employment-related crime or other crime which could result in a reduction or forfeiture of benefits (see Section 9.06).

(7) If the Adopting Employer has elected in the Adoption Agreement to provide disability retirement benefits, notify GMEBS of determinations made by the Pension Committee with respect to disability (see Section 2.23(b)) or continuation of disability (see Section 6.06(e)).

(8) Notify GMEBS when the Adopting Employer learns of the death of an Eligible Employee, Participant, Terminated Vested Participant, Retired Participant, or Beneficiary.

(b) In dealing with those persons participating or eligible to participate in the Plan, the Pension Committee shall:

(1) Be responsible for the enrollment of Eligible Employees, including elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority and Municipal Legal Officers if they are included as Eligible Employees in the Adoption Agreement.

(2) Handle distribution of all reports, forms, or other plan-related materials to Participants, including but not limited to plan summary booklets and annual participant statements.

(3) Handle disputes between the Adopting Employer and Participants in all matters regarding the Plan and notify GMEBS of same.

(4) Handle and distribute as necessary any notices of eligibility, benefits, available options, and any other notices required by this Plan, Contract, or rules and regulations of GMEBS.

(5) Address Employee inquiries concerning eligibility for participation in the Plan, enrollment, eligibility for retirement, disability, and/or death benefits, benefit payment options, and other terms, conditions, and features of the Plan.

(c) The Pension Committee is not authorized to interpret the Basic Plan Document, or matters of State and federal law as they relate to interpretation of the Basic Plan Document. These matters are reserved for the sole discretion of the Board.

Section 14.03. Secretary. The Adopting Employer shall designate in the Adoption Agreement a Pension Committee Secretary who shall have full authority to represent the Pension Committee in all communications with GMEBS and the Adopting Employer's Employees, including elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority and Municipal Legal Officers.

Section 14.04. Legal Assistance. The City Attorney or other attorney appointed by the Governing Authority shall furnish legal advice to the Pension Committee with respect to the Plan and the Committee's assigned responsibilities hereunder.

Section 14.05. Plan Representative. The Adopting Employer shall designate in the Adoption Agreement an individual to serve as Plan Representative. The Plan Representative shall have full authority to represent the Governing Authority in all communications with GMEBS and the Adopting Employer's Employees. The Pension Committee Secretary may serve as the Plan Representative.

ARTICLE XV.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Section 15.01. Definitions. As used in this Article, "Act" refers to the Act of the General Assembly creating the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (O.C.G.A. § 47-5-1 et seq., a copy of which is included in the Appendix hereto), as amended.

Section 15.02. Powers. The powers of the Board of Trustees as fixed by the Act are hereby incorporated as part of the Plan. The Adopting Employer agrees that, in the administration of the Plan, it will comply with all rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Trustees under its authority as granted by the Act.

Section 15.03. Composition and Election. The composition of the Board of Trustees and the election of its members shall be as provided by the Act and as may be provided in the bylaws of the Board of Trustees.

Section 15.04. Officers. The election of officers by the Board of Trustees shall be conducted as may be prescribed by the Act and as may be provided in the bylaws of the Board of Trustees.

Section 15.05. Notice of Elections. The Board of Trustees shall provide through its bylaws for the giving of notice of elections, notice of any vacancy on the Board, the method or manner in which votes may be cast, and any other matter necessary or incident to the election of members of the Board. The Board may also provide for a proxy vote, and may determine how, when, and in what manner voting by proxy may be had in accordance with the Act and as may be provided in the bylaws of the Board of Trustees.

Section 15.06. Voting. Each Adopting Employer shall be entitled to vote in any election or other matter placed before the membership as provided in the bylaws of the Board of Trustees.

Section 15.07. Voting Representative for the Adopting Employer. Unless otherwise indicated in writing by an Adopting Employer's chief executive or chief administrative officer, for the purpose of casting the Adopting Employer's vote in any election of members of the Board of Trustees and in any other matters which the membership has the authority and responsibility for resolving, each trustee shall be considered the official representative for the Employer for which the trustee serves as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority or Employee. For each other Adopting Employer, unless otherwise indicated in writing by an Adopting Employer's chief executive or chief administrative officer, the chief executive or chief administrative officer shall be the Adopting Employer's official representative for the purpose of casting its vote in any election of members of the Board of Trustees and in any other matters which the membership has the authority and responsibility for resolving.

Section 15.08. Qualified Public Accountant. The Administrator may engage on behalf of all Participants an independent qualified public accountant to conduct such an examination of any financial statements of the Plan, and of other books and records of the Plan, as the qualified public accountant may deem necessary to enable said accountant to form an opinion as to whether the financial statements and schedules required to be included in the annual report of the Plan are presented fairly in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to a governmental plan, applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding Plan Year and who shall perform such other services for the Plan as the Administrator may require.

Section 15.09. Fiduciary Insurance. The Board of Trustees may purchase fiduciary liability insurance for any of its fiduciaries, or for itself, to cover liability or losses occurring by reason of the act or omission of a fiduciary.

ARTICLE XVI.

GMEBS TRUST AGREEMENT

Section 16.01. General Provisions. The GMEBS Trust Agreement is the separate document for the establishment and administration of the Trust Fund. All contributions under the Plan shall be transferred to the Trust Fund to be held, managed, invested, and distributed as part of the Trust Fund by the Board in accordance with the provisions of the Plan and separate GMEBS Trust Agreement. At no time prior to the satisfaction of all liabilities with respect to Participants and their Beneficiaries shall any part of the corpus or income be used for, or diverted to, purposes other than the exclusive benefit of the Participants and their beneficiaries, including the payment of reasonable fees, taxes (if applicable) and expenses of the Plan and Trust, subject to the provisions in Article XVIII of this Basic Plan Document relating to the distribution of excess assets in the event of a plan termination. In resolving any conflict between provisions of the Plan and provisions of the Trust, the provisions of the Plan shall control.

Section 16.02. Group Trust Participation.

(a) If the investment is otherwise a permitted investment under Chapters 5 and 20 of Title 47 of the O.C.G.A., the Board may, unless otherwise restricted by law, transfer all or any portion of the assets of the Trust to a collective or common group trust, as permitted under Revenue Ruling 81-100, as modified by Revenue Rulings 2004-67 and 2011-1 (or subsequent guidance), that is operated or maintained exclusively for the commingling and collective investment of monies, and in such case the group trust agreement shall be deemed adopted as

part of the GMEBS Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Trust Agreement without further action by the Board.

(b) The separate account maintained by the group trust for an Adopting Employer's Plan pursuant to subsection (a) above shall not be used for, or diverted to, any purpose other than for the exclusive benefit of the Participants and beneficiaries of the Adopting Employer's Plan, including the payment of reasonable fees, taxes (if applicable) and expenses of the Plan and Trust, subject to the provisions in Article XVIII of this Basic Plan Document relating to the distribution of excess assets in the event of a plan termination.

(c) For purposes of valuation, the value of the separate account maintained by the group trust for an Adopting Employer's Plan shall be the fair market value of the portion of the group trust held for the Adopting Employer's Plan, determined in accordance with generally recognized valuation procedures.

ARTICLE XVII.

CLAIMS AND LITIGATION

Section 17.01. Disputes. In the event of disagreement between a Participant and the Adopting Employer with respect to any rights, claims, or responsibilities under the Plan which cannot be resolved by the Pension Committee as provided under Article XV, the Participant may make an appeal regarding such rights, claims, or responsibilities to the Governing Authority. In the event that any such rights, claims, or responsibilities result in a suit or other legal action by a Participant or Beneficiary, such action shall be defended in the same manner as other suits against the Adopting Employer. Any legal action on behalf of the Adopting Employer with regard to the Plan shall be first authorized by the Governing Authority and shall be conducted in the manner prescribed by the Governing Authority. GMEBS shall have no responsibility to defend or pursue legal action arising under the Plan.

Section 17.02. Disputes involving Federal or State Law Compliance. In the event there is a dispute involving federal or state law compliance, between a Participant or Beneficiary and the Governing Authority or the Trustees, or between an Adopting Employer and the Trustees, GMEBS is a necessary party to any such dispute, or suit, settlement, or release arising therefrom.

Section 17.03. Failure to Act. GMEBS shall not be responsible for the failure of the Adopting Employers to perform any of their obligations under the Plan, including the duty to remit payments to GMEBS, to provide necessary records concerning Participants and their Earnings to GMEBS, or to perform any other functions required of the Adopting Employers by applicable law, the Basic Plan Document, the Adoption Agreement (including any Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, if applicable), the separate GMEBS Trust Agreement, or by the rules and regulations of GMEBS. To the extent permitted under state and federal law, each Adopting Employer shall indemnify and hold GMEBS harmless for any failure to pay, delay in payment or other errors in processing benefits pursuant to this Plan due to the Adopting Employer's failure to perform its obligations under the Plan or provide accurate data to GMEBS for the purpose of administering the Plan.

ARTICLE XVIII.

AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION

Section 18.01. Amendment of the Plan by an Adopting Employer. The Governing Authority shall have the right at any time, and from time to time, to amend, in whole or in part, any or all of its elections in the Adoption Agreement; provided, however, that no such amendment shall:

- (a) Reduce the previously Accrued Benefit of any Participant or Beneficiary; or,
- (b) Authorize or permit any part of the Trust Fund held by the Board to be diverted to purposes other than for the exclusive benefit of Participants and their Beneficiaries; or,

(c) Operate to deprive any Participant or Beneficiary of any rights or benefits irrevocably Vested in said Participant or Beneficiary under the Plan prior to such amendment, except that the Governing Authority may make any and all changes or modifications to the Adoption Agreement necessary to qualify the Plan or to keep the Plan qualified under the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations thereunder, or any amendment thereto.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Adopting Employer may amend the Adoption Agreement to the extent necessary to satisfy Code Section 415.

~~(d)~~ No amendment to an Adoption Agreement shall become effective until approved by the Administrator. In order to be approved by the Administrator, any amendment must comply with all applicable state and federal laws and the Basic Plan Document. If the Administrator does not approve an amendment, the Administrator shall continue to administer the Plan as if such amendment had not been made.

In no event may an Adopting Employer amend the Basic Plan Document or the GMEBS Trust Agreement separate document.

Section 18.02. Amendment of Plan by GMEBS.

(a) It is the intent of the Board that the Basic Plan Document, Adoption Agreement form and Addendum form (collectively referred to for purposes of this Section 18.02 as "Plan") shall be and remain qualified for tax purposes under the Code. The Administrator shall timely submit the Plan for approval under the Code as necessary, and all expenses incident thereto shall be borne by the GMEBS Investment Fund.

(b) GMEBS will maintain a record of the Participating Employers, and GMEBS will make reasonable and diligent efforts to ensure that Adopting Employers have actually received and are aware of all Plan amendments and that such Adopting Employers adopt new documents

when necessary. The provisions of this subsection shall supersede other provisions of the Plan to the extent those other provisions are inconsistent.

(c) The Board or the Provider, as directed by the Board, hereby reserves the right to amend the Plan without the consent of the Adopting Employers or of Participants (or any Beneficiaries thereof) to make desired changes in the design of the Plan. A true copy of the resolution of the Board approving such amendment shall be delivered to the Administrator and the Adopting Employers. The Plan shall be amended in the manner and effective as of the date set forth in such resolution, and the Adopting Employers, Employees, Participants, Beneficiaries, the Administrator, and all others having any interest under the Plan shall be bound thereby.

(d) The Provider shall have the authority to advise and prepare amendments to the Plan, for approval by the Board, on behalf of all Adopting Employers for changes in the Code, the regulations thereunder, revenue rulings, other statements published by Internal Revenue Service, including model, sample, or other required good faith amendments (but only if their adoption will not cause such Plan to be individually designed), and for corrections of prior approved plans. These amendments shall be applied to all Adopting Employers. In any event, any amendment prepared by the Provider and approved by the Board will be provided by the Administrator to Adopting Employers.

(e) Notwithstanding the foregoing paragraphs (c) and (d), effective on or after January 1, 2016, for any Adopting Employer as of either:

(1) the date the Internal Revenue Service requires the Adopting Employer to file Form 5300 as an individually designed plan as a result of an amendment by the Adopting Employer to incorporate a type of Plan not allowable in a pre-approved plan, or

(2) as of the date the Plan is otherwise considered an individually designed plan due to the nature and extent of the amendments, such Adopting Employer shall execute a resolution to adopt any amendments that are approved by the Board after the date under subparagraph (1) or (2) above, as applicable, within the earlier of (i) ninety (90) days after such Board approval, or (ii) if applicable, the remedial amendment period under Code Section 401(b) as applicable to governmental plans. If the Adopting Employer is required to obtain a determination letter for any reason in order to maintain reliance on the opinion letter, the Provider's authority to amend the Plan on behalf of the Adopting Employer is conditioned on the Plan receiving a favorable determination letter.

Section 18.03. Termination by Adopting Employer.

(a) The Adopting Employer expects the Plan to be continued indefinitely but, of necessity, reserves the right to terminate its Plan and Contributions thereunder at any time by action of the Governing Authority, subject to the Administrator's approval. Such termination shall be accomplished by the adoption of an ordinance or resolution (as applicable) by the Governing Authority terminating the Plan. Such ordinance or resolution (as applicable) shall conform to the rules and regulations of the Board governing Plan termination to the extent they are consistent with this provision.

(b) Upon full or partial termination or a complete discontinuance of Employer contributions, all affected Eligible Employees shall be deemed to be Participants, and the Accrued Benefits of such Participants shall be Vested to the extent funded required by federal law. The Pension Committee shall notify Participants, Terminated Vested Participants, Retired Participants, and Beneficiaries of the full termination of the Plan, and shall provide a copy of such notice and the names and addresses of the persons notified to the Administrator.

(c) Upon termination, the Adopting Employer shall provide to the Administrator current Participant information necessary to calculate Accrued Benefits. Upon receipt of such information, the Administrator shall prepare a list of all the Adopting Employer's Participants, Retired Participants, Terminated Vested Participants, and Beneficiaries, showing for each the present value of each individual's Accrued Benefit, as determined by the GMEBS Actuary as of the date of termination.

(d) The Administrator, in accordance with the Board's current rules and regulations, and with generally accepted accounting practices, shall determine the value of the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund as of the termination date. All mandatory Employee Contributions, if any, plus interest, and all Contributions made to purchase service credit, if any, plus any applicable interest, shall be paid from the Trust Fund to the Participants, to the extent of available Trust Fund assets. The Administrator shall then deduct from the Trust Fund a termination fee established by GMEBS for services provided in terminating the Plan. The Administrator, pursuant to the Board's rules and regulations, shall then allocate the remaining assets for distribution of the present value of Accrued Benefits in lump sums to the classes listed below. The benefits of each class shall be satisfied before proceeding to the next class. If at any time the remaining Plan assets would be insufficient to provide the present value of Accrued Benefits for the class in question, the remaining assets shall be applied on a pro rata basis within that class, and all subsequent classes shall receive no benefit. The pro rata allocation referred to above will be determined based upon the comparative value of each class member's Accrued Benefit (present value expressed in a lump sum) when measured against the lump sum present value of Accrued Benefits for the class as a whole.

CLASS A – Retired Participants or Beneficiaries who are receiving payments as of the termination date.

CLASS B – Participants delaying Retirement beyond the Normal Retirement Date.

CLASS C – Participants eligible for Early Retirement.

CLASS D – Other Participants, terminated or active, who have met the requirements for vesting as of the termination date.

CLASS E – All other Participants on a pro rata basis. Payment of benefits to Retired Participants, Beneficiaries, and Participants by the Administrator as a result of a Plan termination shall be limited solely to the assets available in the Trust Fund.

(e) Any reversion of excess assets is only permitted if the excess assets resulted from an erroneous actuarial computation, following the use of acceptable actuarial procedures using reasonable assumptions as to interest and mortality pursuant to Treasury Regulation § 1.401-2(b)(1). In its termination ordinance, the Governing Authority shall instruct the Administrator as to the distribution of excess assets, if any, remaining after the satisfaction of Accrued Benefits for the classes enumerated herein. In the absence of such instructions, any excess assets shall be distributed to the Adopting Employer.

(f) Upon distribution of the assets as specified above, the Adoption Agreement, Basic Plan Document, and the separate GMEBS Trust Agreement shall be regarded as terminated as to that Adopting Employer and no Participant or Beneficiary shall have any further rights or claim herein.

Section 18.04. Amendment of the Plan to Transfer Assets; Termination of Contract.

(a) The Adopting Employer may amend the Adoption Agreement by ordinance or resolution (as applicable) so as to provide for the transfer of assets to a successor trustee and to terminate the existing Contract between the Adopting Employer and the Board. Any such ordinance or resolution shall comply with Section 18.01 and with the requirements of the rules and regulations of the Board regarding amendment and transfer of Plan assets, to the extent they are consistent with this Section.

(b) In addition to other requirements, such ordinance or resolution shall:

(1) Designate a new trustee or trustees to replace the Board;

(2) Establish a month-end termination date, which shall be used for purposes of valuing the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund assets and which shall be fixed by the Administrator, taking into account the time reasonably required to liquidate GMEBS Retirement Trust Fund assets (if necessary) for purposes of the termination and transfer, the impact of the termination on the financial integrity of the Retirement System, and the time reasonably required for GMEBS and the terminating Employer to complete necessary administrative tasks associated with the termination. The termination date will be no earlier than forty-five (45) days after the Adopting Employer provides written notice to the Administrator of its intent to terminate;

(3) Provide that after the established termination date, GMEBS shall have no further responsibility or obligation to administer the terminating Employer's retirement plan, except as otherwise agreed and provided for by GMEBS and the terminating Employer in the ordinance or resolution;

(4) Provide that the value of assets of the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund as of the established termination date shall be determined based upon the value of the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund as reflected in the unaudited financial statements for the GMEBS Retirement Trust Fund as of the established termination date, subject to verification and reconciliation against the most recent GMEBS Retirement Trust Fund audit coinciding with or following the termination date.

(5) Provide for the transfer of assets held in the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund to the successor trustee as follows:

(A) that no transfer shall take place until a successor Code Section 401(a) retirement plan and trust document have been adopted by the Adopting Employer and furnished to GMEBS, together with a current IRS determination letter or an opinion letter from an attorney confirming that the successor retirement plan is tax qualified under Code Section 401(a);

(B) that as soon as reasonably practicable after the established termination date, the Administrator will make an initial transfer to the successor trustee of an amount to be determined by the Administrator in its sole discretion, but in no event more than eighty-five percent (85%) of the value of the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund, as reflected in the then most recently completed unaudited monthly financial statement for the GMEBS Retirement Trust Fund; and that prior to the completion of the initial transfer, the Administrator shall deduct from the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund a termination fee established by GMEBS for services provided in effecting the termination of the Adopting

Employer's participation in GMEBS and the transfer of assets to the successor trustee;

(C) that as soon as reasonably practicable after completion of the GMEBS Retirement Fund unaudited financial statement for the month including the established termination date, the Administrator will make a second transfer to the successor trustee in an amount equal to the remainder of the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund assets, if any; and that in any event distribution of assets to the successor trustee shall be completed within the time limits specified in the separate GMEBS Trust Agreement;

(D) that after the established termination date, any funds remaining in the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund shall not share in the gains or losses of the GMEBS Retirement Trust Fund, notwithstanding any provision of the GMEBS Basic Plan Document or separate GMEBS Trust Agreement to the contrary; and that any investment gains or losses that would otherwise be credited to or debited from the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund after the established termination date shall not be taken into account. Rather, after the established termination date through completion of the transfer of assets, any amount remaining in the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund shall earn interest at the same rate as the GMEBS active cash management account which shall be credited monthly until the transfer of assets is completed; and,

(E) that if the audit of the GMEBS Retirement Trust Fund for the year including the established termination date reflects that the value of the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund on the termination date was understated or overstated in

the unaudited financial statement relied upon, then GMEBS or the Adopting Employer shall remit to the other the amount of any overpayment or underpayment, unless said amount is less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000). Such remittance shall be made in a lump sum with interest. Said interest shall be calculated at the same rate as the GMEBS active cash management account and credited monthly as of the last day of each month following the established termination date up until the date of the remittance.

(6) Provide that the assets of the Plan will continue to be held by the successor trustee for the exclusive benefit of Participants and Beneficiaries.

(7) State that the existing retirement rights of Employees, Participants, and Beneficiaries shall not be impaired.

(8) Provide that upon completion of the transfer of assets, the GMEBS Board of Trustees shall have no further fiduciary responsibility for investment of the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund assets or payment of liabilities, and the Adopting Employer's Contract and participation under the separate GMEBS Trust Agreement and Trust Fund shall be considered terminated.

(9) Provide that, to the extent permitted by federal, state or local law, the Adopting Employer agrees to indemnify the Board of Trustees and the Administrator from and against any loss, liability or claim arising out of the Employer's maintenance of the Plan from and after the date of the final transfer of assets.

(10) Provide that the surviving plan must provide each Participant on whose behalf Plan assets are transferred a benefit equal to or greater than the benefit the Participant had accrued, if any, immediately before transfer of assets.

Section 18.05. Involuntary Termination.

(a) The Board may involuntarily terminate the Plan as to an Adopting Employer in the event of any of the following occurrences:

(1) Failure of the Employer to comply with the terms of the Basic Plan Document, Adoption Agreement (or Addendum), or separate GMEBS Trust Agreement including, but not limited to, failure to pay required Contributions in a timely manner;

(2) Failure of the Adopting Employer to provide to GMEBS or respond to requests from GMEBS for information necessary for GMEBS to administer the Plan;

(3) Failure of the Adopting Employer to adequately fund the Plan in accordance with the GMEBS funding policy, or to adopt or abide by a funding action plan approved by the Board;

(4) Receipt of written notice from an Adopting Employer's Governing Authority of its intent to discontinue further Contributions;

(5) Insistence by the Employer on enforcing an amendment to the Adoption Agreement which the Board has disapproved; or

(6) Failure of the Adopting Employer to maintain qualification status under Code Sections 401(a) and 414(d).

(b) The rights, benefits, and entitlements under the Plan of any Participant, including those of the Participant's Beneficiary, any other provision of the Plan notwithstanding, before or after Retirement, death, or other termination of employment shall, upon the failure of the Adopting Employer to pay and to continue to pay its required Contributions, be limited as specified in this Article.

(c) In the event of an involuntary termination, the GMEBS Board may in its sole discretion adopt a resolution providing for: (i) designation of the members of the Employer's Governing Authority as successor trustees for the Plan; (ii) designation of a person or entity other than the Employer's Governing Authority as successor trustee for the Plan; or (iii) outright termination of the Plan and distribution of assets to Participants and Beneficiaries. The specific terms and conditions associated with involuntary termination shall be as provided in the Board resolution. Neither the Administrator nor the GMEBS Board shall be subject to lawsuit or liability arising from the exercise of its discretion as provided herein.

(d) The Administrator shall notify the Governing Authority, Participants, and Beneficiaries in writing of an involuntary termination and the reasons therefor. Said notice shall also fix a termination date. Upon the request of the Administrator, the Employer shall within a reasonable period provide the Administrator with the last known addresses of Participants and Beneficiaries for this purpose. Neither the Administrator nor the GMEBS Board shall be subject to lawsuit or liability for non-compliance with this paragraph arising from the failure of the Employer to provide such information to the Administrator.

(e) The Administrator shall determine the value of the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund as of the termination date in accordance with the procedures described in Section 18.05(b)(4) of this Article. The Board shall deduct from the Trust Fund a termination fee established by GMEBS for services provided in effecting termination of the Adopting Employer's participation in GMEBS.

(f) Successor Trustee.

(1) Governing Authority as Successor Trustee. If upon involuntary termination, the GMEBS Board by resolution designates the members of the Employer's

Governing Authority as successor trustees, the Adopting Employer shall be obligated to furnish GMEBS with a successor retirement plan and related documents as provided in Section 18.04(b)(5)(A). Distribution of assets to the Governing Authority or to a designee specified by the Governing Authority in writing, as successor trustee, shall then occur in accordance with the transfer procedures described in Section 18.04(b)(5). Payment of benefits to Retired Participants and Beneficiaries shall become the responsibility of the Governing Authority, as successor trustees, as of the termination date, except as otherwise provided in the Board's termination resolution.

(2) Other Entity as Successor Trustee. If upon involuntary termination, the GMEBS Board by resolution designates a successor trustee other than the members of the Employer's Governing Authority, distribution of assets to the successor trustee shall occur in accordance with the transfer procedures described in Section 18.04(b)(5) upon the Board's receipt of retirement plan and related documents as described in Section 18.04(b)(5)(A), and any other information reasonably requested by the Board. Payment of benefits to the Retired Participants and Beneficiaries shall become the responsibility of the successor trustee as of the termination date, except as otherwise provided in the Board's termination resolution.

(3) Termination without Successor Trustee. If upon involuntary termination, the GMEBS Board by resolution terminates the Employer's Plan outright, the assets of the Employer's Trust Fund will not be transferred to a successor trustee, but will be distributed to Participants and Beneficiaries in accordance with and subject to the termination provisions of Section 18.03(b)-(f), except as otherwise provided in this subsection. The Employer shall provide current Participant information necessary to

calculate Accrued Benefits as required under Section 18.03(c), within a reasonable period after the Administrator's request for such information. Any excess assets remaining after satisfaction of Accrued Benefits and payment of the termination fee shall be distributed to the Employer.

(g) Freezing of Benefit Accruals. In the event of an Employer's failure to pay required Contributions, the GMEBS Board may by resolution freeze benefit accruals under the Employer's Plan, as an alternative to involuntary termination. If the Board adopts such a resolution, the Employer's Plan must continue to be maintained as a qualified plan and the Employer will be responsible for funding benefits as determined under the frozen Plan's provisions. The Board's resolution to freeze benefit accruals shall specify the extent to which Service and Earnings after the freeze date will or will not be counted for purposes of computing the amount of benefits payable under the Plan, and for purposes of meeting the minimum service requirements for vesting and benefit eligibility under the Plan. The resolution shall also specify the conditions for recommencing benefit accruals under the Plan. The resolution may also provide that, in the event of an Employer's continued failure to pay required Contributions, the Employer's Plan will be terminated outright as of a date certain or upon the Board's adoption of a resolution providing for outright termination, consistent with the provisions of subsection (f)(3).

(h) The Board in its discretion may require an Employer to obtain appropriate IRS approval of the qualified status of the terminating Plan or a successor plan.

(i) In the event that an Adopting Employer fails to comply with the terms of the Basic Plan Document, Adoption Agreement (or Addendum), or the separate GMEBS Trust Agreement including, but not limited to, failure to pay required Contributions in a timely manner,

the Board may in its sole discretion pursue any other legal or equitable means that it deems appropriate, including the filing of a writ of mandamus, to facilitate such compliance.

Section 18.06. Termination of the Basic Plan Document by the Board. The Board reserves the right to completely terminate the Basic Plan Document and the separate GMEBS Trust Agreement. In such an event, the provisions of Section 18.03 shall be applied to each Adopting Employer.

ARTICLE XIX.

NON-ALIENATION OF BENEFITS

(a) None of the benefits, payments, proceeds, or distributions payable under the Plan shall be subject to the claim of any creditor of any Participant or to the claim of any creditor of any Beneficiary hereunder, or to any legal process of levy or attachment by any creditor of any such Participant or Beneficiary; and no such benefits shall be in any manner liable for or subject to the debts, liabilities, engagements, or torts of any Participant or Beneficiary; and neither shall any such Participant or Beneficiary have any right to alienate, commute, anticipate, transfer, encumber, pledge, or assign any of the benefits, payments, proceeds, or distributions under this Plan.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall be construed to preclude the Administrator, subject to any terms and conditions set by the Administrator, from making a deduction and direct payment to the Adopting Employer or GMEBS on behalf of a Retired Participant for the limited purpose of paying for a contribution or premium for a post retirement benefit offered by the Adopting Employer or GMEBS, if the Retired Participant elects to have such deduction and direct payment made. An election by the Retired Participant for such deduction and direct payment may be revoked at any time.

(c) Nothing in subsection (a) shall be construed to preclude the Administrator, subject to any terms and conditions set by the Administrator, from making a deduction and direct payment on behalf of a Retired Participant as provided under Section 845(a)(4)(D) of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 in its current form or as amended, and as interpreted by the Internal Revenue Service, for the limited purpose of paying premiums for coverage for an eligible retired public safety officer, the Participant's spouse, and dependents, by an accident or health insurance plan or qualified long-term care insurance contract as defined in Section 7702B(b) of Title 26 of the United States Code, if the Retired Participant elects to have such deduction and direct payment made. An election by a Retired Participant for such deduction and direct payment may be revoked at any time.

ARTICLE XX.

MISCELLANEOUS

Section 20.01. Construction.

(a) Words used in this Plan in the singular or plural shall be construed as being in the plural or singular where appropriate.

(b) The Plan shall be construed, enforced, and administered and the validity thereof determined in accordance with the Code, and, when not inconsistent with the Code, the laws of the State of Georgia and the bylaws of the Board.

(c) In resolving any conflict between provisions of the Plan and in resolving any other uncertainty as to the meaning or intention of any provision of the Plan, the interpretation that (i) causes the Plan to constitute a qualified governmental retirement plan under the provisions of Code Sections 401 and 414(d) and the Trust as exempt from tax under Code Sections 501 and 115, and (ii) causes the Plan to comply with all applicable requirements of the Code and federal law shall prevail over any different interpretation.

(d) In resolving any conflict between the Plan and any policy or contract issued under the Plan, the provisions of the Plan shall prevail.

(e) The headings and subheadings in the Plan are inserted for convenience of reference only and are not to be considered in the construction of any provision of the Plan.

(f) The terms of this Basic Plan Document shall control except as otherwise provided in an Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement (including any Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, if applicable), as accepted by or on behalf of the GMEBS Board, in which case the terms of the Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement (including any Addendum to the Adoption Agreement) shall control.

(g) Neither the establishment nor maintenance of the Plan nor any amendment thereof, nor any act or omission under the Plan or resulting from the operation of the Plan shall be construed:

(1) as conferring upon any Participant, beneficiary, or any other person a right or claim against the GMEBS Investment Fund, the Trust Fund, the Trustees, the Adopting Employer, or the Administrator, except to the extent that such right or claim shall be specifically expressed and provided in the Plan;

(2) as a contract or Agreement between the Adopting Employer and any Participant or other person;

(3) as being consideration for, or an inducement or condition of, employment of any Participant or other person, or as affecting or restricting in any manner or to any extent whatsoever the rights or obligations of the Adopting Employer or any Participant or other person to continue or terminate the employment relationship at any time; or

(4) as giving any Participant the right to be retained in the service of the Adopting Employer or to interfere with the right of the Adopting Employer to discharge any Participant or other person at any time.

Section 20.02. Non-Diversion.

(a) The assets of the Plan shall never inure to the benefit of an Adopting Employer and shall be held for the exclusive purposes of providing benefits to Participants in the Plan and their beneficiaries and defraying reasonable fees, taxes (if applicable) and expenses of the Plan and Trust, except in the case of a contribution which is made by an Adopting Employer under a mistake of fact as determined solely by the Administrator. Such contribution shall be returned to the Adopting Employer, upon demand, and shall be reduced for any loss incurred but unadjusted for any gains earned during the time the mistaken contribution was part of the Trust Fund.

(b) Trust assets shall be managed in compliance with Code Section 503(b).

Section 20.03. Legally Incompetent; Power of Attorney. Any Participant, Retired Participant, Terminated Vested Participant, or Beneficiary receiving or claiming benefits under the Plan shall be conclusively presumed to be mentally competent and of age until the Administrator receives a written notice, in a form and manner acceptable to it, that such person is incompetent or a minor, and that a guardian or other person legally vested with the care of such person's estate has been appointed. In the event a guardian of the estate of any person receiving or claiming benefits under the Plan shall be appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, payments shall be made to such guardian and the guardian may take any and all actions with respect to the person's interest under the Plan in accordance with the terms of the appointment, provided that proper proof of appointment is furnished in a form and manner suitable to the Administrator. Any payment so made shall be a complete discharge of liability therefor under

the Plan. No person may act as an attorney-in-fact for an Employee, Participant, Terminated Vested Participant, Retired Participant or Beneficiary with respect to a matter involving the Plan unless a valid power of attorney document appointing such person and authorizing such action is submitted in a form and manner acceptable to the Administrator. The Administrator shall be entitled to rely upon a power of attorney document which it reasonably determines to be valid, without liability for actions taken by the Administrator at the request of the designated attorney-in-fact, unless and until the Administrator receives notice that the power of attorney is no longer effective.

Section 20.04. Benefits Supported Only by Trust Fund. Any person having any claim under the Plan shall look solely to the assets of the Trust Fund for satisfaction. In no event shall the Adopting Employer, or any of its employees or agents, be liable in their individual capacities to any person whomsoever, under the provisions of the Plan or of the separate GMEBS Trust Agreement.

Section 20.05. Non-Discrimination. The Adopting Employer, through the Pension Committee, shall administer the Plan in a uniform and consistent manner with respect to all Participants.

Section 20.06. Limitation of Liability; Legal Actions.

(a) It is expressly understood and agreed by each Employee who becomes a Participant hereunder that, except for willful neglect or fraud, neither the Adopting Employer, the Plan Representative, nor the Board of Trustees shall be in any way subject to any suit or litigation, or to any legal liability, for any cause or reason or thing whatsoever, in connection with the Plan or its operation, and each such Participant hereby releases the Adopting Employer,

all its employees and agents, the Plan Representative, and the Board of Trustees from any and all liability or obligation.

(b) The Adopting Employer and the Plan Representative shall be the only necessary parties to any action or proceeding involving any rights under the Plan or the proper administration thereof, and no Participant, Beneficiary, or other persons having or claiming to have an interest in the Plan shall be entitled to any notice of process. Any final judgment which is not appealed or appealable that may be entered in any such action or proceeding shall be binding and conclusive on the parties hereto and all persons having or claiming to have an interest in the Plan.

Each fiduciary under the Plan shall be responsible only for the specific duties assigned under the Plan and shall not be directly or indirectly responsible for the duties assigned to another fiduciary. Any person or a group of persons may serve in more than one (1) fiduciary capacity with respect to the Plan.

Section 20.07. Claims. Any payment to a Participant or Beneficiary, or to their legal representatives, in accordance with the provisions of the Plan, shall to the extent thereof be in full satisfaction of all claims hereunder against the Plan Representative or the Adopting Employer, either of which may require such Participant, Beneficiary, or legal representative, as a condition precedent to such payment, to execute a receipt and release therefor in such form as shall be determined by the Plan Representative or the Adopting Employer.

Section 20.08. Errors in Benefits.

(a) Effective upon issuance of an Internal Revenue Service favorable opinion letter which covers this provision, notwithstanding any provision in this Section 20.08 to the contrary, any action upon an underpayment or overpayment shall be brought within six (6) years after the

same becomes due and payable. Likewise, GMEBS shall not be required to correct any underpayment or overpayment more than six (6) years after said underpayment or overpayment occurred.

(b) Underpayments. Any underpayments from the Trust Fund to a Retired Participant or to a Beneficiary caused by administrative errors shall be corrected with interest compounded annually from the date of the miscalculated payment. The rate applied shall be the actuarially assumed rate utilized by the plan actuary for estimating future plan investment earnings or such other rate established by the Board that is permissible under federal and state law and applicable guidance as of the date of the correction. Underpayments shall be made up from the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund. Effective with respect to underpayments corrected on or after January 1, 2017, in the event a Retired Participant, Pre-Retirement Beneficiary or Post-Retirement Beneficiary to whom a corrective payment is due dies before such payment is made, said corrective payment shall be paid to such Retired Participant's, Pre-Retirement Beneficiary's or Post-Retirement Beneficiary's designated beneficiary, as defined in this subsection (b) or, if there is no such designated beneficiary, to the deceased Retired Participant's, Pre-Retirement Beneficiary's or Post-Retirement Beneficiary's estate. For purposes of this subsection, the term "designated beneficiary" shall mean the surviving Spouse of such Retired Participant, Pre-Retirement Beneficiary, or Post-Retirement Beneficiary, as applicable, and the term "surviving" shall mean surviving the Retired Participant, Pre-Retirement Beneficiary, or Post-Retirement Beneficiary, as applicable, by at least thirty-two (32) days.

(c) Overpayments. In the event of an overpayment from the Trust Fund to a Retired Participant or to a Beneficiary caused by administrative error, the following provisions shall apply:

(1) Corrective Amendment Option. In the event of an overpayment that is due to misapplication of the terms of the Plan, the Adopting Employer may be provided the opportunity to amend its Adoption Agreement (a "Corrective Amendment") in order to provide for such overpayment to be permissible under the terms of the plan, but only if the Corrective Amendment is consistent with the circumstances resulting in the overpayment and with the Basic Plan Document, as determined by the Administrator. The Corrective Amendment may be effective either retroactively only, or both retroactively and prospectively.

(2) Determination of Reasonableness of Collection from Retired Participants or Beneficiaries. In the event that the Adopting Employer does not adopt a Corrective Amendment, or that the circumstances resulting in the overpayment or the Basic Plan Document would not permit such an amendment, the Administrator and the Adopting Employer will consult in making a determination of whether collection of the overpayment (in full or in part) from a Retired Participant or Beneficiary is reasonable under the particular facts and circumstances involved. In their determination, the Administrator and the Adopting Employer shall consider (1) the hardship of collection on the Retired Participant or Beneficiary; (2) any legal impediments to collection; and (3) the potential risk of litigation if collection is pursued, in consultation with the affected Adopting Employer's counsel.

(3) Failure to Reach Agreement on Reasonableness of Collection. If the Administrator and the Adopting Employer cannot reach agreement within six (6) months as to whether collection of an overpayment from a Retired Participant or Beneficiary is

reasonable, the Board shall make this determination, considering the factors outlined above in paragraph (2).

(4) Collection Process. If a determination under this subsection is made that collection from the Retired Participant or Beneficiary is reasonable, the overpayment shall be corrected with interest compounded annually from the date of the miscalculated payment. The rate applied shall be the actuarially assumed rate utilized by the plan actuary for estimating future plan investment earnings or, effective on and after January 1, 2014, such other rate established by the Board that is permissible under federal and state law and applicable guidance as of the date of the correction. In collecting amounts of the overpayment (in full or in part), the Administrator shall have the discretion to use any of the following options: (i) single sum payments; (ii) installment payments; (iii) actuarial reduction of future Retirement payments; or (iv) deductions from Retirement payments. Retirement payment deductions shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the amount of payment from which the deduction is made.

(5) Corrective Payment by Adopting Employer. If full collection of an overpayment is not achieved, either because of a determination that full collection from the Retired Participant or Beneficiary is not reasonable, or because efforts at collection do not result in a full collection of the overpayment, the Adopting Employer shall be responsible for making a separate, supplemental contribution to the Trust Fund in the amount of any uncollected overpayment, including interest as calculated under paragraph (4) ("corrective contribution"). Any corrective contribution by a Participating Employer must be made at the same time that the next regular employer contribution is due under the Plan. In the event employer contributions are paid in installments, the corrective

contribution may be paid over that same installment period, but not to exceed a twelve (12) month period. The corrective contribution may not be included as a portion of the general liability of the Plan for which regular funding contributions are made.

(6) Alternative Correction Approach. If the overpayment involves circumstances that are not addressed in the preceding provisions of this subsection, or if in the determination of the GMEBS board, the overpayment cannot be practicably or appropriately corrected using the methods addressed in this subsection, the Administrator may develop a correction approach that is appropriate under the circumstances, permissible under state and federal law and applicable guidance, and equitable to the parties involved.

(d) Overpayments Due to Delay in Notification of Death of Participant or Beneficiary.

(1) In the event that GMEBS makes a payment to a Retired Participant or to a beneficiary following the death of such Participant or beneficiary, GMEBS will make reasonable efforts (not including litigation or collections processes) to recover said overpayment for a period of 60 days after receiving notice from the Adopting Employer of the Participant's or beneficiary's death. If after 60 days from the date on which GMEBS receives notice of the Participant's or beneficiary's death, GMEBS is unable to recover the overpayment, the Adopting Employer shall be responsible for making a separate, supplemental contribution to the Trust Fund in the amount of any such uncollected overpayment, including interest as calculated under paragraph (c)(4) above ("corrective contribution"). Any corrective contribution by an Adopting Employer must be made at the same time that the next regular Employer Contribution is due under the Plan. In the event Employer Contributions are paid in installments, the corrective

contribution may be paid over that same installment period, but not to exceed a twelve (12) month period. The corrective contribution may not be included as a portion of the general liability of the Plan for which regular funding contributions are made.

(2) If the overpayment involves circumstances that are not addressed in the preceding provisions of this subsection, or if in the determination of the GMEBS Board, the overpayment cannot be practicably or appropriately corrected using the methods addressed in this subsection, the Administrator may develop a correction approach that is appropriate under the circumstances, permissible under state and federal law and applicable guidance, and equitable to the parties involved.

Section 20.09. Notice. Any notice given under the Plan shall be sufficient if given to: (1) the Board if addressed to the Administrator at its office; (2) the Adopting Employer if addressed to the address of the Governing Authority indicated in the Adoption Agreement; or (3) a Participant or Beneficiary, when addressed to the Participant at the Participant's address as it appears in the records of the Administrator or the Adopting Employer.

Section 20.10. Right of Recovery. If the Administrator makes any payment that according to the terms of the Plan and the benefits provided hereunder should not have been made, the Administrator may recover that incorrect payment, whether or not it was made due to the error of the Administrator, from the person to whom it was made, or from any other appropriate party. If any such incorrect payment is made directly to a Participant, the provisions of Section 20.08 apply.

Section 20.11. Evidence of Action. All ordinances, resolutions, forms, orders, requests, documents and instructions provided to the Administrator by an Adopting Employer or by any duly authorized representative (e.g., Plan Representative or Pension Committee Secretary), shall

be in writing and the Administrator shall be fully protected in acting in accordance with such ordinances, resolutions, forms, orders, requests, documents and instructions.

Section 20.12. Reliance. The Administrator or Board shall not incur any liability in acting upon any notice, request, signed letter, telegram, form, or other paper or document believed by the Administrator or Board to be genuine or to be executed or sent by an authorized person.

Section 20.13. Information to Administrator. As a condition precedent to GMEBS's administration of the Plan, the Adopting Employer shall provide current information to the Administrator including but not limited to the name, date of birth, date of employment, Enrollment Date, annual Earnings, leaves of absences, Vesting eligibility, Credited Service and Termination date for each Eligible Employee who is or who is expected to become a Participant under the Plan, together with any other information which the Administrator deems necessary. The information provided by the Adopting Employer to the Administrator shall be conclusive as to all persons.

Section 20.14. Participant Data to Administrator. Each Participant and each Beneficiary of a deceased Participant, as applicable, must provide the Administrator any evidence, data or other information as requested by the Administrator for the purpose of administering the Plan. The provisions of this Plan are effective for the benefit of each Participant upon the condition precedent that each Participant furnishes promptly full, true and complete evidence, data and information when requested by the Administrator. The Administrator shall advise each Participant of the effect of the failure to comply with its request.

Section 20.15. Treatment of Vacated Court Orders. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, a period of employment that was compelled by court order which was

subsequently vacated, reversed, or otherwise set aside shall not count as Credited Service under the Plan, except for a period, or partial period, during which the Participant satisfied the eligibility requirements for participation under the Plan. Likewise, Earnings paid to a Participant during any such period shall not be used to compute the Participant's Final Average Earnings, except for a period, or partial period, during which the Participant satisfied the eligibility requirements for participation under the Plan. In the event such a Participant Retires before the order compelling the Participant's reinstatement is vacated, reversed, or otherwise set aside, the Participant's Credited Service and Final Average Earnings shall be revised following such reversal, vacation or otherwise setting aside of the Participant's reinstatement, and the Participant's Retirement benefits shall be recalculated and adjusted accordingly, effective the first day of the month following such action. Any overpayments to the Participant resulting from including Credited Service and Earnings from any such period or partial period of employment during which the Participant did not satisfy the eligibility requirements for participation under the Plan shall be corrected in accordance with Section 20.08 of the Basic Plan Document.

Section 20.16. Entire Plan. The Plan document and the documents incorporated by reference herein shall constitute the only legally governing documents for the Plan. No statement by the Trustees, Adopting Employer, or Administrator shall be used in any claim unless in writing, signed by the party against whom the claim is being made.

The terms of the foregoing Basic Defined Benefit Plan Document are hereby adopted and agreed to pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System.

APPENDIX
REFERENCED SECTIONS OF O.C.G.A.

Copies of sections of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated ("O.C.G.A.") referenced herein, as in effect on the date of adoption of this amended and restated Basic Plan Document, are attached hereto and made a part hereof. The Georgia legislature may amend the provisions of the attached O.C.G.A. sections from time to time. Any such amendments by the Georgia legislature are afforded no reliance by the currently issued IRS opinion letter.

**RESOLUTION OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
GEORGIA MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES BENEFIT SYSTEM**

**APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT 1 TO THE THIRD CYCLE
RESTATED GMEBS DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT PLAN
(APPROVED BY THE IRS AUGUST 31, 2023)**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees (“Board”) of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (“GMEBS”) previously adopted the GMEBS Defined Benefit Retirement Plan (“Plan”), which received a favorable advisory letter from the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) on March 30, 2018, and was most recently amended by the Board on December 2, 2022, through the Board’s approval of Amendment 4 to the Restated GMEBS Defined Benefit Retirement Plan;

WHEREAS, the Board periodically updates and restates the Plan with the IRS to ensure the qualified status of the Plan under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code;

WHEREAS, GMEBS most recently submitted the Plan to the IRS for restatement purposes on June 29, 2022;

WHEREAS, on August 31, 2023, the IRS issued a favorable opinion letter for the Plan;

WHEREAS, under the IRS’s practices and procedures relating to plan restatements, certain amendments the Board had previously made to the Plan to implement applicable provisions of the SECURE Act of 2019 and SECURE Act 2.0 concerning the beginning age for required minimum distributions, were not included in the Plan documents submitted to the IRS for restatement purposes;

WHEREAS, the Board has reserved the right to amend the Plan on behalf of Adopting Employers to retain the qualified status of the Plan in Section 18.02 of the Basic Plan Document;
and

WHEREAS, the Trustees now wish to amend the newly restated Plan (“Third Cycle Restated GMEBS Defined Benefit Retirement Plan”) to implement applicable provisions of the SECURE Act of 2019 and SECURE Act 2.0 concerning the beginning age for required minimum distributions.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this Amendment 1 is hereby adopted to amend the Basic Plan Document effective as set forth herein:

1. Section 10.01(b), concerning distribution rules imposed by federal law, are amended to update the age for a Participant’s required beginning date, as follows:

(a) A Participant's entire interest will be distributed, or begin to be distributed, to the Participant no later than the Participant's required beginning date. For purposes of this Section, "required beginning date" means April 1 of the calendar year following the later of (i) the calendar year in which the Participant reaches the applicable age or (ii) the calendar year in which the Participant Retires. For purposes of this Section, “applicable age” (as defined under Code Section 401(a)(9)(C)(v)) means:

- (1) Age seventy and one-half (70 ½) (for a Participant who was born on or before June 30, 1949);
- (2) Age seventy-two (72) (for a Participant who was born on or after July 1, 1949, but before 1951); or
- (3) Age seventy-three (73) or the otherwise applicable age under Section 401(a)(9)(C)(v) of the Internal Revenue Code (for a Participant who was born in 1951 or later).

2. Section 10.01(c)(1), concerning distribution rules imposed by federal law, are amended to update the Participant’s age for the purpose of distributions to his or her surviving spouse when said surviving spouse is the sole Designated Beneficiary, as follows:

(b) If the Participant dies before distributions begin, the Participant's entire interest will be distributed, or begin to be distributed, no later than as follows:

- (1) If the Participant's surviving spouse is the Participant's sole designated beneficiary, then distributions to the surviving spouse will begin by December 31 of the calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which the Participant died, or by December 31 of the calendar year in which the Participant would have attained the applicable age, if later.

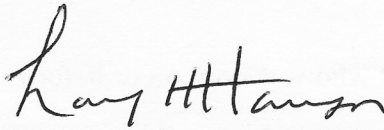
RESOLVED FURTHER by the Board that the appropriate officers and employees of GMA or the Administrator are authorized to take any and all actions that they deem appropriate or necessary to effectuate the foregoing resolutions on behalf of the Board, including but not limited to making non-substantive modifications to Plan documents as necessary, and that all prior actions taken in effectuating the Restated Plan documents and cooperation with IRS requests and directives are hereby ratified and confirmed in all respects.

RESOLVED FURTHER that the amendments herein shall take effect October 1, 2023.

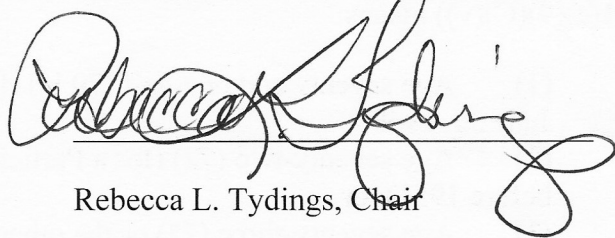
The terms of this Resolution are approved and agreed to by the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System this 22 day of September, 2023.

Attest:

Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System



Larry Hanson, Secretary-Treasurer



Rebecca L. Tydings, Chair

Adopted by the Board of Trustees at the meeting held on September 22, 2023.

**SUMMARY OF KEY AMENDMENTS
TO THE RESTATED
GEORGIA MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES BENEFIT SYSTEM
DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT PLAN**

I. GENERAL OVERVIEW

On August 31, 2023, the IRS issued a favorable opinion letter for the Amended and Restated Third Six-Year Cycle Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System Defined Benefit Retirement Plan ("DB Plan" or "Plan"). The Plan, as approved, incorporates required federal law updates, as well as administrative updates adopted by the Board of Trustees of GMEBS over the last several years. The IRS requires that each Adopting Employer sign an updated DB Plan Adoption Agreement (and Addendum, if applicable).

II. SUMMARY OF KEY CHANGES TO THE BASIC PLAN DOCUMENT

Participating employers have already been apprised of the content of all amendments adopted by the Board before August 31, 2023. However, during its review, the IRS required GMEBS to include additional amendments in the restated Plan documents. The following information summarizes those amendments, as well as Amendment 1 to the Basic Plan Document, which was approved by the Board of Trustees on September 22, 2023.

- ❖ **Change from “Master Plan Document” to “Basic Plan Document”** – The IRS changed its terminology for pre-approved plan documents from “Master Plan document” to Basic Plan Document.”
- ❖ **Removal of Outdated Language** – GMEBS amended the Plan for administrative purposes to move provisions that were no longer in effect or no longer applicable.
- ❖ **Minimum Age Limits for In-Service Distribution** – As a general rule, employees or elected officials may not draw retirement benefits while employed. The Basic Plan document states that if a plan allows in-service distribution, a participant must be at least age 62, or satisfy certain “safe harbor” age and service combinations established in IRS regulations, to receive retirement benefits while employed. If a plan allows in-service distribution and has an alternative normal retirement provision with a minimum age of at least 50 specifically for public safety employees (or that satisfies certain IRS “safe harbor” age and service qualifications that apply to public safety employees), public safety employees who are eligible for the alternative normal retirement may receive an in-service distribution even if they are younger than age 62. Though Congress amended federal law in 2019 to allow plans to set normal retirement ages at a minimum age of 59 ½, the IRS’s opinion letter for the DB Plan specified it would not apply to plans that allowed in-service distribution at ages younger than 62 (or 50 for public safety employees) or that did not satisfy one of the IRS’s safe harbors for in-service distribution. **As in prior restatements, GMEBS plans that currently have in-service distribution provisions that don’t meet these requirements will have the opportunity to file for separate IRS approval of these provisions.** “In-service distribution” means a distribution of normal or alternative normal retirement benefits without a bona fide separation from service. A “bona fide

SUMMARY OF KEY AMENDMENTS

separation from service” is a separation from service of at least six months with no expectation of returning to service.

- ❖ **Removal of Public Employment Related Crime Provisions** – At the request of the IRS, GMEBS removed language concerning the reduction or forfeiture of a participant’s benefits following a final conviction of a public employment related crime from the Basic Plan Document. State laws requiring a reduction in or forfeiture of retirement benefits if a participant is convicted of a public employment related crime still apply but are no longer mentioned in the Plan documents.
- ❖ **Clarification of Process for Locating an Individual Owed Benefits** – As required by the IRS, the restated Basic Plan Document details the steps an employer offering benefits under the DB Plan must take to locate an individual to whom benefits are owed under the Plan. These steps include searching Plan-related and publicly available records or directories for alternative contact information; sending certified mail to the individual’s last known mailing address and reaching out through appropriate means for address or contact information (such as email addresses and phone numbers) available to the employer; and using either a commercial locator service, a credit reporting agency or internet search tools to find the individual.
- ❖ **Federal Tax Law Updates** – The Basic Plan Document contains several federal tax law updates, including allowing rollovers to SIMPLE IRAs in certain situations, updating mortality table language relating to annual benefit limits, and allowing employers to amend the plan as necessary to satisfy Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code, even if doing so impacts benefits.
- ❖ **Voting Representative; Trustees** – GMEBS updated language in the Basic Plan Document designating employers’ voting representative for GMEBS purposes to be consistent with the GMEBS Bylaws. The language provides that, unless otherwise directed by an employer’s chief executive, a GMEBS trustee will be considered his or her employer’s designated voting representative. For all other employers, the chief executive or administrative officer will be the employer’s voting representative.
- ❖ **Use of Trust Fund Assets** – The Basic Plan Document stipulates that trust fund assets can be used to pay reasonable fees, taxes and expenses of the Plan and Trust.
- ❖ **Reversion of Assets in Event of Plan Termination** – Per the request of the IRS, GMEBS amended the Basic Plan Document to state that, in the event an employer’s plan is terminated, excess trust fund assets remaining after paying all vested accrued benefits to all participants can only revert to the employer if the excess was due to an actuarial error.
- ❖ **Added Language to Adoption Agreement Regarding Compliance with Federal Law when an Employer Has More than One Defined Benefit Retirement Plan** – Per the request of the IRS, the Adoption Agreement contains a new Section 15(G) concerning Section 415(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, when an employer has more than one defined benefit retirement plan. This provision will be blank in most GMEBS employers’ Adoption Agreements.

SUMMARY OF KEY AMENDMENTS

- ❖ **Adjusted Minimum Ages for Commencement of Required Minimum Contributions** – The SECURE Act of 2019 and 2022’s SECURE 2.0 raised the age at which participants have to start drawing retirement benefits. These changes were not included in the restated Basic Plan Document reviewed by the IRS. However, on September 23, 2023, the Board of Trustees of GMEBS adopted Amendment 1 to the Restated Plan to implement these updates. Currently, a terminated vested participant must retire no later than the April 1 following the date the participant turns 73. Starting in 2033, a terminated vested participant must retire no later than the April 1 following the date the participant turns 75.



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Tax Exempt and Government Entities
Employee Plans

August 31, 2023

Ice Miller

Attn: Lisa Erb Harrison

One American Square, Suite 2900

Indianapolis, In. 46282-0200

Re: Application for opinion letter

Dear Ms. Harrison:

The enclosed letter is being sent to you under the provisions of a power of attorney currently on file with the Internal Revenue Service.

If you have any questions, please contact Janell Hayes, badge number 1000203103, by phone at (513) 975-6319.

Sincerely,

Aimee Beimesche

Aimee Beimesche

Manager Pre-approved Plans Program

Enclosure:
Letter to taxpayer

GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION INC
201 PRYOR STREET SW
ATLANTA, GA 30303

Date:
08/31/2023
Employer ID number:
58-0907810
Case number:
202200321
File folder number:
FFN: 317E0630001-001
Letter Serial number:
Q705465a
Plan number:
01-001
Plan description:
Non-Standardized Pre-Approved Defined
Benefit Plan
Date of submission:
06/30/2022
Person to contact:
Name: Janell Hayes
ID number: 1000203103
Telephone: 513-975-6319
Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
EST. Mon-Fri

Dear Applicant:

In our opinion, the form of the plan shown above is acceptable for employers to use for their employees' benefit under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 401.

We considered the changes in qualification requirements in the 2020 Cumulative List of Notice 2020-14, 2020-13 Internal Revenue Bulletin (I.R.B.) 555. Our opinion relates only to the acceptability of the form of the plan under the IRC. We didn't consider the effect of other federal or local statutes.

You must provide the following to each employer who adopts this plan:

- . A copy of this letter
- . A copy of the approved plan
- . Copies of any subsequent amendments including their dates of adoption
- . Direct contact information including address and telephone number of the plan provider

Our opinion of the plan's form acceptability is a determination of the plan's qualification as adopted by a particular employer only under the circumstances, and to the extent, described in Revenue Procedure (Rev. Proc.) 2017-41, 2017-29 I.R.B. 92. The employer who adopts this plan can generally rely on this letter to the extent described in Rev. Proc. 2017-41. Thus, Employee Plans Determinations, except as provided in Section 12 of Rev. Proc. 2023-4, 2023-01 I.R.B. 162 (as updated annually), will not issue a determination letter to an employer who adopts this plan. Review Rev. Proc. 2023-4 to determine if an adopting employer is eligible to submit a determination letter application and, if so, how. The employer must also follow the terms of the plan in operation.

Except as provided below, our opinion doesn't apply to the requirements of IRC Sections 401(a)(4), 401(a)(26), 401(l), 410(b), and 414(s). Our opinion doesn't apply to IRC Sections 415 and 416 if an employer maintains or ever maintained another qualified plan for one or more employees covered by this plan.

Our opinion doesn't apply to:

- . Treasury Regulations (Treas. Reg.) Section 1.401(a)-1(b)(2) requirements where the normal retirement age under the employer's plan is below 62.
- . Proposed Treas. Reg. 1.401(a)-1(b)(2) requirements where the employer's plan is a governmental plan and its normal retirement age doesn't satisfy one of the safe harbors under the proposed regulations.

Our opinion doesn't constitute a determination:

- . That the plan is an IRC Section 414(d) governmental plan. Nor is this a ruling as to the tax treatment of contributions that are picked up by the governmental employing unit per IRC Section 414(h)(2).
- . That the plan is an IRC Section 414(e) church plan.

A non-electing church plan may not rely on our opinion for rules governing pre-Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) participation and coverage.

Our opinion applies to the requirements of IRC Sections 410(b) and 401(a)(26) (other than the 401(a)(26) requirements that apply to a prior benefit structure) if 100% of all non-excludable employees benefit under the plan.

Employers who choose a safe harbor benefit formula and a safe harbor compensation definition may also rely on this opinion letter for the non-discriminatory amounts requirement under IRC Section 401(a)(4).

If this plan provides for voluntary employee contributions subject to IRC Section 401(m), the employer may rely on the opinion letter for the form of the nondiscrimination test of IRC Section 401(m)(2) if the employer uses a safe harbor compensation definition.

Except as provided in Section 5.18(2) of Rev. Proc. 2017-41, an employer who adopts a cash balance plan cannot rely on an opinion letter for the requirements of IRC Section 411(b)(1) where the cash balance formula uses a structure of principal credits that increase with age, service, or other measure during a participant's employment.

This opinion letter doesn't cover any provisions in trust or custodial account documents:

- . Trusts or custodial account documents can't contain a provision that the provisions of the trust override the provisions of the plan.
- . This plan's provisions override any conflicting provision in the trust or custodial account documents used with the plan.
- . An adopting employer may not rely on this letter to the extent a trust or custodial account's provisions in a separate part of the plan override or conflict with the plan document provisions.
- . This letter does not constitute a ruling or determination as to the exempt status of related trusts or custodial accounts under IRC Section 501(a).

An employer who adopts this plan may not rely on this letter when the employer:

- . Uses the plan to amend or restate a plan which wasn't previously qualified.
- . Adopts it before the opinion letter is issued.
- . Doesn't correctly complete the adoption agreement or other elective provisions in the plan.
- . Made amendments that cause the plan not to be considered identical to the pre-approved plan, as described in Section 8.03 of Rev. Proc. 2017-41.

Our opinion doesn't:

- . Apply to what is contained in any applicable documents referenced outside the plan or adoption agreement, such as a collective bargaining agreement.
- . Consider issues under ERISA Title I, which are administered by the Department of Labor.

You must include your address and telephone number on the pre-approved plan or the plan's adoption agreement, if applicable, so that adopting employers can contact you directly.

If you, the pre-approved plan provider, have questions about your case, you can:

- . Call the telephone number at the top of the first page of this letter. This number is only for the provider's use. Individual participants or adopting employers with questions about the plan should contact you.
- . Write to us - provide your telephone number and the best time to call if we need more information.

Whether you call or write, reference the letter serial number and file folder number at the top of the first page of this letter.

Let us know if you change or discontinue sponsorship of this plan.

Keep a copy of this letter for your records.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Daniel Dragoo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daniel" and last name "Dragoo" clearly distinguishable.

Daniel Dragoo
Director, EP Rulings & Agreements

cc: ICE MILLER LLP
ATTENTION: LISA ERB HARRISON
ONE AMERICAN SQUARE, SUITE 2900
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46282



CITY OF VILLA RICA

City Council Meeting Agenda Item Cover Sheet

SUBJECT: Fullerville Park Additional Parking Lot Pave, Curb, Gutter, Sidewalk, & ADA Ramp Install

AGENDA DATE: 3/12/2024

DATE PREPARED: 2/28/2024

PREPARED BY: Hal Burch

AMOUNT: 34,849.70

GL ACCOUNT #: 321-4210-541410

FUNDING SOURCE: 2015 Carroll SPLOST

BUDGETED ITEM?

PURPOSE: The purpose of adding an additional parking area to Fullerville Soccer Fields is to accommodate the growing number of visitors and participants, which will enhance the overall experience of those attending games and events. This expansion will alleviate parking congestion, reduce traffic, and make it easier for people to access the fields. It will also promote a more organized and efficient parking management system, ensuring the safety and convenience of all attendees.

BACKGROUND: Historically parking has been a challenge during practices and games at Fullerville Park. With the direction of our City Manager our Streets Department has located an area and built up an additional parking area providing an additional 25 spaces.

Quotes received: Surface Masters - \$52,000 Asphalt/Concrete
HNC Construction - \$49,582 Asphalt/Concrete
Magnum Paving - \$19,578.75 Asphalt only
RP Paving - \$14,809.70 Asphalt only
WGPP - \$20,040 Concrete only (Curb, Gutter, Sidewalks, & ADA ramps)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: To enter into agreement with the combination of companies RP Paving to perform the paving portion of the additional parking area, and West Georgia Pool Pros to perform the described concrete work for a total of \$34,849.70 which constitutes the lowest bid.

IMPACT: The improved parking situation will contribute to a safer environment for all attendees. With a more organized and efficient parking management system, the risk of accidents and other safety hazards will be reduced. This will create a more enjoyable experience for those attending soccer events, contributing to the overall vitality and well-being of the local community.

MOTION: To allow the Mayor or City Manager to enter into agreements as described above.

RP Paving Solutions, LLC

106 Three West Parkway
Villa Rica, GA.30180

Office Phone: 678-840-4088

PROPOSAL

Date: Proposal No.:

11/27/2023

25277

Customer Name / Address:

City of Villa Rica
571 Bankhead Hwy
Villa Rica, GA 30180

Phone: 770-459-3471

Job Name / Location:

Project Manager Contact Info.:

Brad Cruse

Due to the recent volatility of the crude oil market, prices are subject to change prior to commencement of your project. Notification of any changes in pricing will be submitted prior to mobilization.

Item	Description	Qty/Yds.	Price	Total
New Paving	Fullerville Park 121 Ball Park Rd Villa Rica, Ga. 30180 Base will be prepared by others. Ssawcut existing edge to establish a straight edge and apply a liquid tack coat to vertical edge. Install a compacted 2" layer of 9.5mm surface mix in 602sy.		14,059.70	14,059.70
Layout & Striping	Striping parking stalls for new area	1	750.00	750.00
Project Total:			\$14,809.70	

This price is good for 30 days from date of proposal, after that, price is subject to change. RP Paving Solutions reserves the right to add 3.5% to the final invoice for any credit card payments as the price above is a cash price. RP Paving cannot warranty the application of any paint or thermoplastic products installed on concrete surfaces. Please contact a RP Paving Solutions representative for other discounts available.

Please sign below for acceptance:

Sign Here: _____

West Georgia Pool Pros, LLC
PO BOX 295
Carrollton, Georgia 30112

QUOTE

The city of villa rica

Quote #

0000040

Quote Date

02/20/2024

Item	Description	Unit Price	Quantity	Amount
Service	2" curb and gutter 300lf	22.00	300.00	6,600.00
Service	Two ada ramps with Ada yellow inserts	600.00	2.00	1,200.00
Service	Concrete sidewalk 1160sqft	9.00	1160.00	10,440.00
Service	Demo curb add Ada ramp	1800.00	1.00	1,800.00
NOTES: To grade , form and pour 2" wide curb and gutter 300lf \$6,600 2 ada ramps with yellow dome Ada inserts. \$600 each Demo curb and add ada ramp \$1,800 To grade , form and pour 4" thick 4' wide 3,000 psi concrete side walk with tooled expansion joints and broom finish 1,160 sf \$10,440 Total \$20,040.00				
		Subtotal		20,040.00
		Total		20,040.00
		Amount Paid		0.00
		Quote		\$20,040.00

Price Breakdown: Fullerville Park Parking Lot



Please find the following breakdown of all services we have provided in this proposal.

This proposal originated on December 19, 2023.

Item	Description	Map Area	Cost
1.	New Asphalt Parking Lot	Red	\$24,995.00
2.	New Concrete Sidewalk Surface	Red	\$16,300.00
3.	New Curb and Gutter Install	Red	\$10,705.00
Total:			\$52,000.00

Authorization to Proceed & Contract

You are hereby authorized to proceed with the work as identified in this contract. By signing and returning this contract, you are authorized to proceed with the work as stated.

We understand that if any additional work is required different than stated in the this proposal, it must be in a new contract or added to this contract as a change order.

Please see all attachments for special conditions that may pertain to aspects of this project.

HNC Construction LLC.
P O Box 654
Villa Rica, GA 30180 US
(404) 719-8372
hncconstructionco@gmail.com



Estimate

ADDRESS

City of Villa Rica
Fullerville Park parking area

ESTIMATE # 1305

DATE 12/07/2023

ACTIVITY	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
24" Curb & Gutter Grading and installation of curb and gutter. LF	300	27.50	8,250.00
ADA Ramps GDOT Standard -ADA Ramps to include truncated dome insert. (yellow) PER	2	1,350.00	2,700.00
Demo Demo of existing curb and gutter for ADA ramp. LS	1	1,200.00	1,200.00
4" Concrete Pour 4' Sidewalks. 3000 PSI, trowel control joints, broom finish. SF	1,160	6.00	6,960.00
Asphalt installation Prepare 578 sq. yds. for new pavement section of 2" + 1.5"Perform final compaction of the existing aggregate base prior to paving. Pave total area with 2" of 19mm binder asphalt over the 578 sq. yd. area and compact. Install a liquid tack coat over the binder surface and place an additional 1.5" of 9.5mm surface asphalt and compact. Striping included.	578	49.00	28,322.00
Grading Backfill curb and gutter and provide compactable fill dirt for sidewalks. LS	1	2,150.00	2,150.00
Additional Notes Estimate excludes surveying, permitting, and erosion control	1	0.00	0.00

Magnum Paving, LLC
140 Baker Industrial Ct
Villa Rica, GA 30180
(770) 919-0911
info@magnumpavingga.com
http://MagnumPavingGa.com



Proposal

ADDRESS

Hal Burch

PROPOSAL # 10779

DATE 11/28/2023

EXPIRATION DATE 12/28/2023

SALES REP

Chris

JOB NAME

Fullerville Soccer Park

ACTIVITY	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
Services	575	34.05	19,578.75
2" Overlay: Furnish & Install 2" 9.5mm asphalt (per SY)			

** Base work/prep to be completed by others**

All Traffic control, Saw cutting, Demo, GAB under curb, Striping, Signage, and Bollards excluded from bid

All Paving work to be completed in ONE mobilizations. Any additional Paving crew mobilizations will be \$5,500 per

No prime coat included

** Asphalt priced WITHOUT Hydrated Lime**

Drainage of the Pavement Surface is NOT guaranteed where design slope is LESS than 1.5%

**Due to the instability of petroleum cost, pricing shall be subject to increase based upon the Georgia Department of Transportation Asphalt Cement Index as published at <http://www.dot.ga.gov/PS/Materials/AsphaltFuelIndex> . For each \$10 increase in the asphalt cement index, unit pricing shall be adjusted \$0.035 per square yard per inch of asphalt.

Garrett Yerkey (404) 580-6677

garrett@magnumpavingga.com Project Manager

Joe Draughon (470) 301-3522

joe@magnumpavingga.com Estimator

Tyler Dickinson (404) 754-6326

tyler@magnumpavingga.com Managing Member

Wayne Boatright (404) 580-9184

wayne@magnumpavingga.com

Brinson Roland (678) 249-8477 Sales

brinson@magnumpavingga.com

TOTAL

\$19,578.75

Accepted By

Accepted Date

*** PLEASE NOTE OUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS ***



CITY OF VILLA RICA

City Council Meeting Agenda Item Cover Sheet

SUBJECT: Stormwater Utility Proposals
AGENDA DATE: March 12, 2024

DATE PREPARED: February 27, 2024
PREPARED BY: Mark Teal, PE

AMOUNT: \$135,500.00
GL ACCOUNT #: 560-4320-521200
FUNDING SOURCE: Stormwater Fund
BUDGETED ITEM? Yes. \$150,000
PUBLIC HEARING:

- The public hearing process will ultimately be required since a stormwater utility ordinance is included as part of this project, however, a public hearing is not required for the approval of this proposal. Public relations, education and outreach will be performed by the consultant and are included in the cost above.

PURPOSE: The City of Villa Rica posted a request for Stormwater Utility RFPs on November 8, 2023 and proposals were due on December 15, 2023. The City of Villa Rica received three (3) proposals from engineering consulting firms, experienced in the successful implementation of stormwater utility programs for counties and municipalities, for developing a stormwater utility (or other alternative funding system) for use in equitably funding the City's efforts in managing the stormwater work plan. The stormwater work plan consists of operations and maintenance, environmental administration, design and construction.

BACKGROUND: Currently, stormwater management is funded through the City's general fund, with some of its Capital Improvement Programs (CIP) funded through Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). The City's infrastructure is aged, regulatory requirements are more demanding, and the City's budget is limited. Thus, the successful proposer shall provide professional services for the development and implementation of a stormwater utility for the City of Villa Rica.

The City of Villa Rica's geographical information system (GIS) database does not include an "impervious surface" layer. Impervious surface areas will be required to be calculated to predict a table of projected fees for separate land uses.

City of Villa Rica Domestic Water Services as of 9/30/2023:

Residential: 6275

Multiresidential: 32

Commercial: 636

Industrial: 68

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Proposals were reviewed and graded by Mr. Jameson Green (Watershed Protection/Stormwater Manager) Mr. Bobby Elliot, PE (Engineering Consultant), and Mr. Mark Teal, PE (Engineering Consultant). The RFP Tally Results are shown below.

Stormwater Utility RFP Tally				
Reviewer	Basis of Award	Integrated Science & Engineering	Brennan Jones Engineering & Associates	Raftelis
Mark Teal, PE	Qualifications and Experience (20 points)	19	18	18
	Methodology (30 points)	28	29	27
	Fees (20 points)	18	20	20
	Schedule (25 points)	25	25	25
	Local Vendor (5 points)	0	0	0
	Total Points	90	92	90
Bobby Elliot, PE	Qualifications and Experience (20 points)	20	20	10
	Methodology (30 points)	30	14	14
	Fees (20 points)	14	18	18
	Schedule (25 points)	25	25	25
	Local Vendor (5 points)	0	5	0
	Total Points	89	82	67
Jameson Green	Qualifications and Experience (20 points)	20	18	15
	Methodology (30 points)	30	12	17
	Fees (20 points)	13	18	18
	Schedule (25 points)	25	25	25
	Local Vendor (5 points)	0	5	0
	Total Points	88	78	75
Average Points		89	84	77
Proposed Fee		\$ 135,500.00	\$ 165,000.00	\$ 150,700.00

*The \$210,500.00 fee proposed by Integrated Science & Engineering, Inc. included an additional optional cost of \$75,000.00 to calculate residential impervious surface areas, which is not a requirement of the RFP. Therefore, their fee is \$135,500.00 per confirmation from Integrated Science & Engineering, Inc.. At the time proposals were reviewed “staff” did not realize this \$75,000.00 was included in the total proposal fee. This information further justifies Integrated Science & Engineering, LLC as the best consultant for this project.

Recommendation: Contract with Integrated Science & Engineering, LLC.

IMPACT: The proposed fee of \$135,500.00 is \$14,500.00 under the budgeted line item for this project.

MOTION: Motion to approve the proposal from Integrated Science & Engineering, Inc. at the proposed fee of \$135,500.00, authorize the City Attorney to develop the contract based on the RFP and the Proposal, and authorize the Mayor to sign.

City of Villa Rica, Georgia

November 8, 2023

Stormwater Utility

Request for Proposals

CITY OF VILLA RICA, GA

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR STORMWATER UTILITY

**City of Villa Rica, Georgia
571 W Bankhead Hwy
Villa Rica, Georgia 30180**

This is a Request for Proposals to The City of Villa Rica for developing a Stormwater Utility as indicated herein. Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the City Manager (in the City of Villa Rica City Hall Building at the above address) prior to **2:00 p.m., Friday, December 15, 2023**. The City of Villa Rica will review all proposals and they will ultimately be ranked according to this document.

Digital copies of the Request for Proposals will be provided at no charge. For additional information, contact **Mark Teal at 770-378-2408 or TealE2.Consulting@gmail.com (email is preferred)**.

Instructions for preparation and submission of a proposal are contained in this packet. Proposals must be typed or printed in ink. Proposals submitted as a result of this invitation must include the "Fee Sheet" along with all required documents and shall be returned in a sealed envelope or container marked, "SEALED PROPOSAL for Villa Rica Stormwater Utility" on the outside. Proposals may not be considered unless so received.

Any questions and/or misunderstandings that may arise from this invitation shall be submitted in writing at least 10 days prior to the above mentioned due date. Send to Mark Teal, PE at TealE2.Consulting@gmail.com. The City will not respond to any questions received within 10 days of the RFP due date. Answers to questions submitted that materially change the conditions and specifications of this invitation for bid will be promulgated to all email addresses as an addendum. Any discussions or documents will be considered non-binding unless incorporated and promulgated in an addendum.

City of Villa Rica provides equal opportunities for all businesses and does not discriminate against any person or business because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap or veterans status. This policy ensures all segments of the business community have access to supplying the goods and services needed by the City of Villa Rica.

The City of Villa Rica reserves the right to waive any and all technicalities and informalities, reject any or all proposals, and make the award in the best interest of the City.

Sincerely,

Tom Barber, City Manager
City of Villa Rica, Georgia

SECTION I SCOPE OF WORK

2.0 Broad Description of Project

The purpose of this event is to receive proposals from consulting firms, experienced in the successful implementation of stormwater utility programs for counties and municipalities, for developing a stormwater utility (or other alternative funding system) for use in equitably funding the City's efforts in managing the stormwater work plan. The stormwater work plan consists of operations and maintenance, environmental administration, and construction in progress. Electronic submissions will not be accepted for this proposal.

2.1 Background

The City of Villa Rica's geographical information system (GIS) database does not include an "impervious surface" layer. Impervious surface areas will be required to be calculated to predict a table of projected fees for separate land uses.

Currently, stormwater management is funded through the City's general fund, with some of its Capital Improvement Programs (CIP) funded through Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). The City's infrastructure is aged, regulatory requirements are more demanding, and the City's budget is limited. Thus, the successful proposer shall provide professional services in support of the following general steps for the development and implementation of a stormwater utility for the City of Villa Rica.

City of Villa Rica Domestic Water Services as of 9/30/2023:

Residential:	6275
Multiresidential:	32
Commercial:	636
Industrial:	68

2.2 Scope of Services

The consultant shall review existing information, including levels of service and funding, and develop plans to implement a fair and legally defensible program for providing needed services and means by which to fund the program. This may include the following items:

- A. Program mission statement.
- B. Key policy issues that must be decided and recommendations.
- C. Menu of funding methods to evaluate.
- D. Organization, management, and operational options that relate resultant fees to various levels of service.
- E. Possible legal pitfalls.
- F. Alternative approaches to public information, involvement, and education.
- G. Suggested ordinance amendments.
- H. Strategy for gaining approval of utility and any other options or issues.

Expected components of the consultant's work include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- A. Evaluation of existing data.
- B. Stormwater needs assessment.
 - 1. Program elements.
 - 2. Level of service (LOS) both present and post utility implementation.
 - 3. Costs of existing service.
 - 4. Costs for higher service.
- C. Evaluation of other possible stormwater funding options.
- D. Stormwater utility evaluation including implementation plan with timeline.
- E. Conceptual plan of the public awareness, education, and involvement process including groups that should be involved.
- F. Describe consultant's rate modeling approach.
- G. Stormwater utility report. This is foreseen as the basis for actual implementation of the stormwater utility.

The goal is to create a successful utility that will stand up to known legal challenges and can be implemented as soon as possible, in order to create revenue sufficient to operate a significant portion of the City's stormwater maintenance, operation, and possibly capital and environmental expenditure needs. The term utility shall be understood as being a system of legally billing the public for the services provided.

The plan, process, procedure, and workings of the completed stormwater utility must be conducted in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations of the State of Georgia.

Proposals shall include the following and **shall be no more than twenty (20) pages not including resumes and references**. All respondents to this RFQ are subject to instructions communicated in this document and are cautioned to completely review the entire RFQ and follow instructions carefully. The City reserves the right to reject any or all statements of qualifications or proposals and to waive technicalities and informalities at the discretion of the City. Please note: The issuance of this RFQ invokes a Restriction of Communication on potential respondents, which, if violated, may result in proposal rejection (See Section 2.11.1 for details).

Proposal Requirements:

- A. Project Execution
 - 1. Execution of supporting the entire stormwater utility development process.
 - 2. Provide professional consulting throughout the entirety of the project to assist with management of the process.
- B. Public Relations and Education
 - 1. Assist with public relations activities to achieve public participation in the process.
 - 2. Assist in public meetings, presentations, and guidance for staff and elected officials.
 - 3. Produce high quality presentation materials for the public process.
 - 4. Public information program.
- C. Utility Details
 - 1. Data collection.

2. Utility policies.
 - a. Rate structure options.
 - b. Recommend exemptions/credits.
 - c. Fee adjustment models.
 - d. Recommended rate model.
 - e. Funded activities.
 - f. Assignment of billing basis.
3. Preliminary revenue project/rate model.
4. Billing assessment (non-ad valorem).
5. Aerial and parcel coverage City wide.
6. Impervious surface area calculations.
7. Field verification/review.
8. Ordinance Amendments

D. Stormwater utility release to the City

1. Sending out the first bill. See 2.3.4 Schedule.
2. Assist in training City customer service representatives including ,
water/sewer billing, and stormwater management utility staff on responding
to questions and complaints regarding the new utility.
3. Establish a mechanism to add a bill for new annexations, developments,
and/or changes to impervious surface areas.
4. Develop a system to build five (5) and twenty (20) year planning into the
basis for fee.
5. Assist in training the billing staff to collect the fee for the first 120 days, after
initial billing.
6. Document the process at the successful conclusion of the project.

2.3 Proposal Response Requirements

Proposing firms must provide proposals addressing the following items:

2.3.1 Experience

Provide summaries and project descriptions of at least five (5) projects completed within the past five (5) years (at least two (2) must be in Georgia) similar in nature, scope, and complexity. Include information on court challenges, current status of utility, type of rate structure utilized, and reference names and telephone numbers for each project. Each proposer shall submit a detailed summary of their qualifications and experience. Additional information such as agency brochures, resumes, etc. may be submitted as appropriate. List the names and address of the firm's headquarters and the branch office that will perform the services described in this RFP. Provide current and projected workload for the key project team members to the project. Provide executive summaries (one page) of financial statements for the past five (5) years for your firm.

2.3.2 Methodology

Describe how your firm conducts these types of projects, including a description of the role of City staff. Describe how your firm sees the City of Villa Rica's needs as paralleling your typical plan, or how it needs to be different if that is your opinion. Include a schedule for overall implementation of a stormwater utility for Villa Rica.

2.3.3 Fees: Proposer shall submit fees based on the detailed listing in Section 3 of the RFP. Provide Hourly Fees for Services not specifically shown in the Scope of Services that may arise.

2.3.4 Schedule: Each proposer shall submit a proposed time schedule for the project.

The City of Villa Rica is requiring the total contract time for implementation for sending out the first bill to be a maximum of 365 calendar days.

2.3.5 A bidder or business shall be considered a local vendor if it meets all of the following requirements:

- a) The bidder or business must operate and maintain a regular place of business with a physical address within the corporate limits of the city, and
- b) The bidder or business must at the time of bid or quotation submission, have a current city business tax certificate issued by the city, and
- c) The business owner must serve a commercially useful function, meaning performance of real and actual service in the discharge of any contractual endeavor. The contractor/vendor must perform a distinct element of work for which the business owner has the skills, qualifications and expertise, as well as the responsibility for the actual performance, management and supervision of the work for which he/she has been contracted to perform.

2.3.6 Documents Required (not included in the 20 page limit)

- ☐ **Representation**
- ☐ **Oath**
- ☐ **Acknowledge Addendum/Amendments**
- ☐ **Georgia Security and Immigration Compliance Act requirements**

(Failure to return required documents with your bid will render your proposal non responsive.)

2.4 Information Available

Proposing firms should assume that the following information is available for the successful consultant's use in executing the project:

- A. City code
- B. Property tax records
- C. Color aerial photography
- D. City municipal limits
- E. Property maps

- F. Rights of way maps
- G. GIS resources
- H. Public Information Office for public outreach including government television, commercial spots, etc.
- I. City drainage plans (minimal)
- J. Neighborhood maps
- K. Drainage maintenance records for past several years
- M. Interviews with City Staff

2.5 Proposal Format: Proposals shall be submitted in the following format and include the following information.

- a) Detailed description of capabilities as requested
- b) Fee Proposals per instructions in Section III signed by responsible party

2.6 Basis of Award: Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria and weight:

- a) Proposer's qualifications and experience, including support capabilities *(20 points)*
- b) Methodology *(30 points)*
- c) Fees *(20 points)*
- d) Schedule *(25 points)*
- e) Local vendor (Within the city limits of Villa Rica and has a City of Villa Rica Business Tax Certificate) participation *(5 points)*

Proposals shall be evaluated by a selection committee. The selection committee may, at its option, request any or all proposers to provide on-site demonstrations of the proposed system.

A short list may be developed and interviews conducted with those proposers deemed to be most qualified. The City reserves the right to conduct interviews of any or all proposers at the City's discretion. The City also reserves the right to request a Best and Final Offer (BFO) and to re-score evaluations based on the best and final offer. Proposers may be required to provide clarification of their proposal as part of the BFO response.

2.7 Copies: One (1) unbound, printed and signed original, five (5) identical, printed copies, and one electronic copy (on a flash drive) of the proposal and supporting documents must be submitted in response to the RFP. All responses must relate to the specifications as outlined.

2.8 Contacts: Proposers must submit proposals in accordance with the instructions contained in this RFP. All requested information must be submitted with the proposal. Instructions for preparation and submission of proposals are contained in this package. All questions regarding this request for proposal should be submitted in writing and emailed to the person listed on the summary event page.

2.9 Acknowledgement of Addenda: Vendor is responsible for determining and acknowledging any addenda issued in connection with this RFP. Addenda must be acknowledged in order for proposals to be considered.

2.10 Insurance Requirements

2.10.1 Comprehensive General Liability

Contractor shall carry comprehensive general liability on an occurrence form with no “x, c or u” exclusions with the following minimum limits:

- Each occurrence - \$2,000,000
- Damage to Rented Premises - \$1,000,000
- Medical Expense - \$5,000
- Personal & Adv Injury - \$1,000,000
- General Aggregate - \$2,000,000
- Products – Completed Ops. Aggregate - \$2,000,000

General aggregate shall apply on a per project basis

Contractor will provide a Certificate of Insurance reflecting required coverage.

A waiver of subrogation endorsement to the policy in favor of the City shall also be provided and attached to the certificate

A (30) day notice of cancellation in favor of the City must be endorsed to policy and attached to the certificate

2.10.2 Professional Liability

\$ 1,000,000 per occurrence limit

2.10.3 Commercial Automobile Liability

The automobile policy must include coverage for owned, non-owned and hired automobiles

- Minimum limits are \$1,000,000
 - Contractor will provide a Certificate of Insurance reflecting required coverage.
- A waiver of subrogation endorsement to the policy in favor of the City shall also be provided and attached to the certificate
- A (30) day notice of cancellation in favor of the City must be endorsed to policy and attached to the certificate

2.10.4 Workers Compensation

Contractor shall carry a workers compensation policy including all statutory coverage required by Georgia state law

Minimum employer's liability limits:

- \$500,000 each accident
- \$500,000 each employee (disease)
- \$500,000 policy limit (disease)

Contractor will provide a Certificate of Insurance reflecting required coverage.

A waiver of subrogation endorsement to the policy in favor of the City shall also be provided and attached to the certificate

A (30) day notice of cancellation in favor of the City must be endorsed to policy and attached to the certificate

2.10.5 Umbrella/Excess Liability

Contractor shall carry an umbrella/excess liability policy which must follow form over underlying policies: general liability, auto liability and employer's liability.

Minimum limits:

- \$2,000,000 per occurrence
- \$2,000,000 aggregate

Contractor will provide a Certificate of Insurance reflecting required coverage.

Waiver of subrogation endorsement to the policy in favor of the City shall also be provided and attached to the certificate

A (30) day notice of cancellation in favor of the City must be endorsed to policy and attached to the certificate

2.10.6 General

All insurance shall be placed with Georgia admitted carriers with a current Best's rating of A (minus), X, or better

Any modifications to specifications must be approved by the City

2.11 Additional Terms and Conditions

2.11.1 Restriction of Communication

From the issue date of this (RFQ) solicitation until a successful proposer is selected and the selection is announced, proposers are not allowed to communicate about this solicitation or this Project Or any reason with any members of the Selection Committee, the Owner, except for submission of questions as instructed in the RFQ, or during the proposer's conference (if applicable), or as provided by any existing work agreement(s). For violation of this provision, the Owner reserves the right to reject the proposal of the offending proposer.

2.11.2 Submittal Costs and Confidentiality

All expenses for preparing and submitting responses are the sole cost of the party submitting the response. The Owner is not obligated to any party to reimburse such expenses. All submittals upon receipt become the property of the Owner. Labeling information provided in submittals “proprietary” or “confidential”, or any other designation of restricted use will not protect the information from public view. Subject to the provisions of the Georgia Open Records Act, the details of the proposal documents will remain confidential until final award.

2.11.3 Award Conditions

This request is not an offer to contract or a solicitation of bids. This request and any statement of qualifications or proposal submitted in response, regardless of whether the proposal is determined to be the best proposal, is not binding upon the Owner and does not obligate the Owner to procure or contract for any services. Neither the Owner nor any party submitting a response will be bound unless and until a written contract mutually accepted by both parties is negotiated as to its terms and conditions and is signed by the Owner. The Owner reserves the right to waive non-compliance with any requirements of this Request for Proposal and to reject any or all proposals submitted in responses. Upon receipt and review of responses, the Owner will determine the party(s) and proposal that in the sole judgment of the Owner is in the best interest of the Owner (if any is so determined), with respect to the evaluation criteria stated herein. The Owner then intends to conduct negotiations with such party(s) to determine if a mutually acceptable contract may be reached.

2.11.4 Statement of Agreement

With submission of a statement of qualifications or proposal, the Proposer agrees that he/she has carefully examined the solicitation, and the Proposer agrees that it is the Proposer's responsibility to request clarification on any issues in any section of the solicitation with which the Proposer disagrees or needs clarified. The Proposer also understands that failure to mention these items in the proposal will be interpreted to mean that the Proposer is in full agreement with the terms, conditions, specifications and requirements in the therein. With submission of a proposal, the Proposer hereby certifies: (a) that this proposal is genuine and is not made in the interest or on behalf of any undisclosed person, firm, or corporation; (b) that Proposer has not directly or indirectly included or solicited any other Proposer to put in a false or insincere proposal; (c) that Proposer has not solicited or induced any person, firm, or corporation to refrain from sending a proposal.

SECTION III

FEE PROPOSAL

ALL PROPOSERS MUST BE REGISTERED SUPPLIERS ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE TO BE AWARDED AN EVENT. PLEASE REGISTER AT WWW.VillaRicaGA.GOV. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON THIS FORM.

I have read and understand the requirements of this request for proposal RFP – Consulting for Stormwater Utility and agree to provide the required services in accordance with this proposal and all attachments, exhibits, etc. The proposed fee shall include all labor, material, and equipment to provide the services as outlined including any travel or per diem expenses and any other miscellaneous expense involved. The fee for providing the required service is:

Project Execution \$ _____

Public Relations and Education \$ _____

Stormwater Utility Details \$ _____

Stormwater Utility Release to the City \$ _____

Other Services (include rate sheets as an attachment) \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

*Fee proposals shall be accompanied by hourly rate sheets.

SUBMITTED BY: _____

PROPOSER: _____

SIGNED: _____

NAME (PRINT): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE: _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE: (_____) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

CONFIRM RECEIPT OF ANY ADDENDA ISSUED FOR THIS BID:

ADDENDUM # _____

DATE _____

I certify this bid complies with the General and Specific Specifications and Conditions issued by the City except as clearly marked in the attached copy.

_____/_____/_____

Please Print Name

Authorization Signature

Date

The bidder certifies that:

- (1) No person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefit of, or otherwise discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, or gender in connection with any bid submitted to the City of Villa Rica or the performance of any contract resulting therefrom;
- (2) That it is and shall be the policy of this company to provide equal opportunity to all business persons seeking to contract or otherwise interested in contracting with this company, including those companies owned and controlled by racial minorities, cultural minorities, and women;
- (3) In connection herewith, we acknowledge and warrant that this company has been made aware of, understands and agrees to take affirmative action to provide such companies with the maximum practicable opportunities to do business with this company;
- (4) That this promise of non-discrimination as made and set forth herein shall be continuing in nature and shall remain in full force and effect without interruption;
- (5) That the promises of non-discrimination as made and set forth herein shall be and are hereby deemed to be made as part of and incorporated by reference into any contract or portion thereof which this company may hereafter obtain and;
- (6) That the failure of this company to satisfactorily discharge any of the promises of non-discrimination as made and set forth herein shall constitute a material breach of contract entitling the City of Villa Rica to declare the contract in default and to exercise any and all applicable rights and remedies including but not limited to cancellation of the contract, termination of the contract, suspension and debarment from future contracting opportunities, and withholding and/or forfeiture of compensation due and owing on a contract.

_____/_____
Signature **Title**

REPRESENTATION

(To be submitted)

AFFIDAVIT

This proposal is submitted to the City of Villa Rica, Georgia (City) by the undersigned who is an authorized officer of the company and said company is licensed to do business in Georgia and the City of Villa Rica. Further, the undersigned is authorized to make these representations and certifies these representations are valid. The Proposer recognizes that all representations herein are binding on the Company and failure to adhere to any of these commitments, at the City's option, may result in a revocation of the granted contract.

Consent is hereby given to the City to contact any person or organization in order to make inquiries into legal, character, technical, financial, and other qualifications of the Proposer.

The Proposer understands that, at such time as the City decides to review this proposal, additional information may be requested. Failure to supply any requested information within a reasonable time may result in the rejection of the Proposer's proposal with no re-submittal rights.

The successful Proposer understands that the City, after considering the legal, financial, technical, and character qualifications of the Proposer, as well as what in the City's judgment may best serve the public interest of its citizens and employees, may grant a contract.

The successful Proposer understands that this proposal is made without prior understanding, agreement, or connection with any corporation, firm or person submitting a proposal for the same, and is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud. I understand that collusive bidding is a violation of state and federal law and can result in fines, prison sentences, and civil damage awards.

Company Name: _____

Authorized Person: _____ Signature: _____
(Print/Type)

Title: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Name and telephone number of person to whom inquiries should be directed:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Title: _____ Telephone: _____

Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

-End of this Page -

GEORGIA SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION CONTRACTOR AFFIDAVIT

Instructions:

Contractors must attest to compliance with the requirements of O.C.G.A. 13-10-91 and the Georgia Department of Labor Rule 300-01-02 by executing the Contractor Affidavit in accordance with the requirements of the Georgia Security & Immigration Compliance Act.

CONTRACTOR AFFIDAVIT AND AGREEMENT

(Failure to submit will render bid non-responsive You must use this form, you must be enrolled in this program, you must include your user ID #)

By executing this affidavit, the undersigned contractor verifies its compliance with O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91, stating affirmatively that the individual, firm, or corporation which is contracting with the City of Villa Rica has registered with and is participating in a federal work authorization program [Employment Eligibility Verification (EEV) / Basic Pilot Program, operated by the U.S. Citizens and Immigration Services Bureau of the U. S. Department of Homeland Security, in conjunction with the Social Security Administration (SSA)] in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91. Further, the undersigned contractor states affirmatively that the individual, firm, or corporation contracting with City of Villa Rica will continue to utilize and participate in the EEV federal work authorization program throughout the term of this contract.

The undersigned further agrees that, should it employ or contract with any subcontractor(s) in connection with the physical performance of services pursuant to this contract with City of Villa Rica, contractor will secure from such subcontractor(s) similar verification of compliance with O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91 on the Subcontractor Affidavit provided in Rule 300-10-01-.08 or a substantially similar form provided by The City of Villa Rica. Contractor further agrees to maintain records of such compliance and provide a copy of each such verification to the City of Villa Rica at the time the subcontractor(s) is retained to perform such service.

EEV / Basic Pilot Program User Identification Number

BY: _____
Authorized Officer or Agent
(Contractor Name)

Date

Title of Authorized Officer or Agent of Contractor

Printed Name of Authorized Officer or Agent

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN BEFORE ME ON THIS THE
DAY OF _____,
20____.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: _____

Note: As of the effective date of O.C.G.A. 13-10-91, the applicable federal work authorization program is the "EEV/Basic Pilot Program" operated by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Bureau of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in conjunction with the Social Security Administration (SS)

GEORGIA SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION SUBCONTRACTOR AFFIDAVIT

Instructions:

In the event that your company is awarded the contract for this project, and will be utilizing the services of any subcontractor(s) in connection with the physical performance of services pursuant to this contract, the following affidavit must be completed by such subcontractor(s). Your company must provide a copy of each such affidavit to the City of Villa Rica with the executed contract documents.

All subcontractor affidavit(s) shall become a part of the contract and all subcontractor(s) affidavits shall be maintained by your company and available for inspection by the The City of Villa Rica City Council at any time during the term of the contract. All subcontractor(s) affidavit(s) shall become a part of any contractor/subcontractor agreement(s) entered into by your company.

SUBCONTRACTOR AFFIDAVIT

By executing this affidavit, the undersigned subcontractor verifies its compliance with O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91, stating affirmatively that the individual, firm, or corporation which is engaged in the physical performance of services under a contract with (name of contractor) on behalf of The City of Villa Rica has registered with and is participating in a federal work authorization program [Employment Eligibility Verification (EEV) / Basic Pilot Program, operated by the U.S. Citizens and Immigration Services Bureau of the U. S. Department of Homeland Security, in conjunction with the Social Security Administration (SSA)] in accordance with the applicability provisions and deadlines established in O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91.

EEV / Basic Pilot Program User Identification Number

BY: _____
Authorized Officer or Agent
(Contractor Name)

Date

Title of Authorized Officer or Agent of Contractor

Printed Name of Authorized Officer or Agent

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN BEFORE ME
ON THIS THE ____ DAY OF _____,
20____.

Notary Public _____

My Commission Expires: _____

<http://www.accg.org/content.asp?contentid=1779>

(Click on the link above for more information regarding the SAVE portion of the “Georgia Security & Immigration Compliance Act”)

Secure and Verifiable Documents:

http://law.ga.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit_1210/0/0/187421259Secure%20and%20Verifiable%20document%20list%202012.pdf

(Click on the above link for a list of acceptable “Secure & Verifiable Documents”)

PLEASE READ AND ATTACH APPROPRIATE DOCUMENT TO THE AFFIDAVIT AFTER THIS PAGE

Affidavit Verifying Status of Applicant for City Public Benefits

Pursuant to the Georgia Security and Immigration Compliance Act (O.C.G.A. § 50-36-1), effective July 1, 2007, every agency in the City of Villa Rica providing local public benefits is responsible for determining the immigration status of applicants for said benefits.

By executing this affidavit under oath, as an applicant for a City of Villa Rica, Georgia Occupation Tax Certificate, Alcohol License, Taxicab License, or other public benefit as referenced in O.C.G.A. § 50-36-1 I am stating the following with respect to my application for a City of Villa Rica Occupation Tax Certificate, Alcohol License, Taxicab License or other public benefit (circle one) for _____ [Name of natural person applying on behalf of individual, business, corporation, partnership, or other private entity]:

Company Name: _____

_____ I am a United States citizen;

OR

_____ I am a legal permanent resident 18 years of age or older or I am an otherwise qualified alien or non-immigrant under the Federal Immigration and Nationality Act 18 years of age or older and lawfully present in the United States.*

In making the above representation under oath, I understand that any person who knowingly and willfully makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation in an affidavit shall be guilty of a violation of Code Section 16-10-20 of the Official Code of Georgia.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Printed Name

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN

BEFORE ME ON THIS THE

____ DAY OF _____, 20__

Alien Registration number for non-citizens*

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

***Note:** O.C.G.A. § 50-36-1(e)(2) requires that aliens under the Federal Immigration and Nationality Act, Title 8 U.S.C., as amended, provide their alien registration number. Because legal permanent Residents are included in the federal definition of "alien", legal permanent residents must also provide their alien registration number. Qualified aliens that do not have an alien registration number may supply another identifying number below:

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (EEO) PRACTICE

EEO Plan: The successful Proposer will develop and implement an EEO policy that, as a minimum, will recruit, hire, train, and promote, at all levels, without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or age, except where sex or age is a bona fide occupational qualification.

EEO For Veterans/Handicapped: The successful Proposer will also provide equal employment opportunities for qualified disabled veterans, handicapped persons and veterans of the Vietnam Era.

EEO For Successful Proposer Programs: The successful Proposer, will ensure equal employment opportunity applies to all terms and conditions of employment, personnel actions, and successful Proposer-sponsored programs. Every effort shall be made to ensure that employment decisions, programs and personnel actions are non-discriminatory. That these decisions are administered on the basis of an evaluation of an employee's eligibility, performance, ability, skill and experience.

EEO Acquisitions: The successful Proposer will develop and implement a policy that will give equal opportunity to the purchase of various goods and services from small businesses and minority owned businesses.

Does the Proposer have the above EEO policy in place?	Y	N
If the answer to the above is no, will the Proposer have such a policy in place prior to commencing work on this project:	Y	N

Statement of Assurance: The Proposer herein assures the City that it is in compliance with Title VI & VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, as amended, in that it does not on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, handicap, or veteran status, discriminate in any form or manner against employees or employers or applicants for employment and is in full compliance A.D.A.

(Firm's Name)

(Authorized Signature)

_____/_____
(Title) (Date)

LEGAL AND CHARACTER QUALIFICATIONS

Convictions: Has the Proposer (including parent corporation, if applicable) or any principal ever been convicted in a criminal proceeding (felonies or misdemeanors) in which any of the following offenses were charged?

		Y	N
a	Fraud		
b	Embezzlement		
c	Tax Evasion		
d	Bribery		
e	Extortion		
f	Jury Tampering		
g	Anti-Trust Violations		
h	Obstruction of justice (or any other misconduct affecting public or judicial officers' performance of their official duties)		
i	False/misleading advertising		
j	Perjury		
k	Conspiracy to commit any of the foregoing offenses		

Civil Proceedings: Has the Proposer or any principal ever been a party, or is now a party, to civil proceeding in which it was held liable for any of the following?

		Y	N
a	Unfair/anti-competitive business practices		
b	Consumer fraud/misrepresentation		
c	Violations of securities laws (state and federal)		
d	False/misleading advertising		
e	Violation of local government ordinance		

License Revocation:

	Y	N
Has the proposer or any principal ever had a business license revoked, suspended, or the renewal thereof denied, or is a party to such a proceeding that may result in same?		

Responses: If "yes" is the response to any of the foregoing, provide Information such as date, court, sentence, fine, location, and all other specifics for each "yes" response.

Principals: The full names and addresses of persons or parties interested in the foregoing bid, as principals, are as follows:

OATH
(To be submitted)

State of Georgia
City of Villa Rica

I, _____ (name of individual), solemnly swear that in the procurement of the contract for **Villa Rica Stormwater Utility**, that neither I, nor any other person associated with me or my business, corporation or partnership, has prevented or attempted to prevent competition in the bidding or proposals of said project or from submitting a bid or proposal for this project by any means whatever.

Lastly, I swear that neither I, nor any other person associated with me or my business, Corporation or partnership has caused or induced any other bidder or proposer to withdraw his/her bid or proposal from consideration for this project. Said oath is filed in accordance with the requirements set forth in O.C.G.A. § 36-91-21 (e).

This _____ day of _____, 20____.

Name of Party
Corporate or Partnership Name

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this _____ day of, 20____.

NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires:

(SEAL)

City of Villa Rica
Stormwater Utility RFP
Tally Sheet

Company Name: Integrated Science & Engineering

Basis of Award:

- a) Proposer's qualifications and experience, including support capabilities (20 points): 20
- b) Methodology (30 points): 30
- c) Fees (20 points): 15.13
- d) Schedule (25 points): 25
- e) Local vendor (Within the city limits of Villa Rica and has a City of Villa Rica Occupational Tax Certificate) participation (5 points): 0

Total Points: 88

Reviewer: (Print Name) Jameson Green

(Signature) [Signature]

Date: 1-3-2024

Fee Proposal 219,500

City of Villa Rica
Stormwater Utility RFP
Tally Sheet

Company Name: Brennan Jones

Basis of Award:

- a) Proposer's qualifications and experience, including support capabilities (20 points): 18
- b) Methodology (30 points): 12
- c) Fees (20 points): 18
- d) Schedule (25 points): 25
- e) Local vendor (Within the city limits of Villa Rica and has a City of Villa Rica Occupational Tax Certificate) participation (5 points): 5

Total Points: 78

Reviewer: (Print Name) Jameson Green

(Signature) [Signature]

Date: 1-3-2024

2023 Billing Rate schedule By the ^{Rate}/Hour

City of Villa Rica
Stormwater Utility RFP
Tally Sheet

Company Name: Raffel's

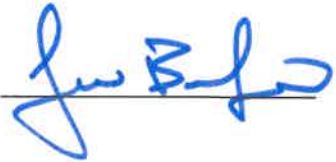
Basis of Award:

- a) Proposer's qualifications and experience, including support capabilities (20 points): 15
- b) Methodology (30 points): 17
- c) Fees (20 points): 18
- d) Schedule (25 points): 25
- e) Local vendor (Within the city limits of Villa Rica and has a City of Villa Rica Occupational Tax Certificate) participation (5 points): 0

Total Points: 75

Reviewer: (Print Name) Jameson Green

(Signature)



Date: 1-3-2024

Fee proposal Total = 150,700

City of Villa Rica
Stormwater Utility RFP
Tally Sheet

Company Name: RAFTELIS

Basis of Award:

- a) Proposer's qualifications and experience, including support capabilities (20 points): 10
- b) Methodology (30 points): 14
- c) Fees (20 points): 18
- d) Schedule (25 points): 25
- e) Local vendor (Within the city limits of Villa Rica and has a City of Villa Rica Occupational Tax Certificate) participation (5 points): 0

Total Points: 67

Reviewer: (Print Name) Bobby C. ELLIOTT

(Signature) Bobby C. Elliott

Date: 12/31/2023

- a.) No registered engineers on team!
- b.) No stakeholders Committee - utility won't be approved without it!
- c.) OK
- d.) OK

City of Villa Rica
Stormwater Utility RFP
Tally Sheet

Company Name: BRENNAN JONES/GMC

Basis of Award:

- a) Proposer's qualifications and experience, including support capabilities (20 points): 20
b) Methodology (30 points): 14
c) Fees (20 points): 18
d) Schedule (25 points): 25
e) Local vendor (Within the city limits of Villa Rica and has a City of Villa Rica Occupational Tax Certificate) participation (5 points): 5

Total Points: 82

Reviewer: (Print Name) Bobby C. Elliott

(Signature) Bobby C. Elliott

Date: 12/31/2023

a.) OK

b.) No STAKEHOLDER Committee - utility will not be Approved without it

c.) OK

d.) OK

City of Villa Rica
Stormwater Utility RFP
Tally Sheet

Company Name: INTEGRATED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Basis of Award:

- a) Proposer's qualifications and experience, including support capabilities (20 points): 20
- b) Methodology (30 points): 30
- c) Fees (20 points): 14
- d) Schedule (25 points): 25
- e) Local vendor (Within the city limits of Villa Rica and has a City of Villa Rica Occupational Tax Certificate) participation (5 points): 0

Total Points: 89

Reviewer: (Print Name) Bobby C. Elliott

(Signature) Bobby C. Elliott

Date: 12/31/2023

- a.) Good - Lots of Cities
- b.) Excellent - STAKEHOLDER Committee AS PART OF METHODOLOGY!
- c.) A LITTLE Higher than expected.
- d.) OK

City of Villa Rica
Stormwater Utility RFP
Tally Sheet

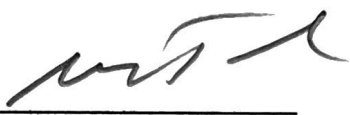
Company Name: Raftelis

Basis of Award:

- a) Proposer's qualifications and experience, including support capabilities (20 points): 18
- b) Methodology (30 points): 27
- c) Fees (20 points): 20 \$150K
- d) Schedule (25 points): 25 Nov 24 / Mar 2025
1/2 day in Person Training
120 day support online
- e) Local vendor (Within the city limits of Villa Rica and has a City of Villa Rica Occupational Tax Certificate) participation (5 points): 0 N.C.

Total Points: 90

Reviewer: (Print Name) Mark Teal

(Signature) 

Date: 1/2/2024

City of Villa Rica
Stormwater Utility RFP
Tally Sheet

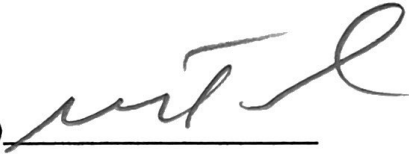
Company Name: Integrated Science & Engineering

Basis of Award:

- a) Proposer's qualifications and experience, including support capabilities (20 points): 19
- b) Methodology (30 points): 28
- c) Fees (20 points): 18 \$210K
- d) Schedule (25 points): 25 1 year ✓
- e) Local vendor (Within the city limits of Villa Rica and has a City of Villa Rica Occupational Tax Certificate) participation (5 points): 0 newnan, GA

Total Points: 90

Reviewer: (Print Name) Mark Teal

(Signature) 

Date: 1/2/2024

City of Villa Rica
Stormwater Utility RFP
Tally Sheet

Company Name: Brennan Jones Engineering Associates

Basis of Award:

- a) Proposer's qualifications and experience, including support capabilities (20 points): 18
- b) Methodology (30 points): 29
- c) Fees (20 points): 20 \$165K
- d) Schedule (25 points): 25 1 yr
- e) Local vendor (Within the city limits of Villa Rica and has a City of Villa Rica Occupational Tax Certificate) participation (5 points): 0 Duille, GA

Total Points: 92

Reviewer: (Print Name) Mark Teal

(Signature)



Date: 1/2/2024

SECTION III
FEE PROPOSAL

ALL PROPOSERS MUST BE REGISTERED SUPPLIERS ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE TO BE AWARDED AN EVENT. PLEASE REGISTER AT WWW.Villa RicaGA.GOV. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON THIS FORM.

I have read and understand the requirements of this request for proposal RFP – Consulting for Stormwater Utility and agree to provide the required services in accordance with this proposal and all attachments, exhibits, etc. The proposed fee shall include all labor, material, and equipment to provide the services as outlined including any travel or per diem expenses and any other miscellaneous expense involved. The fee for providing the required service is:

Project Execution	\$ <u>20,440</u>
Public Relations and Education	\$ <u>20,290</u>
Stormwater Utility Details	\$ <u>61,435</u>
Stormwater Utility Release to the City	\$ <u>48,535</u>
Other Services (include rate sheets as an attachment)	\$ _____
TOTAL \$ <u>150,700</u>	

*Fee proposals shall be accompanied by hourly rate sheets.

SUBMITTED BY: Melissa Levin

PROPOSER: Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc.

SIGNED: Melissa Levin

NAME (PRINT): Melissa Levin

ADDRESS: 227 W. Trade Street, Suite 1400

CITY/STATE: Charlotte, NC ZIP 28202

TELEPHONE: (704) 936-4441

EMAIL ADDRESS: mlevin@raftelis.com

CONFIRM RECEIPT OF ANY ADDENDA ISSUED FOR THIS BID:

ADDENDUM # _____

DATE _____

SECTION III FEE PROPOSAL

ALL PROPOSERS MUST BE REGISTERED SUPPLIERS ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE TO BE AWARDED AN EVENT. PLEASE REGISTER AT WWW.VillaRicaGA.GOV. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON THIS FORM.

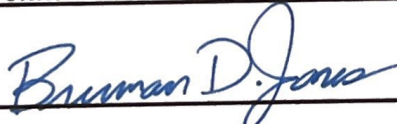
I have read and understand the requirements of this request for proposal RFP – Consulting for Stormwater Utility and agree to provide the required services in accordance with this proposal and all attachments, exhibits, etc. The proposed fee shall include all labor, material, and equipment to provide the services as outlined including any travel or per diem expenses and any other miscellaneous expense involved. The fee for providing the required service is:

Project Execution	<i>Supervision</i>	\$ 50,000
Public Relations and Education	<i>Subcontract</i>	\$ 25,000
Stormwater Utility Details	<i>Calcs</i>	\$ 75,000
Stormwater Utility Release to the City	<i>Included</i>	\$ 15,000
Other Services (include rate sheets as an attachment)		\$ attached
TOTAL		\$ 165,000

*Fee proposals shall be accompanied by hourly rate sheets.

SUBMITTED BY: Brennan Jones Engineering Associates, LLC

PROPOSER: Brennan D. Jones

SIGNED: 

NAME (PRINT): Brennan D. Jones

ADDRESS: 7513 Mason Falls Dr

CITY/STATE: Winston, GA ZIP 30187

TELEPHONE: (770) 688-5148

EMAIL ADDRESS: brennanjones@comcast.net

CONFIRM RECEIPT OF ANY ADDENDA ISSUED FOR THIS BID:

ADDENDUM # N/A

DATE N/A

SECTION III

FEE PROPOSAL

ALL PROPOSERS MUST BE REGISTERED SUPPLIERS ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE TO BE AWARDED AN EVENT. PLEASE REGISTER AT WWW.VillaRicaGA.GOV. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON THIS FORM.

I have read and understand the requirements of this request for proposal RFP – Consulting for Stormwater Utility and agree to provide the required services in accordance with this proposal and all attachments, exhibits, etc. The proposed fee shall include all labor, material, and equipment to provide the services as outlined including any travel or per diem expenses and any other miscellaneous expense involved. The fee for providing the required service is:

Project Execution	\$ 12,500
Public Relations and Education	\$ 26,500
Stormwater Utility Details	\$ 81,000
Stormwater Utility Release to the City	\$ 15,500
Other Services (include rate sheets as an attachment)	\$ 75,000 (Residential parcel delineations (optional) See details in task 3.4)

TOTAL \$ 210,500

*Fee proposals shall be accompanied by hourly rate sheets.

*# 135,500 without
Res Imp surface
CALCS*

SUBMITTED BY: Integrated Science & Engineering, Inc.

PROPOSER: Water Resources Department

SIGNED: 

NAME (PRINT): Lawrence H. (Dan) Davis, Jr., P.E.

ADDRESS: 1039 Sullivan Road, Suite 200

CITY/STATE: Newnan, GA ZIP 30265

TELEPHONE: (678) 552-2106

EMAIL ADDRESS: ddavis@intse.com

CONFIRM RECEIPT OF ANY ADDENDA ISSUED FOR THIS BID:

ADDENDUM #

DATE



CITY OF VILLA RICA

City Council Meeting Agenda Item Cover Sheet

SUBJECT: ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Transition Plan
AGENDA DATE: March 12, 2024

DATE PREPARED: February 28, 2024
PREPARED BY: Bobby C. Elliott, P.E.

AMOUNT: City Maintenance Budgets and Future Capital Funding
GL ACCOUNT #:
FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund and Future SPLOST
BUDGETED ITEM?
PUBLIC HEARING:

PURPOSE: The purpose of this agenda item is for Mayor and Council to formally adopt an ADA Transition Plan and to submit it to Georgia Department of Transportation EEO Office.

BACKGROUND: Back in December 2023 the City was notified by letter that an ADA Transition Plan for Villa Rica was not on file with the GDOT EEO office. They gave the City thirty days to submit a plan. The Americans with Disability Act of 1990 establishes the Plan requirements and all cities with 50 employees or more must have a plan on file. For some strange reason, the City of Villa Rica has never submitted a plan. Drafts of the plan were found but were never finished. This task has been completed. The City must choose an ADA Disability Service Coordinator and mandatory training is required.

The issue at hand is GDOT will withhold future State funding until this Plan is submitted. The Plan is attached for your viewing.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of the ADA Transition Plan for the City of Villa Rica.

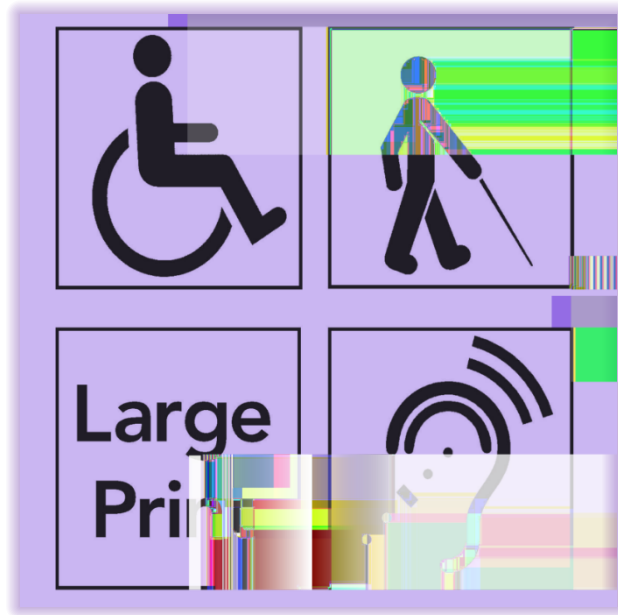
IMPACT:

MOTION: I move to approve the ADA Transition Plan for the City of Villa Rica and submit it to the Georgia Department of Transportation EEO Office.



City of Villa Rica, GA

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan



Mayor

Leslie McPherson

City Manager

Tom Barber

Council Members

Danny Carter – Mayor Pro-Tem

Shirley Marchman • Matthew Momtahan • Anna McCoy • Stephanie Warmoth

Disability Service Coordinator

TBD

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Section 1: City of Villa Rica's Mission Statement

The City of Villa Rica continually strives to provide the very best in customer service to all citizens in an effort to promote the overall welfare of the community. To, regardless of physical limitations, provide a high quality of life for its citizens.

Section 1.1: Transition Plan Goals

1. **Safety** – Regardless of any plans or ideas that may be incorporated as a planning tool to build the Transition Plan, safety will be the dominating factor in all concerns.
2. **Functionality** – Methodology must be true and tested. It must meet the proper guidelines required by the governing agencies.
3. **Accessibility** – Consideration will be given to the ease of access and use of facilities and services for all citizens.
4. **Cost** – We will strive to provide the most beneficial services with the least burden to the customer without compromising safety or functionality.



AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) REQUIREMENTS

Section 1.2: ADA Requirements

The ADA of 1991 is Federal civil rights legislation which mandates non-discrimination to persons with disabilities. The Act has five Titles, listed below:

- A. Title I – Employment
- B. Title II – Public Services and Transportation
- C. Title III – Public Accommodations
- D. Title IV – Telecommunications
- E. Title V – Miscellaneous

Title I: Employment

Under Title I, employers, including governmental agencies, must ensure that their practices do not discriminate against persons with disabilities in the application, hiring, advancement, training, compensation, or discharge of an employee, or in other terms, conditions and rights of employment.

Title II: Public Services and Transportation

Title II of the ADA prohibits discrimination by public entities on the basis of disability by making all programs, services, and activities accessible to the persons with disabilities. In order to accomplish this, the Department of Justice developed regulations requiring the City to conduct a self-evaluation of the accessibility of its programs and services to determine whether issues of accessibility could be addressed through changes in the way such programs and services are provided. The City is obligated to remove physical barriers to accessibility when program changes cannot ensure access to services, programs, and activities in existing facilities. Realizing that the structural changes would take time and money to provide, the Department of Justice Regulations, Federal Register 28 CFR Part 35 state that “in the event that structural changes to facilities will be undertaken to achieve program accessibility, a public entity that employs 50 or more persons shall develop, within six months of January 26, 1992 a Transition Plan setting forth the steps necessary to complete such changes.” Additionally, “if a public entity has responsibility or authority over streets, roads, or walkways, its Transition Plan shall include a schedule for providing curb ramps or other sloped areas where pedestrian walks cross curbs, giving priority to walkways serving entities covered by the Act.”

Title III: Public Accommodations

Title III requires places of public accommodation to be accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities. The term public accommodation as used in the definition often is misinterpreted as applying to public agencies, but the intent of the term is to refer to any privately funded and operated facility serving the public.

Title IV: Telecommunications

Title IV covers regulations regarding private telephone companies and requires common carriers offering telephone services to the public to increase the availability of interstate and intrastate telecommunications relay services to individuals with hearing and speech impairments.

Title V: Miscellaneous

Title V contains several miscellaneous regulations, including construction standards and practices, provisions for attorney's fees and technical assistance provisions.

Title II of the ADA dictates that a public entity must evaluate its services, programs, policies, and practices to determine whether they are in compliance with the nondiscrimination regulations of the ADA. The regulations detailing compliance requirements were issued in July 1991. A self-evaluation also is required. It is intended to examine activities and services, identify problems or barriers that may limit accessibility by persons with disabilities, and describe potential compliance solutions. The entity then must proceed to make the necessary changes resulting from the self-evaluation. The ADA further requires that an ADA transition plan be prepared to describe any structural or physical changes required to make programs accessible.

In the ADA, the term disability means, with respect to an individual:

- (1) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual;
- (2) a record of such an impairment; or
- (3) being regarded as having such an impairment.

If an individual meets any one of these three tests, that person is considered to be an individual with a disability for purposes of coverage under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Final Rules of the ADA describe in greater detail the conditions included and excluded as disabilities under the ADA. These rules are available upon request from the study team, and are incorporated by reference as part of this ADA Transition Plan.

Section 2: Villa Rica's Responsibilities Under the ADA

Villa Rica has various responsibilities under Title II of the ADA. Title II of the ADA is similar to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 but differs in that Section 504 applies only to government agencies that receive federal financial assistance. The purpose of Section 504 is to ensure that no otherwise qualified individual with disabilities shall, solely by reason of disability, be discriminated against under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Villa Rica has been subject to and operating under the requirements of Section 504 for many years.

The ADA states that an intent not to apply lesser standards than are required under other federal, state or local laws; therefore, the law that is the most stringent has precedence. This intent has particular application with respect to Villa Rica's obligations under the Georgia Accessibility Code, which in some cases, exceed ADA requirements with respect to structural and physical changes.

Title II also mandates that City governments may not require eligibility criteria for participation in programs and activities that would screen persons with disabilities, unless it can be proven that such requirements are necessary for the mandatory provision of the service or program. A public entity must reasonably modify its policies and procedures to avoid discrimination toward disabled residents. Nevertheless, if the public entity can demonstrate that a modification fundamentally would alter the nature of its service, it would not be required to make that modification. Title II also discusses the use of auxiliary aids necessary to enable persons who have visual, hearing, mobility, or similar impairments to gain access to programs and activities provided by the County so as to make appropriate reasonable accommodation. The lone exception to these requirements would be because of undue hardship. Undue hardship is defined in the ADA as an "action requiring significant difficulty or expense" when considering the nature and cost of the accommodation in relation to the size, resources, and structure of the specific operation. Undue hardship is determined on a case-by-case basis.

A public entity is also required to designate a person to be responsible for coordinating the implementation of ADA requirements and for investigating complaints of alleged noncompliance. At the time of the ADA Transition Plan preparations, for the intent of this portion of the ADA Transition Plan that relates to streets, sidewalks, and public rights-of-way, that designated person is Hal Burch, Public Works Director, hburch@villarica.gov , 770-550-1415.

Section 2.1: ADA Transition Plan Guidelines

According to ADA, a public agency is required to prepare an ADA Transition Plan if physical or structural modifications to facilities are required to provide access to programs or services. Title II of the ADA regulates government agencies, with its primary goal being to ensure that all of their programs and services are accessible to individuals with disabilities. The ADA Transition Plan is limited to evaluating physical barriers; however, an analysis of the programs and services rendered by Villa Rica is also important to determine what physical changes are necessary. The ADA Transition Plan documents what actions Villa Rica will take to alter its facilities. The ADA requires that the ADA Transition Plan be submitted for public review before final approval and adoption by the appropriate regulatory agency.

Generally, the ADA Transition Plan lists existing barriers in the public rights-of-way under Villa Rica's jurisdiction, and schedules which barriers to remove to provide access for individuals with disabilities to Villa Rica programs. Villa Rica is required to provide access to all of its programs but is not required to remove all architectural barriers in all of its facilities. In addition to making physical improvements, government agencies can choose among various administrative solutions, such as relocating or modifying a particular program, to obtain overall program access.

The ADA Transition Plan is required by Department of Justice rules to address the following aspects of accessibility:

- (1) If a public entity has responsibility or authority over streets, roads or walkways, its ADA Transition Plan shall include a schedule for providing curb ramps or other sloped areas where pedestrian walks cross curbs, giving priority to walkways serving entities covered by the ADA, including State and local government offices and facilities, transportation, places of public accommodation, and employers, followed by walkways serving other areas;
- (2) The ADA Transition Plan shall identify physical obstacles in the public entity's facilities that limit the accessibility of its programs or activities to individuals with disabilities;
- (3) The ADA Transition Plan shall describe the methods that will be used to make the facilities accessible; and
- (4) The ADA Transition Plan shall specify the schedule for taking the steps necessary to achieve compliance with the ADA and, if the time period of the ADA Transition Plan is longer than one year, identify steps that will be taken during each year of the transition period.

The ADA does not designate a specific code or standard for evaluating access to existing facilities. Title II gives government agencies a choice between the Uniform Federal Access Standards (UFAS) and the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) as a standard for renovations. Since the ADA states that it does not override requirements of other state and local requirements, the Georgia Accessibility Code also must be applied. Therefore, for the purpose of this ADA Transition Plan, each facility or site area is evaluated based on the most stringent requirements of the 2010 Department of Justice ADA Accessibility Guidelines or The Official Code of Georgia.

In creating priorities, it is Villa Rica's intent to evaluate all areas of potential deficiency, and to make structural changes where necessary. The assignment of priorities is intended to facilitate public review and to address specific concerns of the local disabled community. It must be

emphasized that it is the intent for all individuals with disabilities to be reasonably accommodated by Villa Rica.

Section 2.2: ADA Transition Plan Requirements

The ADA regulations further require the Transition Plan to contain the following elements:

- A. Physical Barriers** – a list of physical barriers in the public entity’s facilities that limit the accessibility of its programs, services, or activities to individuals with disabilities;
- B. Methods** – A detailed description of the methods to be utilized to remove the barriers and make the facilities accessible;
- C. Compliance Schedule** – The schedule for taking the necessary steps to achieve compliance with Title II;
- D. ADA Coordinator** – The name of the official responsible for the plan’s implementation;
- E. Traffic Schedule** – A schedule for providing curb ramps or other sloped areas where pedestrian walks cross curbs. Priorities should be given the following order:
 - 1. State and local government offices.**
 - 2. Transportation**
 - 3. Places of public accommodation**
 - 4. Employers**
 - 5. Other areas (e.g., residential areas where people needing curb ramps reside)**
- F. Public Input** – The opportunity for the disability community and other interested parties to participate in the development of the Transition Plan.

Section 2.3: Purpose

The purpose of the Plan is to ensure that the citizens of Villa Rica are provided full access to the City’s programs, services, and activities in as timely a fashion as is reasonably possible. The City’s elected officials and staff believe the ability to accommodate disabled persons is essential to good customer service, the quality-of-life Villa Rica residents seek to enjoy and to effective governance. This Plan has been prepared after careful study of all of the City’s programs, services, and activities.

Section 2.4: Statement of Accessibility

The City of Villa Rica shall make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures when the modifications are necessary to avoid discrimination on the basis of disability, unless the City can demonstrate that making the modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity. The City of Villa Rica will not place surcharges on individuals with disabilities to cover the cost involved in making programs accessible.

Section 2.5: Website Availability

The City of Villa Rica will post the ADA Transition Study on its website. The website address is www.villarica.org

Both the draft copy of the plan and the final revised copy of the Transition Plan will be posted on the website. By using the web site, the public will be able to obtain information on the plan's purpose, schedule, and timeline. The website will allow an opportunity for public involvement into the plan's development.

Section 3: Barriers

A self-evaluation / assessment of each of the City's physical facilities will be conducted in conjunction with the execution of this Plan. Deficiencies in the City of Villa Rica's physical features of facilities that diminish the ability of disabled persons to benefit from the City's programs, services and activities will be identified. A correction plan or other course of action will be noted for each deficiency, along with a schedule for completion of the correction.

Program accessibility means that, when viewed in its entirety, each program is readily accessible to, and usable by, individuals with disabilities. Program accessibility is necessary not only for individuals with needs related to mobility disabilities, but also to individuals with needs related to speech, cognitive, vision and hearing disabilities. The following are simply a few examples of barriers to accessibility:

Physical Barriers

- Parking
- Path of Entry/Travel
- Doors
- Service Counters
- Restrooms

Programmatic Barriers

- Building Signage
- Customer Communication and Interaction
- Access to Public Telephones
- Emergency Notifications, Alarms, Visible Signals
- Communications (via internet, public meetings, telephone)
- Participation opportunities for events sponsored by the City

City facilities, programs, services, policies, practices, and procedures will continue to be surveyed on an on-going basis, and the ADA Transition Plan may be revised to account for changes to City activities. An accessibility inventory of sidewalks and curb ramps on streets and near City facilities will be completed, and an approach put in place to ensure that all public ramps to sidewalks are handicap accessible. This Plan will be posted to the City's web site for review and consideration by the general public. In addition, notice will be provided of its existence in any official and unofficial City publications.

Section 3.1: Baseline Conditions

Each of the City's facilities will be reviewed in light of several "baseline" conditions, including:

1. Access to parking and entry into the facilities themselves;
2. Access to a clear and distinct path of travel;
3. Access to programs and services themselves;
4. Access to public areas and restrooms; and
5. Access to related amenities.

Section 3.2: Criteria for Determining Existence of Impediment

Criteria will be established to determine whether corrective action needs to be taken at a particular facility. The criterion includes, but is not limited to:

1. *The nature of unique programs or services.* Some facilities and sites are the only location that a particular program or service may be provided;
2. *Facilities already in compliance with ADA accessibility guidelines.* None of the City's facilities were constructed or underwent major renovations after the effective date of the ADA;
3. *Ability to relocate programs from one facility to another accessible facility.* Because the City offers special programs and services at more than one location, consideration was given to distribution of the special programs and services when viewed in their entirety;
4. *Current state of accessibility.* The current condition of each facility in terms of barriers already removed, or planned to be removed, will be identified by City administration;
5. *Cost.* The cost of alternatives to physical barrier removal versus the cost of an alternative corrective action plan; and Public use.
6. *The population served by a particular program or service and whether the public can obtain service from an alternative City location.*

Section 3.3: Physical Barriers

The City owns a very limited number of properties, and accordingly does not have many options on locations from which it can offer programs, activities, and services without incurring significant financial cost. Below is a list of the City's facilities:

Section 3.4: Programmatic Barriers

The City recognizes not all barriers to the City's programs, services and activities are physical in nature. Other administrative barriers exist that must be overcome to provide complete government services to those who are disabled.

COMMUNICATIONS

The City's Plan incorporates steps to ensure that communications with people with disabilities are as effective as communications with others. Effective communication means that whatever is written or spoken must be as clear and understandable to people with disabilities as it is for people who do not have disabilities.

The City's 9-1-1 and emergency communications services provide direct and equal access to persons with disabilities. The 9-1-1 call centers provide direct access to TDD (Time Division Duplexing) calls. This means that emergency telephone services can receive calls directly from TDD's and computer modem users without relying on state relay services or third parties. The City of Villa Rica's emergency operators are trained to use the TDD not only when they recognize the tones of a TDD at the other end of the line, but also when they receive a "silent call."



Miniprint 425 TDD

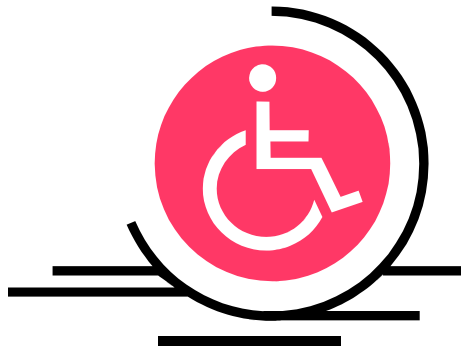
There are also other types of communications that the City handles, including web site communications, communications relating to City administration and open public meetings, and other communications regarding the City's programs, services, and activities. The City sends out important messages via email and/or phone messaging.

3. Accommodations for hearing impaired persons/use of auxiliary aids. The City will research the feasibility of incorporating equipment, available upon request, specially designed to assist hearing impaired persons to fully participate in City Council Meetings.

4. ***Participation in/accessibility to public meetings.*** The City has, as discussed above, already taken substantial efforts toward ensuring public meetings are held in ADA-accessible facilities. The City conducts all public meetings in ADA accessible facilities, and to the extent feasible will make specific accommodations, where necessary, to ensure that meetings among residents and City staff can be held within ADA accessible facilities.

ACCOMMODATION OF DISABLED PERSONS IN MUNICIPALLY SPONSORED PROGRAMS

The City is committed to allowing persons with disabilities to participate in municipally sponsored programs. This includes recreation opportunities sponsored by the City's Parks and Recreation Department, community forums and other events hosted or sponsored by the City. The City will achieve this goal by integrating all of the steps outlined above into these programs, including providing for effective communications and ensuring meeting and events are, to the extent possible, held in ADA-accessible parks and facilities.



Section 4: ADA Grievance Policy and Procedures

This grievance procedure has been developed to provide for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any action prohibited by the U.S. Department of Justice regulations, which implement Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Grievances should be filed with the City's Human Resources Department at:

City of Villa Rica
571 W. Bankhead Hwy
Villa Rica, GA 31080
tjenkins@villarica.gov
(678)-840-1225

The Grievance Procedure consists of the following:

1. A complaint should be filed in writing (but can be submitted in alternate format due to the needs of an individual's disability), containing the name and address of the person filing it, and briefly describing the alleged violation of the regulations or discriminatory act.
2. A complaint should be filed within 30 calendar days after the complainant becomes aware of the alleged violation. (Processing of allegations of discrimination, which occurred before this grievance procedure was in place, will be considered on a case-by-case basis.)
3. An investigation, as may be appropriate, will follow the filing of a complaint and will be conducted by the City's ADA Coordinator. These rules contemplate informal but thorough investigations, affording all interested parties and their representatives, if any, an opportunity to submit evidence relevant to a complaint.
4. The City's ADA Coordinator under the direct supervision of the HR Director will provide for review for the City Attorney, a written determination, as to the validity of the complaint and a description of the resolution, if any, and a copy will be forwarded to the City Manager, along with the original complaint, no later than thirty (30) days after its filing.
5. The City's ADA Coordinator will maintain the files and records of the City of Villa Rica relating to all ADA grievances/complaints filed.
6. The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint filed hereunder will not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of an ADA complaint with the responsible federal department or agency, such as the U.S. Department of Justice at (800) 514-0301. Use of this grievance procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.
7. These rules will be construed to protect the substantive rights of interested persons to meet appropriate due process standards, and to assure that the City of Villa Rica complies with the ADA and implementing regulations.

This information is available in alternate format and the grievance can be submitted in alternate format.



CITY OF VILLA RICA

ADA GRIEVANCE FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Location of problem: _____

Date noticed: _____

Description of problem:

****Please attach additional pages if needed***

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 30 calendar days after the alleged violation to:

City of Villa Rica
ATTN: ADA Coordinator
571 W. Bankhead Hwy
Villa Rica, GA 31080
tjenkins@villarica.gov
(678) 840-1225

Section 4.1: Reasonable Modification Policy

ACCESS TO PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND ACTIVITIES

NON-DISCRIMINATION

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any City program or activity.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

No qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of the City, or be subjected to discrimination by the City. Nor shall the City exclude or otherwise deny equal services, programs, or activities to an individual because of the known disability of an individual with whom the individual is known to have a relationship or association.

DEFINITION

A "qualified individual with a disability" is an individual with a disability who, with or without reasonable modifications to rules, policies, or practices, the removal of architectural, communication, or transportation barriers, or the provision of auxiliary aids and services, meets the essential eligibility requirements for the receipt of services or the participation in programs or activities provided by the City.

REASONABLE MODIFICATION

The City shall make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures when the modifications are necessary to avoid discrimination on the basis of disability, unless the City can demonstrate that making the modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity.

COMMUNICATIONS

The City shall take appropriate steps to ensure that communications with applicants, participants, and members of the public with disabilities are as effective as communications with others. To this end, the City shall furnish appropriate auxiliary aids and services where necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in, and enjoy the benefits of, a service, program, or activity conducted by the City. In determining what type of auxiliary aid or service is necessary, the City shall give primary consideration to the requests of the individual with disabilities.

AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES

"Auxiliary aids and services" includes:

1. Qualified interpreters, note takers, transcription services, written materials, assistive listening systems, and other effective methods for making aurally delivered materials available to individuals with hearing impairments.

2. Qualified readers, taped texts, audio recordings, brailled materials, large print materials, or other effective methods for making visually delivered materials available to individuals with visual impairments
3. Acquisition or modification of equipment or devices
4. Other similar services and actions.

LIMITS OF REQUIRED MODIFICATION

The City is not required to take any action that it can demonstrate would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of a service, program, or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens. Any decision that compliance with its responsibility to provide effective communication for individuals with disabilities would fundamentally alter the service, program, or activity or unduly burden the City shall be made by the Board after considering all resources available for use in funding and operating the program, service, or activity. The decision shall be accompanied by a written statement of the reasons for reaching that conclusion.

NOTICE

The City shall make available to applicants, participants, beneficiaries, and other interested persons information regarding the provisions of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and its applicability to the services, programs, or activities of the City. The information shall be made available in such manner as the City ADA Coordinator finds necessary to apprise such persons of the protections against discrimination assured them by the ADA.

City ADA Coordinator

The City ADA Coordinator shall, in conjunction with designated Departmental ADA Coordinators, coordinate the City's efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title II of the ADA, including any investigation of any complaint communicated to it alleging its noncompliance or alleging any actions that would be prohibited under the ADA. The City shall make available to all interested individuals the name, office address, and telephone number of the employee(s) so designated and shall adopt and publish procedures for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any action that would be prohibited under the ADA.

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SURVEY DATA BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Facility	Location	Issues Noted	Solution	Estimated Cost	Date to Complete
Avanti Building No Public Access	106 Temple St.	No Water Fountains	Add at Least One for Employees	\$1000	FY 2025
City Hall	571 W. Bankhead Hwy	Drinking Fountain Not ADA Compliant. Upgrade all signage to ADA Stds. Upgrade back door threshold to ADA Stds.	Change out Drinking Fountain. Change out all signage. Remove threshold.	Total Cost: \$1,500.00	FY 2024-25
Customer Service Facility	42 Community SQ. BLVD.	None			
VR Parks and Rec.	646 Industrial BLVD	Upgrade ADA signage. Designate Wheel Chair Area in Gym. Automatic Door Senior Center.	Upgrade signage. Add signage. Install automatic door.	Total Cost: \$1,500.00	FY 2024-25
VR Public Library	869 Dallas Hwy	Computer Lab Wheelchair Accessible work station. ADA signage for restrooms. Automatic Doors.	Retro-fit two computer workstations to ADA. Stds. Add ADA signage. Install automatic doors.	Total Cost: \$2,000.00	FY 20024-25
Octagon Concession Stand	1605 Carrollton-Villa Rica Hwy	None			
Police Department Headquarters	101 Main Street	Update Signage Designate wheelchair area at Courthouse area	Update Signage Update signage, wheelchair ramp just completed to ADA Stds.	Total Cost: \$500.00	FY 2024
Police Department Training Center	Horace Luther Drive	None			
Powell Park Center	524 Leslie Drive	Direction Signage at Entrance.	Add signage to all areas.	Total Cost: \$500.00	FY 2024

		Signage Install at restrooms.			
Facility	Location	Issues Noted	Solution	Estimated Cost	Date to Complete
Splash Pad	646 Industrial BLVD	None			
Training Center	VPLEX 1605 Carrollton-Villa Rica Hwy.	None			
VPLEX Football Concession Stand	VPLEX 1605 Carrollton-Villa Rica Hwy.	None			
VPLEX Park and Rec.	2200 Carrollton-Villa Rica Hwy.	Update Signage Drinking Fountains	Update Signage Install ADA drinking fountains.	Total Cost: \$2,000.00	FY 2025
Villa Rica Water Plant	204 N. Van Wert Rd.	None: No Public Access			
Villa Rica Wastewater Plant	185 Barber Industrial Dr.	None: No Public Access			
Villa Rica North Wastewater Plant	Mirror Lake Parkway	None: No Public Access			

SURVEY OF SIDEWALKS

All residential developments constructed since 2017 are ADA compliant. The older sections of downtown have mostly been retrofitted with ADA handicap ramps over the years. It is when you get away from the downtown business sections where work is needed. These older areas of town have mostly 4-foot width sidewalks and some 5-foot stretches. But handicap accessibility is lacking. Even though some handicap ramps will be installed with budgeted maintenance dollars per year, a capital improvement program will be required to tackle the lion's share of ramps needed along with new connecting sidewalks. The next SPLOST program is set to begin in another four years. It is the City's plan to launch a Capital Improvement Program to address not only ADA compliance but also to connect sidewalk sections as well. Walkability on a safe sidewalk network is paramount moving forward.