

CYPRESS BLUFF

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DISTRICT**

April 16, 2024

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING AND
AUDIT COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA**

CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

AGENDA
LETTER

Cypress Bluff Community Development District
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER
2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W•Boca Raton, Florida 33431
Phone: (561) 571-0010•Toll-free: (877) 276-0889•Fax: (561) 571-0013

April 9, 2024

Board of Supervisors
Cypress Bluff Community Development District

Dear Board Members:

The Board of Supervisors of the Cypress Bluff Community Development District will hold a Regular Meeting and Audit Committee Meeting on April 16, 2024 at 1:00 p.m., at the Cooper Memorial Library, 2525 Oakley Seaver Dr., Room 108A, Clermont, Florida 34711. The agenda is as follows:

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comments
3. Administration of Oath of Office to Supervisors Doug Beasley and Tony Iorio *(the following will also be provided in a separate package)*
 - A. Required Ethics Training and Disclosure Filing
 - Sample Form 1 2023/Instructions
 - B. Membership, Obligation and Responsibilities
 - C. Guide to Sunshine Amendment and Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees
 - D. Form 8B: Memorandum of Voting Conflict for County, Municipal and other Local Public Officers
4. Consideration of Resolution 2024-01, Approving a Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 and Setting a Public Hearing Thereon Pursuant to Florida Law; Addressing Transmittal, Posting and Publication Requirements; Addressing Severability; and Providing for an Effective Date
5. Consideration of Resolution 2024-02, Designating Dates, Times and Locations for Regular Meetings of the Board of Supervisors of the District for Remainder of Fiscal Year 2023/2024 and Providing for an Effective Date

ATTENDEES:

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

6. Consideration of Resolution 2024-03, Extending the Terms of Office of All Current Supervisors to Coincide with the General Election Pursuant to Section 190.006, Florida Statutes; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date
7. Consideration of Resolution 2024-04, Designating Dates, Times and Locations for Regular Meetings of the Board of Supervisors of the District for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 and Providing for an Effective Date
8. Recess Regular Meeting/Commencement of Audit Selection Committee Meeting
9. Review of Response to Request for Proposals (RFP) for Annual Audit Services
 - A. Affidavit of Publication
 - B. RFP Package
 - C. Respondents
 - I. Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank
 - II. Grau & Associates
 - D. Auditor Evaluation Matrix/Ranking
10. Termination of Audit Selection Committee Meeting/Reconvene Regular Meeting
11. Consider Recommendation of Audit Selection Committee
 - Award of Contract
12. Consideration of Resolution 2024-05, Designating the Primary Administrative Office and Principal Headquarters of the District and Providing an Effective Date
13. Consideration of Resolution 2024-06, Designating the Location of the Local District Records Office and Providing an Effective Date
14. Ratification of Empire Management Group, Inc. Field Operations Agreement
15. Acceptance of Unaudited Financial Statements as of February 29, 2024
16. Approval of June 20, 2023 Public Hearings and Regular Meeting Minutes
17. Staff Reports
 - A. District Counsel: *Kilinski / Van Wyk, PLLC*

- B. District Engineer (Interim): *Poulos & Bennett LLC*
- C. District Manager: *Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC*
 - NEXT MEETING DATE: TBD

- QUORUM CHECK

SEAT 1	STEPHEN McCONN	<input type="checkbox"/>	IN PERSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	PHONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
SEAT 2	DOUG BEASLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	IN PERSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	PHONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
SEAT 3	TONY IORIO	<input type="checkbox"/>	IN PERSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	PHONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
SEAT 4	PAUL THOMAS	<input type="checkbox"/>	IN PERSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	PHONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
SEAT 5	CASEY DARE	<input type="checkbox"/>	IN PERSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	PHONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO

- 18. Board Members' Comments/Requests
- 19. Public Comments
- 20. Adjournment

If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (561) 719-8675 or Ernesto Torres at (904) 295-5714.

Sincerely,



Craig Wrathell
District Manager

FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF TO ATTEND BY TELEPHONE

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

PARTICIPANT PASSCODE: 782 134 6157

CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

3A



KILINSKI | VAN WYK

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Kilinski | Van Wyk PLLC

Date: January 5, 2024

Re: Updates and Reminders: Ethics Training for Special District Supervisors and Form 1

As a follow up to our communication in July of 2023, the purpose of this memorandum is to remind our clients of new ethics training requirements applicable to Special District Supervisors. This requirement is the result of changes to Section 112.3142, *Florida Statutes*, which were passed during the 2023 Legislative Session. **The new requirements will apply in 2024.**

What is required and when is the deadline?

Supervisors will be required to complete four (4) hours of training each calendar year. For those Supervisors seated on or before March 31, 2024, the four hours of training must be completed by December 31, 2024. For new Supervisors seated after March 31, 2024, training must be completed by December 31, 2025. The training must address, at a minimum, Article II of the State Constitution, the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, and Florida's public records and open meetings laws. It may be completed by taking a continuing legal education class or other continuing professional education class, seminar, or presentation, if the required information is covered. Compliance will be reported on Form 1 each year.

Where can I find training materials?

The Florida Commission on Ethics has provided links to on-demand courses on their Ethics Training web page: <https://ethics.state.fl.us/Training/Training.aspx>. There are also many courses – both free and for a charge – available online and in-person. Kilinski | Van Wyk will be offering customized training sessions for existing clients upon request. If you have questions about whether a particular course meets the requirements, or if you would like to request a customized training session, please consult your Kilinski | Van Wyk attorney. There may also be the ability to include training within your existing Board meeting schedule.

Form 1 Submittal Changes.

Beginning January 1, 2024, Form 1 will no longer be filed with your local Supervisor of Elections office. Instead, all Form 1s will be filed electronically with the Commission on Ethics. Please see detailed directions on filing here: <https://ethics.state.fl.us/>. Please note that Special District Supervisors are not required to file Form 6.

2023 Form 1 - Statement of Financial Interests

General Information

Name: DISCLOSURE FILER

Address: SAMPLE ADDRESS

County: SAMPLE COUNTY

PID SAMPLE

AGENCY INFORMATION

Organization	Suborganization	Title
SAMPLE	SAMPLE	SAMPLE

Disclosure Period

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

Primary Sources of Income

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

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

Secondary Sources of Income

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

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

Real Property

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

Location/Description

Intangible Personal Property

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

Type of Intangible	Business Entity to Which the Property Relates

Liabilities

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

Name of Creditor	Address of Creditor

Interests in Specified Businesses

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

Business Entity # 1

Training

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

Signature of Filer

Digitally signed:

Filed with COE:

E-FILING SAMPLE

2023 Form 1 Instructions

Statement of Financial Interests

Notice

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

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

When To File:

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

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

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

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

Who Must File Form 1

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

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

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

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

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

Instructions for Completing Form 1

Primary Sources of Income

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

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

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

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

Examples:

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

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

Secondary Sources of Income

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

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

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

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

Examples:

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

Real Property

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

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

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

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

Intangible Personal Property

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

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

Liabilities

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

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

Interests in Specified Businesses

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

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

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

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

Training Certification

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

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

CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

3B

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MEMBERSHIP, OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

The Board

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

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

Qualifications of Supervisors

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

Compensation

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

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

Responsibilities of Supervisors

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

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

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

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

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

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

Conclusion

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

CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

3C

FLORIDA COMMISSION ON ETHICS



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

2024

State of Florida

COMMISSION ON ETHICS

Ashley Lukis, *Chair*
Tallahassee

Michelle Anchors, *Vice Chair*
Fort Walton Beach

William P. Cervone
Gainesville

Tina Descovich
Indianapolis

Freddie Figgers
Fort Lauderdale

Luis M. Fusté
Coral Gables

Wengay M. Newton, Sr.
St. Petersburg

Kerrie Stillman
Executive Director
P.O. Drawer 15709
Tallahassee, FL 32317-5709
www.ethics.state.fl.us
(850) 488-7864*

*Please direct all requests for information to this number.

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I. HISTORY OF FLORIDA'S ETHICS LAWS

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

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

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

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

II. ROLE OF THE COMMISSION ON ETHICS

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

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

III. THE ETHICS LAWS

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

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

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

A. PROHIBITED ACTIONS OR CONDUCT

1. Solicitation and Acceptance of Gifts

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. Unauthorized Compensation

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

3. Misuse of Public Position

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

4. Abuse of Public Position

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

5. Disclosure or Use of Certain Information

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

6. *Solicitation or Acceptance of Honoraria*

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

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

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

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

B. **PROHIBITED EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS**

1. *Doing Business With One's Agency*

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

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

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

2. *Conflicting Employment or Contractual Relationship*

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. *Additional Exemptions*

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

5. *Legislators Lobbying State Agencies*

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

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

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

7. *Employees Holding Office*

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

8. *Professional and Occupational Licensing Board Members*

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

9. *Contractual Services: Prohibited Employment*

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

10. *Local Government Attorneys*

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

11. *Dual Public Employment*

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

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

1. *Anti-Nepotism Law*

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

2. *Additional Restrictions*

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

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

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

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

2. *Lobbying by Former State Employees*

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

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

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

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

3. *6-Year Lobbying Ban*

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

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

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

4. *Additional Restrictions on Former State Employees*

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

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

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

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

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

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

E. VOTING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

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

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

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

F. DISCLOSURES

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

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

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

1. *FORM 1 - Limited Financial Disclosure*

Who Must File:

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

STATE OFFICERS include:

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

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

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

LOCAL OFFICERS include:

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

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

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

SPECIFIED STATE EMPLOYEE includes:

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

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

What Must Be Disclosed:

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

When to File:

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

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

Where to File:

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

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

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

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

3. *FORM 2 - Quarterly Client Disclosure*

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

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

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

When to File:

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

Where To File:

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

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

4. *FORM 6 - Full and Public Disclosure*

Who Must File:

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

What Must be Disclosed:

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

When and Where To File:

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

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

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

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

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

6. *FORM 9 - Quarterly Gift Disclosure*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. FORM 30 - Donor's Quarterly Gift Disclosure

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

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

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

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

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

IV. AVAILABILITY OF FORMS

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

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

V. PENALTIES

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

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

B. Penalties for Candidates

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

C. Penalties for Former Officers and Employees

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

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

D. Penalties for Lobbyists and Others

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

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

E. Felony Convictions: Forfeiture of Retirement Benefits

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

F. Automatic Penalties for Failure to File Annual Disclosure

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

VI. ADVISORY OPINIONS

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

A. Who Can Request an Opinion

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

B. How to Request an Opinion

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

C. How to Obtain Published Opinions

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

VII. COMPLAINTS

A. Citizen Involvement

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

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

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

B. Referrals

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

C. Confidentiality

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

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

D. How the Complaint Process Works

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

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

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

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

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

E. Dismissal of Complaints At Any Stage of Disposition

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

F. Statute of Limitations

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

VIII. EXECUTIVE BRANCH LOBBYING

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

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

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

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

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

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

IX. WHISTLE-BLOWER'S ACT

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

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

X. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

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

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

XI. TRAINING

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

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

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

CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

3D

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

LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE NAME	NAME OF BOARD, COUNCIL, COMMISSION, AUTHORITY, OR COMMITTEE
MAILING ADDRESS	THE BOARD, COUNCIL, COMMISSION, AUTHORITY OR COMMITTEE ON WHICH I SERVE IS A UNIT OF: <input type="checkbox"/> CITY <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER LOCAL AGENCY
CITY COUNTY	NAME OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISION:
DATE ON WHICH VOTE OCCURRED	MY POSITION IS: <input type="checkbox"/> ELECTIVE <input type="checkbox"/> APPOINTIVE

WHO MUST FILE FORM 8B

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

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

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 112.3143, FLORIDA STATUTES

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

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

* * * * *

ELECTED OFFICERS:

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

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

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

* * * * *

APPOINTED OFFICERS:

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

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

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

APPOINTED OFFICERS (continued)

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

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

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

DISCLOSURE OF LOCAL OFFICER'S INTEREST

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

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

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

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

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

Date Filed

Signature

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

CYPRESS BLUFF

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

4

RESOLUTION 2024-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT APPROVING A PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025 AND SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING THEREON PURSUANT TO FLORIDA LAW; ADDRESSING TRANSMITTAL, POSTING AND PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS; ADDRESSING SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the District Manager has heretofore prepared and submitted to the Board of Supervisors ("**Board**") of the Cypress Bluff Community Development District ("**District**") prior to June 15, 2024, a proposed budget ("**Proposed Budget**") for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025 ("**Fiscal Year 2024/2025**"); and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the Proposed Budget and desires to set the required public hearings thereon.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. PROPOSED BUDGET APPROVED. The Proposed Budget prepared by the District Manager for Fiscal Year 2024/2025, attached hereto as **Exhibit A** are hereby approved as the basis for conducting a public hearing to adopt said Proposed Budget.

SECTION 2. SETTING PUBLIC HEARING. A public hearing on the approved Proposed Budget is hereby declared and set for the following date, hour, and location:

DATE: _____

HOUR: _____

LOCATION: Cooper Memorial Library
2525 Oakley Seaver Dr., Room 108A
Clermont, Florida 34711

SECTION 3. TRANSMITTAL OF PROPOSED BUDGET TO LOCAL GENERAL-PURPOSE GOVERNMENTS. The District Manager is hereby directed to submit a copy of the Proposed Budget to the City of Groveland, Florida at least (sixty) 60 days prior to the hearing set above.

SECTION 4. POSTING OF PROPOSED BUDGET. In accordance with Section 189.016, *Florida Statutes*, the District's Secretary is further directed to post the approved Proposed Budget on the District's website at least two (2) days before the budget hearing date as set forth in Section 2, and shall remain on the website for at least (forty-five) 45 days.

SECTION 5. PUBLICATION OF NOTICE. Notice of the public hearings shall be published in the manner prescribed in Florida law.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY. The invalidity or unenforceability of any one or more provisions of this Resolution shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining portions of this Resolution, or any part thereof.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of April 2024.

ATTEST:

**CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

Exhibit A: Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget

Exhibit A

Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget

**CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
PROPOSED BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2025**

**CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
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**CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
GENERAL FUND BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2025**

	Fiscal Year 2024				Proposed Budget FY 2025
	Adopted Budget FY 2024	Actual through 02/29/2024	Projected Through 9/30/2024	Total Actual & Projected	
REVENUES					
Landowner contribution	\$515,635	\$ 44,260	\$340,800	\$ 385,060	\$ 515,635
Total revenues	515,635	44,260	340,800	385,060	515,635
EXPENDITURES					
Professional & administrative					
Management/accounting/recording**	48,000	10,000	38,000	48,000	48,000
Legal	25,000	308	24,692	25,000	25,000
Engineering	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	2,000
Audit	5,500	-	5,500	5,500	5,500
Arbitrage rebate calculation*	500	-	500	500	500
Dissemination agent*	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Trustee*	5,500	-	5,500	5,500	5,500
Telephone	200	83	117	200	200
Postage	500	35	465	500	500
Printing & binding	500	208	292	500	500
Legal advertising	1,750	-	1,750	1,750	1,750
Annual special district fee	175	-	175	175	175
Insurance	5,500	-	5,500	5,500	5,500
Contingencies/bank charges	750	-	750	750	750
Website hosting & maintenance	705	-	705	705	705
Website ADA compliance	210	-	210	210	210
Total professional & administrative	97,790	10,634	87,156	97,790	97,790
Operations and Maintenance					
Management & administration					
Contingency	668	-	668	668	668
Licenses/taxes/permits	500	-	500	500	500
O&M accounting services	4,500	-	4,500	4,500	4,500
Insurance (property coverage only)	5,000	-	5,000	5,000	5,000
Management services	17,844	2,123	15,721	17,844	17,844
Postage	800	-	800	800	800
Office supplies/printing binding	2,500	-	2,500	2,500	2,500
General administrative	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total management & administration	33,812	2,123	31,689	33,812	33,812
Grounds/building maintenance					
General maintenance	6,500	-	6,500	6,500	6,500
Irrigation repairs	3,500	-	3,500	3,500	3,500
Landscape contract	120,000	-	65,000	65,000	120,000
Landscaping extras - replacement & annuals	3,500	-	3,500	3,500	3,500
Tree trimming	1,500	-	-	-	1,500
Pressure washing	4,000	-	500	500	4,000

**CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
GENERAL FUND BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2025**

	Fiscal Year 2024				Proposed
	Adopted Budget FY 2024	Actual through 02/29/2024	Projected Through 9/30/2024	Total Actual & Projected	Budget FY 2025
Holiday decorations	2,500	-	-	-	2,500
Walkway maintenance & repair	2,000	-	-	-	2,000
Retaining wall maintenance repair	4,000	-	-	-	4,000
Fence & handrail repairs maintenance	1,500	-	-	-	1,500
Total grounds building maintenance	149,000	-	79,000	79,000	149,000
Recreational - amenity					
Insurance amenity	3,500	-	3,500	3,500	3,500
Pool maintenance contract	18,000	-	9,000	9,000	18,000
Pool/cababna janitorial contract	10,200	-	5,100	5,100	10,200
Pool/equipment repairs & maintenance	2,500	-	1,000	1,000	2,500
Pool/cabana general maintenance	3,000	-	1,000	1,000	3,000
Termite bond / pest control	1,400	-	1,400	1,400	1,400
Playground equipment/maintenance/mulch (2 locations)	4,000	-	-	-	4,000
Access control systems/camera	2,800	-	2,800	2,800	2,800
Pressure washing	2,500	-	-	-	2,500
Electric - amenity	9,600	-	6,000	6,000	9,600
Domestic water/sewer - amenity	3,000	-	3,000	3,000	3,000
Irrigation amenity	4,000	-	4,000	4,000	4,000
Telephone/cable internet - amenity	2,400	-	2,400	2,400	2,400
Pool permits & licenses	500	-	500	500	500
Trash debris removal	2,400	-	2,400	2,400	2,400
Landscape maintenance	12,000	-	6,000	6,000	12,000
Landscape seasonal (annuals & mulch)	3,600	-	-	-	3,600
Maintenance reserves	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total recreatiional expenses	87,400	-	50,100	50,100	87,400
Utilities					
Electric - common areas/irrigation meters	4,200	-	4,200	4,200	4,200
Electric - street lights	45,000	-	2,000	2,000	45,000
Irrigation - common areas	32,000	-	16,000	16,000	32,000
Total utilities	81,200	-	22,200	22,200	81,200
Total field operations	351,412	2,123	182,989	185,112	351,412
Total expenditures	449,202	12,757	270,145	282,902	449,202

**CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
GENERAL FUND BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2025**

	Fiscal Year 2024				
	Adopted Budget FY 2024	Actual through 02/29/2024	Projected Through 9/30/2024	Total Actual & Projected	Proposed Budget FY 2025
Excess/(deficiency) of revenues over/(under) expenditures	66,433	31,503	70,655	102,158	66,433
Fund balance - beginning (unaudited)	-	(35,725)	(4,222)	(35,725)	66,433
Fund balance - ending (projected)					
Assigned					
Future projects					
Monument Signage/Hardscape Maintenance (21k/7yr)	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	6,000
Ph 1 - Retaining Wall Maintenance/Repair (200k/20yr)	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000
Ph 2 - Retaining Wall Maintenance/Repair (30k/20yr)	-	-	-	-	-
Fencing/Handrails P1 (600k/20yr)	30,800	30,800	30,800	30,800	61,600
Fencing/Handrails P2 (112k/20yr)	-	-	-	-	-
Playground (102k/15yr)	6,800	6,800	6,800	6,800	13,600
Pool/Deck/Equipment/CabanaParking Lot (125k/15yr)	8,333	8,333	8,333	8,333	16,666
Roadway Maintenance (70k/20yr)	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	7,000
General Reserve (10k/10yr)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	2,000
Walkway Repairs/Maintenance (\$75k/25yr)	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	6,000
Working capital	-	-	-	-	-
Unassigned	-	(70,655)	-	-	-
Fund balance - ending	<u>\$ 66,433</u>	<u>\$ (4,222)</u>	<u>\$ 66,433</u>	<u>\$ 66,433</u>	<u>\$ 132,866</u>

* These items will be realized when bonds are issued

** WHA will charge a reduced management fee of \$2,000 per month until bonds are issued.

***These items will be realized when the CDD takes ownership of the related assets.

**CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
DEFINITIONS OF GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES**

Professional & administrative

Management/accounting/recording**	\$ 48,000
<p>Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC (WHA), specializes in managing community development districts by combining the knowledge, skills and experience of a team of professionals to ensure compliance with all of the District's governmental requirements. WHA develops financing programs, administers the issuance of tax exempt bond financings, operates and maintains the assets of the community.</p>	
Legal	25,000
General counsel and legal representation, which includes issues relating to public finance, public bidding, rulemaking, open meetings, public records, real property dedications, conveyances and contracts.	
Engineering	2,000
The District's Engineer will provide construction and consulting services, to assist the District in crafting sustainable solutions to address the long term interests of the community while recognizing the needs of government, the environment and maintenance of the District's facilities.	
Audit	5,500
Statutorily required for the District to undertake an independent examination of its books, records and accounting procedures.	
Arbitrage rebate calculation*	500
To ensure the District's compliance with all tax regulations, annual computations are necessary to calculate the arbitrage rebate liability.	
Dissemination agent*	1,000
The District must annually disseminate financial information in order to comply with the requirements of Rule 15c2-12 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Wrathell, Hunt & Associates serves as dissemination agent.	
Trustee	5,500
Annual fee for the service provided by trustee, paying agent and registrar.	
Telephone	200
Telephone and fax machine.	
Postage	500
Mailing of agenda packages, overnight deliveries, correspondence, etc.	
Printing & binding	500
Letterhead, envelopes, copies, agenda packages	
Legal advertising	1,750
The District advertises for monthly meetings, special meetings, public hearings, public bids, etc.	
EXPENDITURES (continued)	
Annual special district fee	175
Annual fee paid to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.	
Insurance	5,500
The District will obtain public officials and general liability insurance.	
Contingencies/bank charges	750
Bank charges and other miscellaneous expenses incurred during the year and automated AP routing etc.	
Website hosting & maintenance	705
Website ADA compliance	210
Total professional & administrative	<u>97,790</u>

**CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
DEFINITIONS OF GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES**

EXPENDITURES (continued)

Operations and Maintenance

Management & administration

Contingency	668
Licenses/taxes/permits	500
O&M accounting services	4,500
Insurance (property coverage only)	5,000
Management services	17,844
Postage	800
Office supplies/printing binding	2,500
General administrative	2,000
Total management & administration	<u>33,812</u>

Grounds/building maintenance

General maintenance	6,500
Irrigation repairs	3,500
Landscape contract	120,000
Landscaping extras - replacement & annuals	3,500
Tree trimming	1,500
Pressure washing	4,000
Holiday decorations	2,500
Walkway maintenance & repair	2,000
Retaining wall maintenance repair	4,000
Fence & handrail repairs maintenance	1,500
Total grounds building maintenance	<u>149,000</u>

Recreational - amenity

Insurance amenity	3,500
Pool maintenance contract	18,000
Pool/cababna janitorial contract	10,200
Pool/equipment repairs & maintenance	2,500
Pool/cabana general maintenance	3,000
Termite bond / pest control	1,400
Playground equipment/maintenance/mulch (2 locations)	4,000
Access control systems/camera	2,800
Pressure washing	2,500
Electricity - amenity	9,600
Domestic water/sewer - amenity	3,000
Irrigation amenity	4,000
Telephone/cable internet - amenity	2,400
Pool permits & licenses	500
Trash debris removal	2,400
Landscape maintenance	12,000
Landscape seasonal (annuals & mulch)	3,600
Maintenance reserves	2,000
Total recreational expenses	<u>87,400</u>

Utilities

Electric - common areas/irrigation meters	4,200
Electric - street lights	45,000
Irrigation - common areas	32,000
Total utilities	<u>81,200</u>
Total field operations	<u>351,412</u>
Total expenditures	<u><u>\$ 449,202</u></u>

CYPRESS BLUFF

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

5

RESOLUTION 2024-02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DESIGNATING DATES, TIMES AND
LOCATIONS FOR REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
DISTRICT FOR REMAINDER OF FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024 AND PROVIDING FOR AN
EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, the Cypress Bluff Community Development District ("**District**") is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*; and

WHEREAS, the District is required by Section 189.015, *Florida Statutes*, to file quarterly, semi-annually, or annually a schedule (including date, time, and location) of its regular meetings with local governing authorities; and

WHEREAS, further, in accordance with the above-referenced statute, the District shall also publish quarterly, semi-annually, or annually the District's regular meeting schedule in a newspaper of general paid circulation in the county in which the District is located.

WHEREAS, the Board desires to adopt the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 meeting schedule attached as **Exhibit A**.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:**

1. **ADOPTING FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024 ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE.** The Fiscal Year 2023/2024 annual meeting schedule attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein as **Exhibit A** is hereby approved and shall be published in accordance with the requirements of Florida law and also provided to applicable governing authorities.

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

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of April, 2024.

ATTEST:

**CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

EXHIBIT "A"

CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT		
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024 MEETING SCHEDULE		
LOCATION		
<i>Cooper Memorial Library, 2525 Oakley Seaver Dr., Room 108A, Clermont, Florida 34711</i>		
DATE	POTENTIAL DISCUSSION/FOCUS	TIME
May __, 2024	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
June __, 2024	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
July __, 2024	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
August __, 2024	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
September __, 2024	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM

CYPRESS BLUFF

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

6

RESOLUTION 2024-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT EXTENDING THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF ALL CURRENT SUPERVISORS TO COINCIDE WITH THE GENERAL ELECTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 190.006, *FLORIDA STATUTES*; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Cypress Bluff Community Development District ("District") is a local unit of special purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*; and

WHEREAS, the current members of the Board of Supervisors ("Board") were elected by the landowners within the District based on a one acre/one vote basis; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*, authorizes the Board to adopt a resolution extending or reducing the terms of office of Board members to coincide with the general election in November; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that it is in the best interests of the District to adopt this Resolution extending the terms of office of all current Supervisors of the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. The following terms of office are hereby extended to coincide with the general election to be held in November of 2026:

Seat # 2	(currently held by Doug Beasley)
Seat # 3	(currently held by Tony Iorio)
Seat # 4	(currently held by Paul Thomas)

The following terms of office are hereby extended to coincide with the general election to be held in November of 2028:

Seat # 1	(currently held by Stephen McConn)
Seat # 5	(currently held by Casey Dare)

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

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

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of April, 2024.

ATTEST:

**CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/ Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

CYPRESS BLUFF

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

7

RESOLUTION 2024-04

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DESIGNATING DATES, TIMES AND
LOCATIONS FOR REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
DISTRICT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025 AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, the Cypress Bluff Community Development District (“**District**”) is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*; and

WHEREAS, the District is required by Section 189.015, *Florida Statutes*, to file quarterly, semi-annually, or annually a schedule (including date, time, and location) of its regular meetings with local governing authorities; and

WHEREAS, further, in accordance with the above-referenced statute, the District shall also publish quarterly, semi-annually, or annually the District’s regular meeting schedule in a newspaper of general paid circulation in the county in which the District is located.

WHEREAS, the Board desires to adopt the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 meeting schedule attached as **Exhibit A**.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:**

1. **ADOPTING FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025 ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE.** The Fiscal Year 2024/2025 annual meeting schedule attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein as **Exhibit A** is hereby approved and shall be published in accordance with the requirements of Florida law and also provided to applicable governing authorities.

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

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of April, 2024.

ATTEST:

**CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

EXHIBIT "A"

CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT		
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025 MEETING SCHEDULE		
LOCATION		
<i>Cooper Memorial Library, 2525 Oakley Seaver Dr., Room 108A, Clermont, Florida 34711</i>		
DATE	POTENTIAL DISCUSSION/FOCUS	TIME
October __, 2024	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
November __, 2024	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
December __, 2024	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
January __, 2025	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
February __, 2025	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
March __, 2025	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
April __, 2025	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
May __, 2025	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
June __, 2025	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
July __, 2025	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
August __, 2025	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM
September __, 2025	Regular Meeting	__:__ AM/PM

CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

9A

The Villages® DAILY SUN

Published Daily
Lady Lake, Florida
State of Florida
County Of Lake

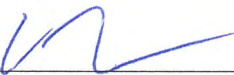
Before the undersigned authority personally appeared

ALLAN LOVELL

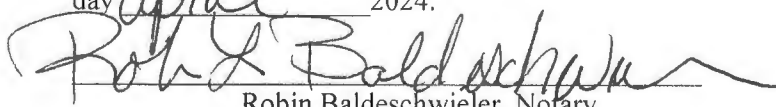
who on oath says that he is Legal Ad Coordinator of the DAILY SUN, a daily newspaper published at Lady Lake in Lake County, Florida with circulation in Lake, Sumter and Marion Counties; that the attached copy of advertisement, being a **Legal Ad #1183369** in the matter of **NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPSALS**

was published in said newspaper in the issue(s) of
April 3, 2024

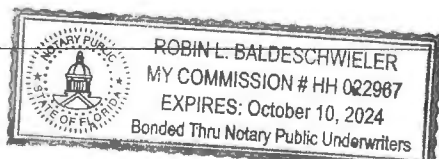
Affiant further says that the said Daily Sun is a newspaper published at Lady Lake in said Lake County, Florida, and that the said newspaper has heretofore been continuously published in said Lake County, Florida each week and has been entered as second class mail matter at the post office in Lady Lake, in said Lake County, Florida, for a period of one year next preceding the first publication of the attached copy of advertisements; and affiant further says that he has neither paid nor promised any person, firm, or Corporation any discount, rebate, commission or refund for the purpose of securing this advertisement for publication in the said newspaper.


(Signature Of Affiant)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3
day April 2024.


Robin Baldeschwieler, Notary

Personally Known _____ or
Production Identification _____
Type of Identification Produced _____



Attach Notice Here

CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ANNUAL AUDIT SERVICES

The Cypress Bluff Community Development District hereby requests proposals for annual financial auditing services. The proposal must provide for the auditing of the District's financial records for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, with an option for additional annual renewals, subject to mutual agreement by both parties. The District is a local unit of special-purpose government created under Chapter 190, Florida Statutes, for the purpose of financing, constructing, and maintaining public infrastructure. The District is located in Lake County, Florida. The final contract will require that, among other things, the audit for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, be completed no later than June 30, 2024.

The auditing entity submitting a proposal must be duly licensed under Chapter 473, Florida Statutes, and be qualified to conduct audits in accordance with "Government Auditing Standards," as adopted by the Florida Board of Accountancy. Audits shall be conducted in accordance with Florida Law and particularly Section 218.39, Florida Statutes, and the rules of the Florida Auditor General.

Proposal packages, which include evaluation criteria and instructions to proposers, are available from the District Manager at the address and telephone number listed below.

Proposers must provide one (1) electronic copy and one (1) unbound copy of their proposal to the offices of the District Manager, located at 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431, ph: (877) 276-0889 ("District Manager"), in an envelope marked on the outside "Auditing Services, Cypress Bluff Community Development District." Proposals must be received by 12:00 p.m. on April 10, 2024, at the office of the District Manager. Please direct all questions regarding this Notice to the District Manager.

District Manager

#01183369

April 3, 2024

CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

9B

**CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ANNUAL AUDIT SERVICES**

The Cypress Bluff Community Development District hereby requests proposals for annual financial auditing services. The proposal must provide for the auditing of the District's financial records for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, with an option for additional annual renewals, subject to mutual agreement by both parties. The District is a local unit of special-purpose government created under Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*, for the purpose of financing, constructing, and maintaining public infrastructure. The District is located in Lake County, Florida. The final contract will require that, among other things, the audit for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, be completed no later than June 30, 2024.

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District Manager

CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

District Auditing Services for Fiscal Year 2023

Lake County, Florida

INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS

SECTION 1. DUE DATE. Sealed proposals must be received no later than April 10, 2024 at 12:00 p.m., at the offices of District Manager, located at Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC, 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431. Proposals will be publicly opened at that time.

SECTION 2. FAMILIARITY WITH THE LAW. By submitting a proposal, the Proposer is assumed to be familiar with all federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, rules and regulations that in any manner affect the work. Ignorance on the part of the Proposer will in no way relieve it from responsibility to perform the work covered by the proposal in compliance with all such laws, ordinances and regulations.

SECTION 3. QUALIFICATIONS OF PROPOSER. The contract, if awarded, will only be awarded to a responsible Proposer who is qualified by experience and licensing to do the work specified herein. The Proposer shall submit with its proposal satisfactory evidence of experience in similar work and show that it is fully prepared to complete the work to the satisfaction of the District.

SECTION 4. SUBMISSION OF ONLY ONE PROPOSAL. Proposers shall be disqualified and their proposals rejected if the District has reason to believe that collusion may exist among the Proposers, the Proposer has defaulted on any previous contract or is in arrears on any previous or existing contract, or for failure to demonstrate proper licensure and business organization.

SECTION 5. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL. Submit one (1) electronic copy and one (1) unbound copy of the Proposal Documents, and other requested attachments at the time and place indicated herein, which shall be enclosed in an opaque sealed envelope, marked with the title "Auditing Services – Cypress Bluff Community Development District" on the face of it. **Please include pricing for each additional bond issuance.**

SECTION 6. MODIFICATION AND WITHDRAWAL. Proposals may be modified or withdrawn by an appropriate document duly executed and delivered to the place where proposals are to be submitted at any time prior to the time and date the proposals are due. No proposal may be withdrawn after opening for a period of ninety (90) days.

SECTION 7. PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS. The proposal documents shall consist of the notice announcing the request for proposals, these instructions, the Evaluation Criteria Sheet and a proposal with all required documentation pursuant to Section 12 of these instructions (“**Proposal Documents**”).

SECTION 8. PROPOSAL. In making its proposal, each Proposer represents that it has read and understands the Proposal Documents and that the proposal is made in accordance therewith.

SECTION 9. BASIS OF AWARD/RIGHT TO REJECT. The District reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, make modifications to the work, and waive any informalities or irregularities in proposals as it is deemed in the best interests of the District.

SECTION 10. CONTRACT AWARD. Within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the Notice of Award from the District, the Proposer shall enter into and execute a Contract (engagement letter) with the District.

SECTION 11. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY. Nothing herein shall be construed as or constitute a waiver of the District’s limited waiver of liability contained in Section 768.28, *Florida Statutes*, or any other statute or law.

SECTION 12. MISCELLANEOUS. All proposals shall include the following information in addition to any other requirements of the proposal documents.

- A. List the position or title of all personnel to perform work on the District audit. Include resumes for each person listed; list years of experience in present position for each party listed and years of related experience.
- B. Describe proposed staffing levels, including resumes with applicable certifications.
- C. Three references from projects of similar size and scope. The Proposer should include information relating to the work it conducted for each reference as well as a name, address and phone number of a contact person.
- D. The lump sum cost of the provision of the services under the proposal, plus the lump sum cost of four (4) annual renewals.

SECTION 13. PROTESTS. In accordance with the District’s Rules of Procedure, any protest regarding the Proposal Documents, must be filed in writing, at the offices of the District Manager, within seventy-two (72) calendar hours (excluding Saturday, Sunday, and state holidays) after the receipt of the Proposal Documents. The formal protest setting forth with particularity the facts and law upon which the protest is based shall be

filed within seven (7) calendar days (including Saturday, Sunday, and state holidays) after the initial notice of protest was filed. Failure to timely file a notice of protest or failure to timely file a formal written protest shall constitute a waiver of any right to object or protest with respect to the aforesaid Proposal Documents.

SECTION 14. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS. The criteria to be used in the evaluation of proposals are presented in the Evaluation Criteria Sheet, contained within the Proposal Documents.

1. Ability of Personnel. (20 Points)

2. Proposer's Experience. (20 Points)

3. *Understanding of Scope of Work.* (20 Points)

4. Ability to Furnish the Required Services. (20 Points)

5. Price. (20 Points)***

Total (100 Points)

***Alternatively, the Board may choose to evaluate firms without considering price, in which case the remaining categories would be assigned 25 points each.

CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

gci

**CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
PROPOSAL FOR AUDIT SERVICES**

PROPOSED BY:

Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, PL

600 Citrus Avenue, Suite 200
Fort Pierce, Florida 34950

(772) 461-6120

CONTACT PERSON:

J. W. Gaines, CPA, Director

DATE OF PROPOSAL:

April 10, 2024

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Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank

Certified Public Accountants PL

600 Citrus Avenue
Suite 200
Fort Pierce, Florida 34950

772/461-6120 // 461-1155
FAX: 772/468-9278

April 10, 2024

Cypress Bluff Community Development District
Wrathell Hunt & Associates LLC
2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W
Boca Raton, Florida 33431

Dear District Manager:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to present our professional credentials to provide audit services for Cypress Bluff Community Development District.

Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, Certified Public Accountants, PL has assembled a team of governmental and nonprofit specialists second to none to serve our clients. Our firm has the necessary qualifications and experience to serve as the independent auditors for Cypress Bluff Community Development District. We will provide you with top quality, responsive service.

Experience

Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, Certified Public Accountants, PL is a recognized leader in providing services to governmental and nonprofit agencies throughout Florida. We have been the independent auditors for a number of local governmental agencies and through our experience in performing their audits, we have been able to increase our audit efficiency and; therefore, reduce costs. We have continually passed this cost savings on to our clients and will continue to do so in the future. As a result of our experience and expertise, we have developed an effective and efficient audit approach designed to meet or exceed the performance specifications in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the standards for financial and compliance audits. We will conduct the audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; "Government Auditing Standards" issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; the provisions of the Single Audit Act, Subpart F of Title 2 US Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, with minimal disruption to your operations. Our firm has frequent technical updates to keep our personnel informed and up-to-date on all changes that are occurring within the industry.



Berger, Toombs, Elam,
Gaines & Frank
Certified Public Accountants PL

Cypress Bluff Community Development District
April 10, 2024

Our firm is a member of the Government Audit Quality Center, an organization dedicated to improving government audit quality. We also utilize the audit program software of a nationally recognized CPA firm to assure us that we are up to date with all auditing standards and to assist us maintain maximum audit efficiencies.

To facilitate your evaluation of our qualifications and experience, we have arranged this proposal to include a resume of our firm, including our available staff, our extensive prior governmental and nonprofit auditing experience and clients to be contacted.

You need a firm that will provide an efficient, cost-effective, high-quality audit within critical time constraints. You need a firm with the prerequisite governmental and nonprofit experience to perform your audit according to stringent legal and regulatory requirements, a firm that understands the complex nature of community development districts and their unique compliance requirements. You need a firm with recognized governmental and nonprofit specialists within the finance and governmental communities. And, certainly, you need a firm that will provide you with valuable feedback to enhance your current and future operations. Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, Certified Public Accountants, PL is that firm. J. W. Gaines is the person authorized to make representations for the firm.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this proposal to Cypress Bluff Community Development District.

Very truly yours,

Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank
Certified Public Accountants PL
Fort Pierce, Florida

PROFILE OF THE PROPOSER

Description and History of Audit Firm

Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, Certified Public Accountants, PL is a Treasure Coast public accounting firm, which qualifies as a small business firm, as established by the Small Business Administration (13 CFR 121.38), with offices in Fort Pierce and Stuart. We are a member of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The firm was formed from the merger of Edwards, Berger, Harris & Company (originated in 1972) and McAlpin, Curtis & Associates (originated in 1949). J. W. Gaines and Associates (originated in 1979) merged with the firm in 2004. Our tremendous growth rate experienced over the last 69 years is directly attributable to the firm's unrelenting dedication to providing the highest quality, responsive professional services attainable to its clients.

We are a member of the Private Companies Practice Section (PCPS) of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) to assure we meet the highest standards. Membership in this practice section requires that our firm meet more stringent standards than standard AICPA membership. These rigorous requirements include the requirement of a triennial peer review of our firm's auditing and accounting practice and annual Continuing Professional Education (CPE) for all accounting staff (whether CPA or non-CPA). For standard AICPA membership, only a quality review is required and only CPAs must meet CPE requirements.

We are also a member of the Government Audit Quality Center ("the Center") of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants to assure the quality of our government audits. Membership in the Center, which is voluntary, requires our firm to comply with additional standards to promote the quality of government audits.

We have been extensively involved in serving local government entities with professional accounting, auditing and consulting services throughout the entire 69 year history of our firm. Our substantial experience over the years makes us uniquely qualified to provide accounting, auditing, and consulting services to these clients. We are a recognized leader in providing services to governmental and nonprofit agencies on the Treasure Coast and in Central and South Florida, with extensive experience in auditing community development districts and water control districts. We were the independent auditors of the City of Fort Pierce for over 37 years and currently, we are the independent auditors for St. Lucie County since 2002, and for 34 of the 38 years that the county has been audited by CPA firms. Additionally, we have performed audits of the City of Stuart, the City of Vero Beach, Indian River County and Martin County. We also presently audit over 75 Community Development Districts throughout Florida.

Our firm was founded on the belief that we are better able to respond to our clients needs through education, experience, independence, quality control, and personal service. Our firm's commitment to quality is reflected in our endeavor of professional excellence via continuing education, the use of the latest computer technology, professional membership in PCPS and peer review.

We believe our approach to audit engagements, intelligence and innovation teamed with sound professional judgment enables us to explore new concepts while remaining sensitive to the fundamental need for practical solutions. We take pride in giving you the assurance that the personal assistance you receive comes from years of advanced training, technical experience and financial acumen.

Professional Staff Resources

Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, Certified Public Accountants, PL has a total of 27 professional and administrative staff (including 12 professional staff with extensive experience servicing government entities). The work will be performed out of our Fort Pierce office with a proposed staff of one senior accountant and one or two staff accountants supervised by an audit manager and audit partner. With the exception of the directors of the firm's offices, the professional staff is not specifically assigned to any of our individual offices. The professional and administrative staff resources available to you through Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, Certified Public Accountants, PL are as follows:

	<u>Total</u>
Partners/Directors (CPA's)	6
Managers (2 CPA's)	2
Senior/Supervisor Accountants (3 CPA's)	3
Staff Accountants (2 CPA)	11
Computer Specialist	1
Paraprofessional	7
Administrative	<u>5</u>
Total – all personnel	35

Following is a brief description of each employee classification:

Staff Accountant – Staff accountants work directly under the constant supervision of the auditor-in-charge and, are responsible for the various testing of documents, account analysis and any other duties as his/her supervisor believes appropriate. Minimum qualification for a staff accountant is graduation from an accredited university or college with a degree in accounting or equivalent.

Senior Accountant – A senior accountant must possess all the qualifications of the staff accountant, in addition to being able to draft the necessary reports and financial statements, and supervise other staff accountants when necessary.

Managers – A manager must possess the qualifications of the senior accountant, plus be able to work without extensive supervision from the auditor-in-charge. The manager should be able to draft audit reports from start to finish and to supervise the audit team, if necessary.

Principal – A principal is a partner/director in training. He has been a manager for several years and possesses the technical skills to act as the auditor-in-charge. A principal has no financial interest in the firm.

Partner/Director – The director has extensive governmental auditing experience and acts as the auditor-in-charge. Directors have a financial interest in the firm.

Professional Staff Resources (Continued)

Independence – Independence of the public accounting firm, with respect to the audit client, is the foundation from which the public gains its trust in the opinion issued by the public accounting firm at the end of the audit process. This independence must be in appearance as well as in fact. The public must perceive that the accounting firm is independent of the audit entity to ensure that nothing would compromise the opinion issued by the public accounting firm. **Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, Certified Public Accountants, PL** is independent of Cypress Bluff Community Development District, including its elected officials and related parties, at the date of this proposal, as defined by the following rules, regulations, and standards:

AuSection 220 – Statements on Auditing Standards issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants;

ET Sections 101 and 102 – Code of Professional Conduct of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants;

Chapter 21A-1, Florida Administrative Code;

Section 473.315, Florida Statutes; and,

Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

On an annual basis, all members of the firm are required to confirm, in writing, that they have no personal or financial relationships or holding that would impair their independence with regard to the firm's clients.

Independence is a hallmark of our profession. We encourage our staff to use professional judgment in situations where our independence could be impaired or the perception of a conflict of interest might exist. In the governmental sector, public perception is as important as professional standards. Therefore, the utmost care must be exercised by independent auditors in the performance of their duties.

Ability to Furnish the Required Services

As previously noted in the Profile of the Proposer section of this document, our firm has been in existence for over 74 years. We have provided audit services to some clients for over 30 years continually. Our firm is insured against physical loss through commercial insurance and we also carry liability insurance. The majority of our audit documentation is stored electronically, both on our office network and on each employee laptop or computer assigned to each specific job. Our office computer network is backed up on tape, so in the event of a total equipment loss, we can restore all data as soon as replacement equipment is acquired. In addition, our field laptop computers carry the same data and can be used in the event of emergency with virtually no delay in completing the required services.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES PROVIDED

Arbitrage Rebate Services

Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, Certified Public Accountants, PL also provides arbitrage rebate compliance and related services to governmental issuers. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 requires issuers of most tax-exempt obligations to pay (i.e., “rebate”) to the United States government any arbitrage profits. Arbitrage profits are earnings on the investment of bond proceeds and certain other monies in excess of what would have been earned had such monies been invested at a yield equal to the yield on the bonds.

Federal tax law requires that interim rebate calculations and payments are due at the end of every fifth bond year. Final payment is required upon redemption of the bonds. More frequent calculations may be deemed advisable by an issuer’s auditor, trustee or bond counsel or to assure that accurate and current records are available. These more frequent requirements are usually contained in the Arbitrage or Rebate Certificate with respect to the bonds.

Our firm performs a comprehensive rebate analysis and includes the following:

- Verifying that the issue is subject to rebate;
- Calculating the bond yield;
- Identifying, and separately accounting for, all “Gross Proceeds” (as that term is defined in the Code) of the bond issue, including those requiring analysis due to “transferred proceeds” and/or “commingled funds” circumstances;
- Determining what general and/or elective options are available to Gross proceeds of the issue;
- Calculating the issue’s excess investment earning (rebate liability), if any;
- Delivering appropriate documentation to support all calculations;
- Providing an executive summary identifying the methodology employed, major assumptions, conclusions, and any other recommendations for changes in recordkeeping and investment policies;
- Assisting as necessary in the event of an Internal Revenue Service inquiry; and,
- Consulting with issue staff, as necessary, regarding arbitrage related matters.

GOVERNMENTAL AUDITING EXPERIENCE

Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, Certified Public Accountants, PL has been practicing public accounting in Florida for 69 years. Our success over the years has been the result of a strong commitment to providing personalized quality service to our clients.

The current members of our firm have performed audits of over 1,100 community development districts, and over 2,100 audits of municipalities, counties and other governmental entities such as the City of Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County.

Our firm provides a variety of accounting, auditing, tax litigation support, and consulting services. Some of the professional accounting, auditing and management consulting services that are provided by our firm are listed below:

- Performance of annual financial and compliance audits, including Single Audits of state and federal financial assistance programs, under the provisions of the Single Audit Act, Subpart F of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance), with minimal disruptions to your operations;
- Performance of special compliance audits to ascertain compliance with the applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations;
- Issuance of comfort letters and consent letters in conjunction with the issuance of tax-exempt debt obligations, including compiling financial data and interim period financial statement reviews;
- Calculation of estimated and actual federal arbitrage rebates;
- Assistance in compiling historical financial data for first-time and supplemental submissions for GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting;
- Preparation of indirect cost allocation systems in accordance with Federal and State regulatory requirements;
- Providing human resource and employee benefit consulting;
- Performance of automation feasibility studies and disaster recovery plans;
- Performance feasibility studies concerning major fixed asset acquisitions and utility plant expansion plans (including electric, water, pollution control, and sanitation utilities); and
- Assistance in litigation, including testimony in civil and criminal court.
- Assist clients who utilize QuickBooks software with their software needs. Our Certified QuickBooks Advisor has undergone extensive training through QuickBooks and has passed several exams to attain this Certification.

Continuing Professional Education

All members of the governmental audit staff of our firm, and audit team members assigned to this engagement, are in compliance with the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) requirements set forth in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. In addition, our firm is in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Florida Statutes that require CPA's to have met certain CPE requirements prior to proposing on governmental audit engagements.

GOVERNMENTAL AUDITING EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

The audit team has extensive experience in performing governmental audits and is exposed to intensive and continuing concentration on these types of audits. Due to the total number of governmental audits our team performs, each member of our governmental staff must understand and be able to perform several types of governmental audits. It is our objective to provide each professional employee fifty hours or more of comprehensive continuing professional education each year. This is accomplished through attending seminars throughout Florida and is reinforced through in-house training.

Our firm has made a steadfast commitment to professional education. Our active attendance and participation in continuing professional education is a major part of our objective to obtain the most recent knowledge on issues which are of importance to our clients. We are growing on the reputation for work that our firm is providing today.

Quality Control Program

Quality control requires continuing commitment to professional excellence. **Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, Certified Public Accountants, PL** is formally dedicated to that commitment.

To ensure maintaining the standards of working excellence required by our firm, we joined the Private Companies Practice Section (PCPS) of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). To be a participating member firm of this practice section, a firm must obtain an independent Peer Review of its quality control policies and procedures to ascertain the firm's compliance with existing auditing standards on the applicable engagements.

The scope of the Peer Review is comprehensive in that it specifically reviews the following quality control policies and procedures of the participating firm:

- Professional, economic, and administrative independence;
- Assignment of professional personnel to engagements;
- Consultation on technical matters;
- Supervision of engagement personnel;
- Hiring and employment of personnel;
- Professional development;
- Advancement;
- Acceptance and continuation of clients; and,
- Inspection and review system.

We believe that our commitment to the program is rewarding not only to our firm, but primarily to our clients.

The external independent Peer Review of the elements of our quality control policies and procedures performed by an independent certified public accountant, approved by the PCPS of the AICPA, provides you with the assurance that we continue to conform to standards of the profession in the conduct of our accounting and auditing practice.

GOVERNMENTAL AUDITING EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Our firm is also a member of Governmental Audit Quality Center (GAQC), a voluntary membership center for CPA firms that perform governmental audits. This center promotes the quality of governmental audits.

Our firm has completed successive Peer Reviews. These reviews included a representative sample of our firm's local governmental auditing engagements. As a result of these reviews, our firm obtained an unqualified opinion on our quality control program and work procedures. On page 31 is a copy of our most recent Peer Review report. It should be noted that we received a pass rating.

Our firm has never had any disciplinary actions by state regulatory bodies or professional organizations.

As our firm performs approximately one hundred audits each year that are reviewed by federal, state or local entities, we are constantly dealing with questions from these entities about our audits. We are pleased to say that any questions that have been raised were minor issues and were easily resolved without re-issuing any reports.

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR)

We are proud and honored to have been involved with the City of Fort Pierce and the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority when they received their first Certificates of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal years ended September 30, 1988 and 1994, respectively. We were also instrumental in the City of Stuart receiving the award, in our first year of performing their audit, for the year ended September 30, 1999.

We also assisted St. Lucie County, Florida for the year ended September 30, 2003, in preparing their first Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, and St. Lucie County has received their Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting every year since.

As continued commitment to insuring that we are providing the highest level of experience, we have had at least one employee of our firm serve on the GFOA – Special Review Committee since the mid-1980s. This committee is made up of selective Certified Public Accountants throughout the United States who have demonstrated their high level of knowledge and expertise in governmental accounting. Each committee member attends a special review meeting at the Annual GFOA Conference. At this meeting, the committee reports on the Certificate of Achievement Program's most recent results, future goals, and common reporting deficiencies.

We feel that our previous experience in assisting the City of Fort Pierce, the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority and St. Lucie County obtain their first CAFRs, and the City of Stuart in continuing to receive a CAFR and our firm's continued involvement with the GFOA, and the CAFR review committee make us a valued asset for any client in the field of governmental financial reporting.

GOVERNMENTAL AUDIT EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

References

Terracina Community Development
District
Jeff Walker, Special District Services
(561) 630-4922

Gateway Community Development
District
Stephen Bloom, Severn Trent Management
(954) 753-5841

The Reserve Community Development District

Darrin Mossing, Governmental Management
Services LLC
(407) 841-5524

Clearwater Cay Community Development
District
Cal Teague, Premier District Management

(239) 690-7100 ext 101

In addition to the above, we have the following additional governmental audit experience:

Community Development Districts

Aberdeen Community Development
District

Beacon Lakes Community
Development District

Alta Lakes Community Development
District

Beaumont Community Development
District

Amelia Concourse Community
Development District

Bella Collina Community Development
District

Amelia Walk Community
Development District

Bonnet Creek Community
Development District

Aqua One Community Development
District

Buckeye Park Community
Development District

Arborwood Community Development
District

Candler Hills East Community
Development District

Arlington Ridge Community
Development District

Cedar Hammock Community
Development District

Bartram Springs Community
Development District

Central Lake Community
Development District

Baytree Community Development
District

Channing Park Community
Development District

GOVERNMENTAL AUDIT EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Cheval West Community Development District	Evergreen Community Development District
Coconut Cay Community Development District	Forest Brooke Community Development District
Colonial Country Club Community Development District	Gateway Services Community Development District
Connerton West Community Development District	Gramercy Farms Community Development District
Copperstone Community Development District	Greenway Improvement District
Creekside @ Twin Creeks Community Development District	Greyhawk Landing Community Development District
Deer Run Community Development District	Griffin Lakes Community Development District
Dowden West Community Development District	Habitat Community Development District
DP1 Community Development District	Harbor Bay Community Development District
Eagle Point Community Development District	Harbourage at Braden River Community Development District
East Nassau Stewardship District	Harmony Community Development District
Eastlake Oaks Community Development District	Harmony West Community Development District
Easton Park Community Development District	Harrison Ranch Community Development District
Estancia @ Wiregrass Community Development District	Hawkstone Community Development District

GOVERNMENTAL AUDIT EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Heritage Harbor Community Development District	Madeira Community Development District
Heritage Isles Community Development District	Marhsall Creek Community Development District
Heritage Lake Park Community Development District	Meadow Pointe IV Community Development District
Heritage Landing Community Development District	Meadow View at Twin Creek Community Development District
Heritage Palms Community Development District	Mediterra North Community Development District
Heron Isles Community Development District	Midtown Miami Community Development District
Heron Isles Community Development District	Mira Lago West Community Development District
Highland Meadows II Community Development District	Montecito Community Development District
Julington Creek Community Development District	Narcoossee Community Development District
Laguna Lakes Community Development District	Naturewalk Community Development District
Lake Bernadette Community Development District	New Port Tampa Bay Community Development District
Lakeside Plantation Community Development District	Overoaks Community Development District
Landings at Miami Community Development District	Panther Trace II Community Development District
Legends Bay Community Development District	Paseo Community Development District
Lexington Oaks Community Development District	Pine Ridge Plantation Community Development District
Live Oak No. 2 Community Development District	Piney Z Community Development District

GOVERNMENTAL AUDIT EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Poinciana Community Development District	Sampson Creek Community Development District
Poinciana West Community Development District	San Simeon Community Development District
Port of the Islands Community Development District	Six Mile Creek Community Development District
Portofino Isles Community Development District	South Village Community Development District
Quarry Community Development District	Southern Hills Plantation I Community Development District
Renaissance Commons Community Development District	Southern Hills Plantation III Community Development District
Reserve Community Development District	South Fork Community Development District
Reserve #2 Community Development District	St. John's Forest Community Development District
River Glen Community Development District	Stoneybrook South Community Development District
River Hall Community Development District	Stoneybrook South at ChampionsGate Community Development District
River Place on the St. Lucie Community Development District	Stoneybrook West Community Development District
Rivers Edge Community Development District	Tern Bay Community Development District
Riverwood Community Development District	Terracina Community Development District
Riverwood Estates Community Development District	Tison's Landing Community Development District
Rolling Hills Community Development District	TPOST Community Development District
Rolling Oaks Community Development District	

GOVERNMENTAL AUDIT EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Triple Creek Community Development District	Vizcaya in Kendall Development District
TSR Community Development District	Waterset North Community Development District
Turnbull Creek Community Development District	Westside Community Development District
Twin Creeks North Community Development District	WildBlue Community Development District
Urban Orlando Community Development District	Willow Creek Community Development District
Verano #2 Community Development District	Willow Hammock Community Development District
Viera East Community Development District	Winston Trails Community Development District
VillaMar Community Development District	Zephyr Ridge Community Development District

GOVERNMENTAL AUDIT EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Other Governmental Organizations

City of Westlake	Office of the Medical Examiner, District 19
Florida Inland Navigation District	Rupert J. Smith Law Library of St. Lucie County
Fort Pierce Farms Water Control District	St. Lucie Education Foundation
Indian River Regional Crime Laboratory, District 19, Florida	Seminole Improvement District
Viera Stewardship District	Troup Indiantown Water Control District

Current or Recent Single Audits.

St. Lucie County, Florida
Early Learning Coalition, Inc.
Gateway Services Community Development District.

Members of our audit team have acquired extensive experience from performing or participating in over 1,800 audits of governments, independent special taxing districts, school boards, and other agencies that receive public money and utilize fund accounting.

Much of our firm's auditing experience is with compliance auditing, which is required for publicly financed agencies. In this type of audit, we do a financial examination and also confirm compliance with various statutory and regulatory guidelines.

Following is a summary of our other experience, including Auditor General experience, as it pertains to other governmental and fund accounting audits.

Counties

(Includes elected constitutional officers, utilities and dependent taxing districts)

Indian River
Martin
Okeechobee
Palm Beach

Municipalities

City of Port St. Lucie
City of Vero Beach
Town of Orchid

GOVERNMENTAL AUDIT EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Special Districts

Bannon Lakes Community Development District
Boggy Creek Community Development District
Capron Trail Community Development District
Celebration Pointe Community Development District
Coquina Water Control District
Diamond Hill Community Development District
Dovera Community Development District
Durbin Crossing Community Development District
Golden Lakes Community Development District
Lakewood Ranch Community Development District
Martin Soil and Water Conservation District
Meadow Pointe III Community Development District
Myrtle Creek Community Development District
St. Lucie County – Fort Pierce Fire District
The Crossings at Fleming Island
St. Lucie West Services District
Indian River County Mosquito Control District
St. John's Water Control District
Westchase and Westchase East Community Development Districts
Pier Park Community Development District
Verandahs Community Development District
Magnolia Park Community Development District

Schools and Colleges

Federal Student Aid Programs – Indian River Community College
Indian River Community College
Okeechobee County District School Board
St. Lucie County District School Board

State and County Agencies

Central Florida Foreign-Trade Zone, Inc. (a nonprofit organization affiliated with the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners)
Florida School for Boys at Okeechobee
Indian River Community College Crime Laboratory
Indian River Correctional Institution

FEE SCHEDULE

We propose the fee for our audit services described below to be \$4,750 for the year ended September 30, 2023. In addition, if a bond issuance occurs in the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023, the fee for our audit services will be \$6,000. The fee is contingent upon the financial records and accounting systems of Cypress Bluff Community Development District being "audit ready" and the financial activity for the District is not materially increased. If we discover that additional preparation work or subsidiary schedules are needed, we will consult with your authorized representative. We can assist with this additional work at our standard rates should you desire.

SCOPE OF WORK TO BE PERFORMED

If selected as the District's auditors, we will perform a financial and compliance audit in accordance with Section 11.45, Florida Statutes, in order to express an opinion on an annual basis on the financial statements of Cypress Bluff Community Development District as of September 30, 2023. The audits will be performed to the extent necessary to express an opinion on the fairness in all material respects with which the financial statements present the financial position, results of operations and changes in financial position in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and to determine whether, for selected transactions, operations are properly conducted in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements. Reportable conditions that are also material weaknesses shall be identified as such in the Auditors' Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters. Other (non-reportable) conditions discovered during the course of the audit will be reported in a separate letter to management, which will be referred to in the Auditors' Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters.

Our audit will be performed in accordance with standards for financial and compliance audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as in compliance with rules and regulations of audits of special districts as set forth by the State Auditor General in Chapter 10.550, Local Governmental Entity Audits, and other relevant federal, state and county orders, statutes, ordinances, charter, resolutions, bond covenants, Administrative Code and procedures, or rules and regulations which may pertain to the work required in the engagement.

The primary purpose of our audit will be to express an opinion on the financial statements discussed above. It should be noted that such audits are subject to the inherent risk that errors or irregularities may not be detected. However, if conditions are discovered which lead to the belief that material errors, defalcations or other irregularities may exist or if other circumstances are encountered that require extended services, we will promptly notify the appropriate individual.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

J. W. Gaines, CPA, CITP

Director – 44 years

Education

- ◆ Stetson University, B.B.A. – Accounting

Registrations

- ◆ Certified Public Accountant – State of Florida, State Board of Accountancy
- ◆ Certified Information Technology Professional (CITP) – American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Professional Affiliations/Community Service

- ◆ Member of the American and Florida Institutes of Certified Public Accountants
- ◆ Affiliate member Government Finance Officers Association
- ◆ Past President, Vice President-Campaign Chairman, Vice President and Board Member of United Way of St. Lucie County, 1989 - 1994
- ◆ Past President, President Elect, Secretary and Treasurer of the Treasure Coast Chapter of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants, 1988 - 1991
- ◆ Past President of Ft. Pierce Kiwanis Club, 1994 - 95, Member/Board Member since 1982
- ◆ Past President, Vice President and Treasurer of St. Lucie County Chapter of the American Cancer Society, 1980 -1986
- ◆ Member of the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce, Member Board of Directors, Treasurer, September 2002 - 2006, Chairman Elect 2007, Chairman 2008, Past Chairman 2009
- ◆ Member Lawnwood Regional Medical Center Board of Trustees, 2000 – Present, Chairman 2013 - Present
- ◆ Member of St. Lucie County Citizens Budget Committee, 2001 – 2002
- ◆ Member of Ft. Pierce Citizens Budget Advisory Committee, 2010 – 2011
- ◆ Member of Ft. Pierce Civil Service Appeals Board, 2013 - Present

Professional Experience

- ◆ Miles Grant Development/Country Club – Stuart, Florida, July 1975 – October 1976
- ◆ State Auditor General's Office – Public Accounts Auditor – November 1976 through September 1979
- ◆ Director - Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, Certified Public Accountants PL, responsible for numerous government and nonprofit audits.
- ◆ Over 40 years experience in all phases of public accounting and auditing experience, with a concentration in financial and compliance audits. Mr. Gaines has been involved in all phases of the audits listed on the preceding pages.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience
--

J. W. Gaines, CPA, CITP (Continued)

Director

Continuing Professional Education

- ♦ Has participated in numerous continuing professional education courses provided by nationally recognized sponsors over the last two years to keep abreast of the latest developments in accounting and auditing such as:
 - Governmental Accounting Report and Audit Update
 - Analytical Procedures, FICPA
 - Annual Update for Accountants and Auditors
 - Single Audit Sampling and Other Considerations

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

David S. McGuire, CPA, CITP

Director – 36 years experience

Education

- ◆ University of Central Florida, B.A. – Accounting
- ◆ Barry University – Master of Professional Accountancy

Registrations

- ◆ Certified Public Accountant – State of Florida, State Board of Accountancy
- ◆ Certified Information Technology Professional (CITP) – American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- ◆ Certified Not-For-Profit Core Concepts 2018

Professional Affiliations/Community Service

- ◆ Member of the American and Florida Institutes of Certified Public Accountants
- ◆ Associate Member, Florida Government Finance Office Associates
- ◆ Assistant Coach – St. Lucie County Youth Football Organization (1994 – 2005)
- ◆ Assistant Coach – Greater Port St. Lucie Football League, Inc. (2006 – 2010)
- ◆ Board Member – Greater Port St. Lucie Football League, Inc. (2011 – 2017)
- ◆ Treasurer, AIDS Research and Treatment Center of the Treasure Coast, Inc. (2000 – 2003)
- ◆ Board Member/Treasurer, North Treasure Coast Chapter, American Red Cross (2004 – 2010)
- ◆ Member/Board Member of Port St. Lucie Kiwanis (1994 – 2001)
- ◆ President (2014/15) of Sunrise Kiwanis of Fort Pierce (2004 – 2017)
- ◆ St. Lucie District School Board Superintendent Search Committee (2013 – present)
- ◆ Board Member – Phrozen Pharos (2019-2021)

Professional Experience

- ◆ Twenty-eight years public accounting experience with an emphasis on nonprofit and governmental organizations.
- ◆ Audit Manager in-charge on a variety of audit and review engagements within several industries, including the following government and nonprofit organizations:
 - St. Lucie County, Florida
 - 19th Circuit Office of Medical Examiner
 - Troup Indiantown Water Control District
 - Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Inc.
 - Healthy Kids of St. Lucie County
 - Mustard Seed Ministries of Ft. Pierce, Inc.
 - Reaching Our Community Kids, Inc.
 - Reaching Our Community Kids - South
 - St. Lucie County Education Foundation, Inc.
 - Treasure Coast Food Bank, Inc.
 - North Springs Improvement District
- ◆ Four years of service in the United States Air Force in computer operations, with a top secret (SCI/SBI) security clearance.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

David S. McGuire, CPA, CITP (Continued)

Director

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Mr. McGuire has attended numerous continuing professional education courses and seminars taught by nationally recognized sponsors in the accounting auditing and single audit compliance areas. He has attended courses over the last two years in those areas as follows:

- Not-for-Profit Auditing Financial Results and Compliance Requirements

- Update: Government Accounting Reporting and Auditing

- Annual Update for Accountants and Auditors

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

Matthew Gonano, CPA

Director – 13 years total experience

Education

- ◆ University of North Florida, B.B.A. – Accounting
- ◆ University of Alicante, Spain – International Business
- ◆ Florida Atlantic University – Masters of Accounting

Professional Affiliations/Community Service

- ◆ American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- ◆ Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Professional Experience

- ◆ Senior Accountant with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank providing professional services to nonprofit and governmental entities.
- ◆ Performed audits of nonprofit and governmental organizations in accordance with Governmental Accounting Auditing Standards (GAAS)
- ◆ Performed Single Audits of nonprofit organizations in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, Audits of State, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Mr. Gonano has participated in numerous continuing professional education courses.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

David F. Haughton, CPA

Accounting and Audit Manager – 33 years

Education

- ◆ Stetson University, B.B.A. – Accounting

Registrations

- ◆ Certified Public Accountant – State of Florida, State Board of Accountancy

Professional Affiliations/Community Service

- ◆ Member of the American and Florida Institutes of Certified Public Accountants
- ◆ Former Member of Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants Committee on State and Local Government
- ◆ Affiliate Member Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for over 10 years
- ◆ Affiliate Member Florida Government Finance Officers Association (FGFOA) for over 10 years
- ◆ Technical Review – 1997 FICPA Course on State and Local Governments in Florida
- ◆ Board of Directors – Kiwanis of Ft. Pierce, Treasurer – 1994-1999; Vice President – 1999-2001

Professional Experience

- ◆ Twenty-seven years public accounting experience with an emphasis on governmental and nonprofit organizations.
- ◆ State Auditor General's Office – West Palm Beach, Staff Auditor, June 1985 to September 1985
- ◆ Accounting and Audit Manager of Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, Certified Public Accountants PL, responsible for audit and accounting services including governmental and not-for-profit audits.
- ◆ Over 20 years of public accounting and governmental experience, specializing in governmental and nonprofit organizations with concentration in special districts, including Community Development Districts which provide services including water and sewer utilities. Governmental and non-profit entities served include the following:

Counties:

St. Lucie County

Municipalities:

City of Fort Pierce

City of Stuart

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience

David F. Haughton, CPA (Continued)

Accounting and Audit Manager

Professional Experience (Continued)

Special Districts:

Bluewaters Community Development District
Country Club of Mount Dora Community Development District
Fiddler's Creek Community Development District #1 and #2
Indigo Community Development District
North Springs Improvement District
Renaissance Commons Community Development District
St. Lucie West Services District
Stoneybrook Community Development District
Summerville Community Development District
Terracina Community Development District
Thousand Oaks Community Development District
Tree Island Estates Community Development District
Valencia Acres Community Development District

Non-Profits:

The Dunbar Center, Inc.
Hibiscus Children's Foundation, Inc.
Hope Rural School, Inc.
Maritime and Yachting Museum of Florida, Inc.
Tykes and Teens, Inc.
United Way of Martin County, Inc.
Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast, Inc.

- ◆ While with the Auditor General's Office he was on the staff for the state audits of the Martin County School District and Okeechobee County School District.
- ◆ During 1997 he performed a technical review of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants state CPE course on Audits of State and Local Governments in Florida. His comments were well received by the author and were utilized in future updates to the course.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ During the past several years, he has participated in numerous professional development training programs sponsored by the AICPA and FICPA, including state conferences on special districts and governmental auditing in Florida. He averages in excess of 100 hours bi-annually of advanced training which exceeds the 80 hours required in accordance with the continuing professional education requirements of the Florida State Board of accountancy and the AICPA Private Companies Practice Section. He has over 75 hours of governmental CPE credit within the past two years.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience
--

Paul Daly

Staff Accountant – 11 years

Education

- ♦ Florida Atlantic University, B.S. – Accounting

Professional Experience

- ♦ Staff Accountant with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank providing professional services to nonprofit and governmental entities.

Continuing Professional Education

- ♦ Working to attain the requirements to take the Certified Public Accounting (CPA) exam.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience
--

Melissa Marlin, CPA

Senior Staff Accountant – 9 years

Education

- ◆ Indian River State College, A.A. – Accounting
- ◆ Florida Atlantic University, B.B.A. – Accounting

Professional Experience

- ◆ Staff accountant with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank providing professional services to nonprofit and governmental entities.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Mrs. Marlin participates in numerous continuing professional education courses provided by nationally recognized sponsors to keep abreast of the latest developments.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience
--

Bryan Snyder

Staff Accountant – 8 years

Education

- ◆ Florida Atlantic University, B.B.A. – Accounting

Professional Experience

- ◆ Accountant beginning his professional auditing career with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank.
- ◆ Mr. Snyder is gaining experience auditing governmental & nonprofit entities.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Mr. Snyder participates in numerous continuing education courses and plans on working to acquire his CPA certificate.
- ◆ Mr. Snyder is currently studying to pass the CPA exam.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience
--

Maritza Stonebraker, CPA

Senior Accountant – 7 years

Education

- ♦ Indian River State College, B.S. – Accounting

Professional Experience

- ♦ Staff Accountant beginning her professional auditing career with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank.

Continuing Professional Education

- ♦ Mrs. Stonebraker participates in numerous continuing professional education courses provided by nationally recognized sponsors to keep abreast of the latest developments.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience
--

Jonathan Herman, CPA

Senior Staff Accountant – 9 years

Education

- ◆ University of Central Florida, B.S. – Accounting
- ◆ Florida Atlantic University, MACC

Professional Experience

- ◆ Accounting graduate with nine years experience with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank providing professional services to nonprofit and governmental entities.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Mr. Herman participates in numerous continuing professional education courses provided by nationally recognized sponsors to keep abreast of the latest developments.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience
--

Sean Stanton, CPA

Staff Accountant – 5 years

Education

- ◆ University of South Florida, B.S. – Accounting
- ◆ Florida Atlantic University, M.B.A. – Accounting

Professional Experience

- ◆ Staff accountant with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank auditing governmental and non-profit entities.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Mr. Stanton participates in numerous continuing professional education courses provided by nationally recognized sponsors to keep abreast of the latest developments.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience
--

Tifanee Terrell

Staff Accountant – 3 years

Education

- ◆ Florida Atlantic University, M.A.C.C. – Accounting

Professional Experience

- ◆ Staff Accountant with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank providing professional services to nonprofit and governmental entities.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Ms. Terrell participates in numerous continuing professional education courses provided by nationally recognized sponsors to keep abreast of the latest developments.
- ◆ Ms. Terrell is currently studying to pass the CPA exam.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience
--

Dylan Dixon

Staff Accountant – 1 year

Education

- ◆ Indian River State College, B.S. – Accounting

Professional Experience

- ◆ Staff Accountant with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank providing professional services to nonprofit and governmental entities.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Mr. Dixon participates in numerous continuing professional education courses provided by nationally recognized sponsors to keep abreast of the latest developments.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience
--

Brennen Moore

Staff Accountant

Education

- ◆ Indian River State College, B.S. – Accounting

Professional Experience

- ◆ Staff Accountant with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank providing professional services to nonprofit and governmental entities.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Mr. Moore participates in numerous continuing professional education courses provided by nationally recognized sponsors to keep abreast of the latest developments.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience
--

Jordan Wood

Staff Accountant – 1 year

Education

- ◆ Indian River State College, A.A. – Accounting

Professional Experience

- ◆ Staff Accountant with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank providing professional services to nonprofit and governmental entities.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Ms. Wood is currently enrolled at Indian River State College to complete her bachelor's degree.
- ◆ Ms. Wood participates in numerous continuing professional education courses provided by nationally recognized sponsors to keep abreast of the latest developments.
- ◆ Ms. Wood is currently working towards completing an additional 30 hours of education to qualify to sit for CPA exam.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience
--

Katie Gifford
Staff Accountant

Education

- ◆ Indian River State College, B.S. – Accounting

Professional Experience

- ◆ Staff Accountant with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank providing professional services to nonprofit and governmental entities.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Ms. Gifford participates in numerous continuing professional education courses provided by nationally recognized sponsors to keep abreast of the latest developments.

Commitment to Quality Service

Personnel Qualifications and Experience
--

Rayna Zicari
Staff Accountant

Education

- ◆ Stetson University, B.B.A. – Accounting

Professional Experience

- ◆ Staff Accountant with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines, & Frank providing professional services to nonprofit and governmental entities.

Continuing Professional Education

- ◆ Ms. Zicari participates in numerous continuing professional education courses provided by nationally recognized sponsors to keep abreast of the latest developments.
- ◆ Ms. Zicari is currently working towards completing an additional 30 hours of education to qualify to sit for CPA exam.



6815 Dairy Road
Zephyrhills, FL 33542

813.788.2155
BodinePerry.com

Report on the Firm's System of Quality Control

To the Partners of
Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, CPAs, PL
and the Peer Review Committee of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants

November 30, 2022

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, CPAs, PL (the firm), in effect for the year ended May 31, 2022. Our peer review was conducted in accordance with the Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Standards).

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

Firm's Responsibility

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

Peer Reviewer's Responsibility

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

Required Selections and Considerations

Engagements selected for review included engagements performed under *Government Auditing Standards*, including a compliance audit under the Single Audit Act.

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

Opinion

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, CPAs, PL, in effect for the year ended May 31, 2022, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. Firms can receive a rating of *pass*, *pass with deficiency(ies)*, or *fail*. Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, CPAs, PLC, has received a peer review rating of *pass*.

Bodine Perry

Bodine Perry

(BERGER_REPORT22)



**CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

District Auditing Services for Fiscal Year 2023
Lake County, Florida

INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS

SECTION 1. DUE DATE. Sealed proposals must be received no later than April 10, 2024, at 12:00 p.m., at the offices of the District Manager, 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431, (561) 571-0010. Proposals will be publicly opened at that time.

SECTION 2. FAMILIARITY WITH THE LAW. By submitting a proposal, the Proposer is assumed to be familiar with all federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, rules and regulations that in any manner affect the work. Ignorance on the part of the Proposer will in no way relieve it from responsibility to perform the work covered by the proposal in compliance with all such laws, ordinances and regulations.

SECTION 3. QUALIFICATIONS OF PROPOSER. The contract, if awarded, will only be awarded to a responsible Proposer who is qualified by experience and licensing to do the work specified herein. The Proposer shall submit with its proposal satisfactory evidence of experience in similar work and show that it is fully prepared to complete the work to the satisfaction of the District.

SECTION 4. SUBMISSION OF ONLY ONE PROPOSAL. Proposers shall be disqualified and their proposals rejected if the District has reason to believe that collusion may exist among the Proposers, the Proposer has defaulted on any previous contract or is in arrears on any previous or existing contract, or for failure to demonstrate proper licensure and business organization.

SECTION 5. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL. Submit one (1) unbound and one (1) electronic copy of the Proposal Documents, and other requested attachments at the time and place indicated herein, which shall be enclosed in an opaque sealed envelope, marked with the title "Auditing Services – Cypress Bluff Community Development District" on the face of it. Please include pricing for each additional bond issuance.

SECTION 6. MODIFICATION AND WITHDRAWAL. Proposals may be modified or withdrawn by an appropriate document duly executed and delivered to the place where proposals are to be submitted at any time prior to the time and date the proposals are due. No proposal may be withdrawn after opening for a period of ninety (90) days.

SECTION 7. PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS. The proposal documents shall consist of the notice announcing the request for proposals, these instructions, the Evaluation Criteria Sheet and a proposal with all required documentation pursuant to Section 12 of these instructions (the "Proposal Documents").

SECTION 8. PROPOSAL. In making its proposal, each Proposer represents that it has read and understands the Proposal Documents and that the proposal is made in accordance therewith.

SECTION 9. BASIS OF AWARD/RIGHT TO REJECT. The District reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, make modifications to the work, and waive any informalities or irregularities in proposals as it is deemed in the best interests of the District.

SECTION 10. CONTRACT AWARD. Within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the Notice of Award from the District, the Proposer shall enter into and execute a Contract (engagement letter) with the District.

SECTION 11. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY. Nothing herein shall be construed as or constitute a waiver of the District's limited waiver of liability contained in Section 768.28, Florida Statutes, or any other statute or law.

SECTION 12. MISCELLANEOUS. All proposals shall include the following information in addition to any other requirements of the proposal documents.

- A. List the position or title of all personnel to perform work on the District audit. Include resumes for each person listed; list years of experience in present position for each party listed and years of related experience.
- B. Describe proposed staffing levels, including resumes with applicable certifications.
- C. Three references from projects of similar size and scope. The Proposer should include information relating to the work it conducted for each reference as well as a name, address and phone number of a contact person.
- D. The lump sum cost of the provision of the services under the proposal for the District's first audit for which there are no special assessment bonds, plus the lump sum cost of two (2) annual renewals, which renewals shall include services related to the District's anticipated issuance of special assessment bonds.

SECTION 13. PROTESTS. In accordance with the District's Rules of Procedure, any protest regarding the Proposal Documents, must be filed in writing, at the offices of the District Manager, within seventy-two (72) calendar hours (excluding Saturday, Sunday, and state holidays) after the receipt of the Proposal Documents. The formal protest setting forth with particularity the facts and law upon which the protest is based shall be filed within seven (7) calendar days (including Saturday, Sunday, and state holidays) after the initial notice of protest was filed. Failure to timely file a notice of protest or failure to timely file a formal written protest shall constitute a waiver of any right to object or protest with respect to the aforesaid Proposal Documents.

SECTION 14. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS. The criteria to be used in the evaluation of proposals are presented in the Evaluation Criteria Sheet, contained within the Proposal Documents.

**CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
AUDITOR SELECTION
EVALUATION CRITERIA**

1. Ability of Personnel. (20 Points)

(E.g., geographic location of the firm's headquarters or permanent office in relation to the project; capabilities and experience of key personnel; present ability to manage this project; evaluation of existing work load; proposed staffing levels, etc.)

2. Proposer's Experience. (20 Points)

(E.g. past record and experience of the Proposer in similar projects; volume of work previously performed by the firm; past performance for other or current Community Development District(s) in other contracts; character, integrity, reputation of Proposer, etc.)

3. Understanding of Scope of Work. (20 Points)

Extent to which the proposal demonstrates an understanding of the District's needs for the services requested.

4. Ability to Furnish the Required Services. (20 Points)

Extent to which the proposal demonstrates the adequacy of Proposer's financial resources and stability as a business entity necessary to complete the services required.

5. Price. (20 Points)***

Points will be awarded based upon the lowest total proposal for rendering the services and the reasonableness of the proposal.

Total (100 Points)

***Alternatively, the Board may choose to evaluate firms without considering price, in which case the remaining categories would be assigned 25 points each.

CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

9C11



Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Proposal to Provide Financial Auditing Services:

CYPRESS BLUFF

Community Development District

Proposal Due: April 10, 2024
12:00PM

Submitted to:

Cypress Bluff
Community Development District
c/o District Manager
2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W
Boca Raton, Florida 33431

Submitted by:

Antonio J. Grau, Partner
Grau & Associates
951 Yamato Road, Suite 280
Boca Raton, Florida 33431

Tel (561) 994-9299
(800) 229-4728

Fax (561) 994-5823

tgrau@graucpa.com

www.graucpa.com



Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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Grau & Associates

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

April 10, 2024

Cypress Bluff Community Development District
c/o District Manager
2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W
Boca Raton, Florida 33431

Re: Request for Proposal for Professional Auditing Services for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023, with an option for four additional annual renewals.

Grau & Associates (Grau) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Cypress Bluff Community Development District's (the "District") Request for Proposal (RFP), and we look forward to working with you on your audit. We are an energetic and robust team of knowledgeable professionals and are a recognized leader of providing services to Community Development Districts. As one of Florida's few firms to primarily focus on government, we are especially equipped to provide you an effective and efficient audit.

Special district audits are at the core of our practice: **we have a total of 360 clients, 329 or 91% of which are special districts.** We know the specifics of the professional services and work products needed to meet your RFP requirements like no other firm. With this level of experience, we are able to increase efficiency, to provide immediate and continued savings, and to minimize disturbances to client operations.

Why Grau & Associates:

Knowledgeable Audit Team

Grau is proud that the personnel we assign to your audit are some of the most seasoned auditors in the field. Our staff performs governmental engagements year round. When not working on your audit, your team is refining their audit approach for next year's audit. Our engagement partners have decades of experience and take a hands-on approach to our assignments, which all ensures a smoother process for you.

Servicing your Individual Needs

Our clients enjoy personalized service designed to satisfy their unique needs and requirements. Throughout the process of our audit, you will find that we welcome working with you to resolve any issues as swiftly and easily as possible. In addition, due to Grau's very low turnover rate for our industry, you also won't have to worry about retraining your auditors from year to year.

Developing Relationships

We strive to foster mutually beneficial relationships with our clients. We stay in touch year round, updating, collaborating and assisting you in implementing new legislation, rules and standards that affect your organization. We are also available as a sounding board and assist with technical questions.

Maintaining an Impeccable Reputation

We have never been involved in any litigation, proceeding or received any disciplinary action. Additionally, we have never been charged with, or convicted of, a public entity crime of any sort. We are financially stable and have never been involved in any bankruptcy proceedings.

Complying With Standards

Our audit will follow the Auditing Standards of the AICPA, Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida, and any other applicable federal, state and local regulations. We will deliver our reports in accordance with your requirements.

This proposal is a firm and irrevocable offer for 90 days. We certify this proposal is made without previous understanding, agreement or connection either with any previous firms or corporations offering a proposal for the same items. We also certify our proposal is in all respects fair, without outside control, collusion, fraud, or otherwise illegal action, and was prepared in good faith. Only the person(s), company or parties interested in the project as principals are named in the proposal. Grau has no existing or potential conflicts and anticipates no conflicts during the engagement. Our Federal I.D. number is 20-2067322.

We would be happy to answer any questions or to provide any additional information. We are genuinely excited about the prospect of serving you and establishing a long-term relationship. Please do not hesitate to call or email either of our Partners, Antonio J. Grau, CPA (tgrau@graucpa.com) or David Caplivski, CPA (dcaplivski@graucpa.com) at 561.994.9299. We thank you for considering our firm's qualifications and experience.

Very truly yours,
Grau & Associates



Antonio J. Grau

Firm Qualifications



Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Grau's Focus and Experience

Our Team



2005

Year founded

Services Provided



Properly registered
and
licensed professional
corporation by the
state of FLORIDA

We are proud Members of
the **American Institute of
Certified Public
Accountants**
&
the **Florida Institute of
Certified Public
Accountants**

297 Community Development
Districts Served

Quality Controls

- ⇒ External quality review program: consistently receives a pass
- ⇒ Internal: ongoing monitoring to maintain quality



AICPA | FICPA | GFOA | FASD | FGFOA

See next page for
report and certificate

March 17, 2023

Antonio Grau
Grau & Associates
951 Yamato Rd Ste 280
Boca Raton, FL 33431-1809

Dear Antonio Grau:

It is my pleasure to notify you that on March 16, 2023, the Florida Peer Review Committee accepted the report on the most recent System Review of your firm. The due date for your next review is December 31, 2025. This is the date by which all review documents should be completed and submitted to the administering entity.

As you know, the report had a peer review rating of pass. The Committee asked me to convey its congratulations to the firm.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

FICPA Peer Review Committee

Peer Review Team
FICPA Peer Review Committee

850.224.2727, x5957

cc: Daniel Hevia, Racquel McIntosh

Firm Number: 900004390114

Review Number: 594791



Firm & Staff Experience



Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

GRAU AND ASSOCIATES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT EXPERIENCE BY MANAGEMENT COMPANY



Profile Briefs:

Antonio J GRAU, CPA (Partner)

Years Performing Audits: 35+
CPE (last 2 years): Government Accounting, Auditing: 40 hours; Accounting, Auditing and Other: 53 hours
Professional Memberships: AICPA, FICPA, FGFOA, GFOA

David Caplivski, CPA (Partner)

Years Performing Audits: 13+
CPE (last 2 years): Government Accounting, Auditing: 24 hours; Accounting, Auditing and Other: 64 hours
Professional Memberships: AICPA, FICPA, FGFOA, FASD

"Here at Grau & Associates, staying up to date with the current technological landscape is one of our top priorities. Not only does it provide a more positive experience for our clients, but it also allows us to perform a more effective and efficient audit. With the every changing technology available and utilized by our clients, we are constantly innovating our audit process."

- Tony Grau

"Quality audits and exceptional client service are at the heart of every decision we make. Our clients trust us to deliver a quality audit, adhering to high standards and assisting them with improvements for their organization."

-David Caplivski

YOUR ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Grau's client-specific engagement team is meticulously organized in order to meet the unique needs of each client. Constant communication within our solution team allows for continuity of staff and audit team.

The Certified Information Technology Professional (CITP) Partner will bring a unique blend of IT expertise and understanding of accounting principles to the financial statement audit of the District.

An advisory consultant will be available as a sounding board to advise in those areas where problems are encountered.



The assigned personnel will work closely with the partner and the District to ensure that the financial statements and all other reports are prepared in accordance with professional standards and firm policy. Responsibilities will include planning the audit; communicating with the client and the partners the progress of the audit; and determining that financial statements and all reports issued by the firm are accurate, complete and are prepared in accordance with professional standards and firm policy.

The Engagement Partner will participate extensively during the various stages of the engagement and has direct responsibility for engagement policy, direction, supervision, quality control, security, confidentiality of information of the engagement and communication with client personnel. The engagement partner will also be involved directing the development of the overall audit approach and plan; performing an overriding review of work papers and ascertain client satisfaction.



Antonio 'Tony' J. Grau, CPA

Partner

Contact: tgrau@graucpa.com | (561) 939-6672

Experience

For over 30 years, Tony has been providing audit, accounting and consulting services to the firm's governmental, non-profit, employee benefit, overhead and arbitrage clients. He provides guidance to clients regarding complex accounting issues, internal controls and operations.

As a member of the Government Finance Officers Association Special Review Committee, Tony participated in the review process for awarding the GFOA Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting. Tony was also the review team leader for the Quality Review of the Office of Management Audits of School Board of Miami-Dade County. Tony received the AICPA advanced level certificate for governmental single audits.

Education

University of South Florida (1983)
Bachelor of Arts
Business Administration

Clients Served (partial list)

(>300) Various Special Districts, including:

Bayside Improvement Community Development District	St. Lucie West Services District
Dunes Community Development District	Ave Maria Stewardship Community District
Fishhawk Community Development District (I, II, IV)	Rivers Edge II Community Development District
Grand Bay at Doral Community Development District	Bartram Park Community Development District
Heritage Harbor North Community Development District	Bay Laurel Center Community Development District
Boca Raton Airport Authority	
Greater Naples Fire Rescue District	
Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District	
Lake Worth Drainage District	
South Indian River Water Control	

Professional Associations/Memberships

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Florida Government Finance Officers Association
Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants Government Finance Officers Association Member
City of Boca Raton Financial Advisory Board Member

Professional Education (over the last two years)

Course

Government Accounting and Auditing

Accounting, Auditing and Other

Total Hours

Hours

40

53

93 (includes of 4 hours of Ethics CPE)



David Caplivski, CPA/CITP, Partner
 Contact : dcaplivski@graucpa.com / 561-939-6676

Experience

Grau & Associates	Partner	2021-Present
Grau & Associates	Manager	2014-2020
Grau & Associates	Senior Auditor	2013-2014
Grau & Associates	Staff Auditor	2010-2013

Education

Florida Atlantic University (2009)
 Master of Accounting
 Nova Southeastern University (2002)
 Bachelor of Science
 Environmental Studies

Certifications and Certificates

Certified Public Accountant (2011)
 AICPA Certified Information Technology Professional (2018)
 AICPA Accreditation COSO Internal Control Certificate (2022)

Clients Served (partial list)

(>300) Various Special Districts	Hispanic Human Resource Council
Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse	Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District
Boca Raton Airport Authority	Old Plantation Water Control District
Broward Education Foundation	Pinetree Water Control District
CareerSource Brevard	San Carlos Park Fire & Rescue Retirement Plan
CareerSource Central Florida 403 (b) Plan	South Indian River Water Control District
City of Lauderhill GERS	South Trail Fire Protection & Rescue District
City of Parkland Police Pension Fund	Town of Haverhill
City of Sunrise GERS	Town of Hypoluxo
Coquina Water Control District	Town of Hillsboro Beach
Central County Water Control District	Town of Lantana
City of Miami (program specific audits)	Town of Lauderdale By-The-Sea Volunteer Fire Pension
City of West Park	Town of Pembroke Park
Coquina Water Control District	Village of Wellington
East Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Fac.	Village of Golf
East Naples Fire Control & Rescue District	

Professional Education (over the last two years)

<u>Course</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Government Accounting and Auditing	24
Accounting, Auditing and Other	64
Total Hours	<u>88</u> (includes 4 hours of Ethics CPE)

Professional Associations

Member, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
 Member, Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants
 Member, Florida Government Finance Officers Association
 Member, Florida Association of Special Districts

References



Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

We have included three references of government engagements that require compliance with laws and regulations, follow fund accounting, and have financing requirements, which we believe are similar to the District.

Dunes Community Development District

Scope of Work	Financial audit
Engagement Partner	Antonio J. Grau
Dates	Annually since 1998
Client Contact	Darrin Mossing, Finance Director 475 W. Town Place, Suite 114 St. Augustine, Florida 32092 904-940-5850

Two Creeks Community Development District

Scope of Work	Financial audit
Engagement Partner	Antonio J. Grau
Dates	Annually since 2007
Client Contact	William Rizzetta, President 3434 Colwell Avenue, Suite 200 Tampa, Florida 33614 813-933-5571

Journey's End Community Development District

Scope of Work	Financial audit
Engagement Partner	Antonio J. Grau
Dates	Annually since 2004
Client Contact	Todd Wodraska, Vice President 2501 A Burns Road Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33410 561-630-4922

Specific Audit Approach



Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

AUDIT APPROACH

Grau's Understanding of Work Product / Scope of Services:

We recognize the District is an important entity and we are confident our firm is eminently qualified to meet the challenges of this engagement and deliver quality audit services. ***You would be a valued client of our firm and we pledge to commit all firm resources to provide the level and quality of services (as described below) which not only meet the requirements set forth in the RFP but will exceed those expectations.*** Grau & Associates fully understands the scope of professional services and work products requested. Our audit will follow the Auditing Standards of the AICPA, *Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida and any other applicable Federal, State or Local regulations. **We will deliver our reports in accordance with your requirements.**

Proposed segmentation of the engagement

Our approach to the audit engagement is a risk-based approach which integrates the best of traditional auditing techniques and a total systems concept to enable the team to conduct a more efficient and effective audit. The audit will be conducted in three phases, which are as follows:



Phase I - Preliminary Planning

A thorough understanding of your organization, service objectives and operating environment is essential for the development of an audit plan and for an efficient, cost-effective audit. During this phase, we will meet with appropriate personnel to obtain and document our understanding of your operations and service objectives and, at the same time, give you the opportunity to express your expectations with respect to the services that we will provide. Our work effort will be coordinated so that there will be minimal disruption to your staff.

During this phase we will perform the following activities:

- » Review the regulatory, statutory and compliance requirements. This will include a review of applicable federal and state statutes, resolutions, bond documents, contracts, and other agreements;
- » Read minutes of meetings;
- » Review major sources of information such as budgets, organization charts, procedures, manuals, financial systems, and management information systems;
- » Obtain an understanding of fraud detection and prevention systems;
- » Obtain and document an understanding of internal control, including knowledge about the design of relevant policies, procedures, and records, and whether they have been placed in operation;
- » Assess risk and determine what controls we are to rely upon and what tests we are going to perform and perform test of controls;
- » Develop audit programs to incorporate the consideration of financial statement assertions, specific audit objectives, and appropriate audit procedures to achieve the specified objectives;
- » Discuss and resolve any accounting, auditing and reporting matters which have been identified.

Phase II – Execution of Audit Plan

The audit team will complete a major portion of transaction testing and audit requirements during this phase. The procedures performed during this period will enable us to identify any matter that may impact the completion of our work or require the attention of management. Tasks to be performed in Phase II include, but are not limited to the following:

- » Apply analytical procedures to further assist in the determination of the nature, timing, and extent of auditing procedures used to obtain evidential matter for specific account balances or classes of transactions;
- » Perform tests of account balances and transactions through sampling, vouching, confirmation and other analytical procedures; and
- » Perform tests of compliance.

Phase III - Completion and Delivery

In this phase of the audit, we will complete the tasks related to year-end balances and financial reporting. All reports will be reviewed with management before issuance, and the partners will be available to meet and discuss our report and address any questions. Tasks to be performed in Phase III include, but are not limited to the following:

- » Perform final analytical procedures;
- » Review information and make inquiries for subsequent events; and
- » Meeting with Management to discuss preparation of draft financial statements and any potential findings or recommendations.

You should expect more from your accounting firm than a signature in your annual financial report. Our concept of truly responsive professional service emphasizes taking an active interest in the issues of concern to our clients and serving as an effective resource in dealing with those issues. In following this approach, we not only audit financial information with hindsight but also consider the foresight you apply in managing operations.

Application of this approach in developing our management letter is particularly important given the increasing financial pressures and public scrutiny facing today's public officials. We will prepare the management letter at the completion of our final procedures.

In preparing this management letter, we will initially review any draft comments or recommendations with management. In addition, we will take necessary steps to ensure that matters are communicated to those charged with governance.

In addition to communicating any recommendations, we will also communicate the following, if any:

- » Significant audit adjustments;
- » Significant deficiencies or material weaknesses;
- » Disagreements with management; and
- » Difficulties encountered in performing the audit.

Our findings will contain a statement of condition describing the situation and the area that needs strengthening, what should be corrected and why. Our suggestions will withstand the basic tests of corrective action:

Is the recommendation cost effective?

Is the recommendation the simplest to effectuate in order to correct a problem?

Is the recommendation at the heart of the problem and not just correcting a symptomatic matter?

Is the corrective action taking into account why the deficiency occurred?

To assure full agreement with facts and circumstances, we will fully discuss each item with Management prior to the final exit conference. This policy means there will be no “surprises” in the management letter and fosters a professional, cooperative atmosphere.

Communications

We emphasize a continuous, year-round dialogue between the District and our management team. We regularly communicate through personal telephone calls and electronic mail throughout the audit and on a regular basis.

Our clients have the ability to transmit information to us on our secure client portal with the ability to assign different staff with separate log on and viewing capability. This further facilitates efficiency as all assigned users receive electronic mail notification as soon as new information has been posted into the portal.

Cost of Services



Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Our proposed all-inclusive fees for the financial audit for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2023-2027 are as follows:

Year Ended September 30,	Fee
2023	\$3,300
2024	\$3,400
2025	\$3,500
2026	\$3,600
2027	<u>\$3,700</u>
TOTAL (2023-2027)	<u>\$17,500</u>

The above fees are based on the assumption that the District maintains its current level of operations. Should conditions change or additional Bonds are issued the fees would be adjusted accordingly upon approval from all parties concerned. If Bonds are issued the fee would increase by \$1,500. The fee for subsequent annual renewals would be agreed upon separately.

Supplemental Information



Grau & Associates
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

PARTIAL LIST OF CLIENTS

SPECIAL DISTRICTS	Governmental Audit	Single Audit	Utility Audit	Current Client	Year End
Boca Raton Airport Authority	✓	✓		✓	9/30
Captain's Key Dependent District	✓			✓	9/30
Central Broward Water Control District	✓			✓	9/30
Collier Mosquito Control District	✓			✓	9/30
Coquina Water Control District	✓			✓	9/30
East Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility	✓		✓		9/30
Florida Green Finance Authority	✓				9/30
Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District	✓			✓	9/30
Greater Naples Fire Control and Rescue District	✓	✓		✓	9/30
Green Corridor P.A.C.E. District	✓			✓	9/30
Hobe-St. Lucie Conservancy District	✓			✓	9/30
Indian River Mosquito Control District	✓				9/30
Indian Trail Improvement District	✓			✓	9/30
Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District	✓	✓	✓	✓	9/30
Lake Padgett Estates Independent District	✓			✓	9/30
Lake Worth Drainage District	✓			✓	9/30
Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District	✓				9/30
Old Plantation Control District	✓			✓	9/30
Pal Mar Water Control District	✓			✓	9/30
Pinellas Park Water Management District	✓			✓	9/30
Pine Tree Water Control District (Broward)	✓			✓	9/30
Pinetree Water Control District (Wellington)	✓				9/30
Ranger Drainage District	✓	✓		✓	9/30
Renaissance Improvement District	✓			✓	9/30
San Carlos Park Fire Protection and Rescue Service District	✓			✓	9/30
Sanibel Fire and Rescue District	✓			✓	9/30
South Central Regional Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Board	✓			✓	9/30
South-Dade Venture Development District	✓			✓	9/30
South Indian River Water Control District	✓	✓		✓	9/30
South Trail Fire Protection & Rescue District	✓			✓	9/30
Spring Lake Improvement District	✓			✓	9/30
St. Lucie West Services District	✓		✓	✓	9/30
Sunshine Water Control District	✓			✓	9/30
West Villages Improvement District	✓			✓	9/30
Various Community Development Districts (297)	✓			✓	9/30
TOTAL	332	5	3	327	

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

CONSULTING / MANAGEMENT ADVISORY SERVICES

Grau & Associates also provide a broad range of other management consulting services. Our expertise has been consistently utilized by Governmental and Non-Profit entities throughout Florida. Examples of engagements performed are as follows:

- Accounting systems
- Development of budgets
- Organizational structures
- Financing alternatives
- IT Auditing
- Fixed asset records
- Cost reimbursement
- Indirect cost allocation
- Grant administration and compliance

ARBITRAGE

The federal government has imposed complex rules to restrict the use of tax-exempt financing. Their principal purpose is to eliminate any significant arbitrage incentives in a tax-exempt issue. We have determined the applicability of these requirements and performed the rebate calculations for more than 150 bond issues, including both fixed and variable rate bonds.

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Current
Arbitrage
Calculations

We look forward to providing Cypress Bluff Community Development District with our resources and experience to accomplish not only those minimum requirements set forth in your Request for Proposal, but to exceed those expectations!

**For even more information on Grau & Associates
please visit us on www.graucpa.com.**

CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

9D

CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

AUDITOR EVALUATION MATRIX

RFP FOR ANNUAL AUDIT SERVICES	ABILITY OF PERSONNEL	PROPOSER'S EXPERIENCE	UNDERSTANDING OF SCOPE OF WORK	ABILITY TO FURNISH REQUIRED SERVICES	PRICE	TOTAL POINTS
PROPOSER	20 POINTS	20 POINTS	20 POINTS	20 POINTS	20 POINTS	100 POINTS
Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank						
Grau & Associates						

NOTES:

Completed by: _____
Board Member's Signature

Date: _____

Printed Name of Board Member

CYPRESS BLUFF

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

12

RESOLUTION 2024-05

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DESIGNATING THE PRIMARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AND PRINCIPAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE DISTRICT AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Cypress Bluff Community Development District (the “District”) is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*, being situated entirely within the City of Groveland, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to designate its primary administrative office as the location where the District’s public records are routinely created, sent, received, maintained, and requested, for the purposes of prominently posting the contact information of the District’s Record’s Custodian in order to provide citizens with the ability to access the District’s records and ensure that the public is informed of the activities of the District in accordance with Chapter 119, *Florida Statutes*; and

WHEREAS, the District additionally desires to specify the location of the District’s principal headquarters for the purpose of establishing proper venue under the common law home venue privilege applicable to the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. The District’s primary administrative office for purposes of Chapter 119, *Florida Statutes*, shall be located at Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC, located at 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431.

SECTION 2. The District’s principal headquarters for purposes of establishing proper venue shall be located within Lake County, Florida.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

[signature on following page]

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of April, 2024.

ATTEST:

**CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

13

RESOLUTION 2024-06

**A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DESIGNATING THE LOCATION OF THE
LOCAL DISTRICT RECORDS OFFICE AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, Cypress Bluff Community Development District (the “District”) is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*, being situated entirely within the City of Groveland, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the District is statutorily required to designate a local district records office location for the purposes of affording citizens the ability to access the District’s records, promoting the disclosure of matters undertaken by the District, and ensuring that the public is informed of the activities of the District in accordance with Chapter 119 and Section 190.006(7), *Florida Statutes*; and

WHEREAS, District records are available for public review and inspection at the offices of

_____.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF CYPRESS
BLUFF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:**

SECTION 1. The District’s local records office shall be located at:

_____.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

[signatures on following page]

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2024.

ATTEST:

**CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors

CYPRESS BLUFF

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

14

FIELD OPERATIONS AGREEMENT

THIS FIELD OPERATIONS AGREEMENT (“**Agreement**”) is made and entered into effective the 1st day of March 2024 by and between:

CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, a local unit of special purpose government established pursuant to Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*, whose address is c/o Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC, 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431 (“**District**”); and

EMPIRE MANAGEMENT GROUP, INC., a Florida corporation, whose mailing address is 801 N. Main Street, Kissimmee, Florida 34744 (“**Manager**,” and together with the District, “**Parties**”).

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the District is a local unit of special-purpose government established pursuant Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes* (“**Act**”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, the District is authorized to finance, fund, plan, establish, acquire, construct or reconstruct, enlarge and extend, equip, operate, and maintain systems, facilities and infrastructure in conjunction with the development of lands within the District; and

WHEREAS, the District presently owns and is continuing to construct and/or acquire various systems, facilities and infrastructure (“**Improvements**”) located within the District; and

WHEREAS, the District operates and maintains the Improvements and desires to retain an independent contractor to provide for field operations management for the Improvements; and

WHEREAS, for ease of administration, potential cost savings to property owners and residents, and the benefits of on-site inspection, operation and maintenance personnel, the District desires to contract with the Manager to manage the operation and maintenance of the Improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the recitals, agreements, and mutual covenants contained herein, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged by the Parties, the Parties agree as follows:

SECTION 1. RECITALS. The recitals so stated are true and correct and by this reference are incorporated into and form a material part of this Agreement.

SECTION 2. MANAGER’S OBLIGATION.

- A.** *Specific Duties.* Manager shall perform the specific duties described on the document attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and incorporated herein by reference.

- B.** *General Duties.* Manager shall be responsible for the management and oversight of District vendors for the District Property in an efficient, lawful and satisfactory manner and in accordance with the District's bond covenants relating to such maintenance under the District's direction. Manager shall not have authority to execute contracts and/or change orders on behalf of the District. Manager is responsible for the overall supervision of service contractors and maintenance staff, as well as arranging for certain repair and maintenance work. Manager shall report directly to the District Manager and the Board of Supervisors of the District. Manager shall attend monthly board of supervisor meetings when requested by the District Manager or Board of Supervisors.
- C.** *Inspection.* Manager shall conduct two inspections of all District property per month and report any irregularities to the District Manager, or his designated representative, and shall correct any irregularities in accordance with the terms of this Agreement. Additional site visits may be subject to additional charges.
- D.** *Investigation and Report of Accidents/Claims.* Manager shall promptly notify the District Manager as to all accidents or claims for damage relating to the management of the District and maintenance and operation of District Property. Such report shall at a minimum include a description of any damage or destruction of property. Manager shall cooperate and make any and all reports required by any insurance company or the District in connection with any accident or claim. Manager shall not file any claims with the District's insurance company without the prior consent of the District Manager or his designee.
- E.** *Compliance with Government Rules, Regulations, Requirements and Orders.* Manager shall take such action as is necessary to comply promptly with any and all orders or requirements affecting District property placed thereon by any governmental authority having jurisdiction. Manager shall immediately notify the District Manager and District Counsel in writing of all such orders or requirements. At the request of the District, Manager shall prepare for execution and filing by the District any forms, reports or returns which may be required by law in connection with the ownership, maintenance and operation of the District property.
- F.** *Adherence to District Rules, Regulations and Policies.* To the extent they apply to Manager's performance herein, Manager's personnel shall be familiar with any and all District policies and procedures, if any, and shall ensure that all persons using District Property are informed with respect to the rules, regulations and notices as may be promulgated by the District from time to time and ensure that said persons conform therewith. Manager may adopt such policies and procedures as it deems necessary to the fulfillment of its obligations under this Agreement provided that copies of such policies and procedures shall be provided to the District at all times. Manager assures the District that all third parties will be dealt with at arm's length, and that the District's interest will be best served at all times.

- G. *Care of the Property.* Manager shall use all due care to protect the property of the District, its residents and landowners from damage by Manager, its employees or contractors.

SECTION 3. COMPENSATION. The District shall pay the Manager **Two Thousand, One Hundred Twenty-Three Dollars (\$2,123)** per month, as set forth in **Exhibit A** for the provision of field operations management services pursuant to the terms of this Agreement. Payment shall be in accordance with Florida's Local Government Prompt Payment Act, as set forth in Sections 218.70 *et seq.* of the *Florida Statutes*. Any increase in price or change in scope of services must be approved in writing, executed by both Parties, prior to implementation of same; any change in price with such executed, written agreement shall be null and void.

SECTION 4. TERM.

- A. The term of this Agreement shall commence as of the date first written above and shall terminate September 30, 2024, unless otherwise terminated in accordance with this Agreement. Thereafter, this Agreement shall be automatically renewed for additional one (1) year periods unless either party provides at least thirty (30) days' written notice of its intent to not renew the Agreement.
- B. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Manager and the District shall both have the right to terminate this Agreement upon thirty (30) days' written notice without cause. In the event of any termination, the Manager and the District shall use commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with one another to provide a smooth and orderly transition of responsibilities between the Parties. Any termination of this Agreement shall not release District from its obligation to pay Manager the compensation and reimbursable expenses due for work performed prior to termination, subject to any offsets the District may have.

SECTION 5. INSURANCE. The Manager shall maintain, at its own expense throughout the term of this Agreement, insurance coverage from a reputable insurance carrier, licensed to conduct business in the State of Florida. The Manager shall provide the District a copy of the insurance policy, and any endorsements, prior to the commencement of the services contemplated under this Agreement. District shall also receive thirty (30) days' notice of cancellation of any such insurance policy. Policies shall have the minimum levels of insurance as set forth in this Section 5 or at **Exhibit B**, whichever is greater:

Workers Compensation

Statutory

General Liability (including Independent Contractors Coverage for bodily injury and property damage in connection with any subcontractors' operation, if any.)

Bodily Injury (including contractual) \$1,000,000

Property Damage (including contractual) \$1,000,000

General Aggregate \$2,000,000

Automobile Liability (if applicable)

Bodily Injury and Property Damage \$1,000,000

Umbrella Liability

\$5,000,000

Insurance obtained by Manager shall be primary and noncontributory with respect to insurance outlined above. All such policies shall be issued by insurance companies licensed to do business in the state of Florida. The District, its Board of Supervisors, officers, staff, employees, representatives, agents and trustees, shall be listed as additional insureds on each such policy, and no policy may be canceled during the term of this Agreement without at least thirty (30) days' written notice to the District. An insurance certificate evidencing compliance with this paragraph shall be sent to the District prior to the commencement of any performance under this Agreement. No policy may be canceled during the term of this Agreement.

SECTION 6. INDEMNITY. Manager agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the District and its officers, agents, employees, successors, assigns, members, affiliates, or representatives from any and all liability, claims, actions, suits, liens, demands, costs, interest, expenses, damages, penalties, fines, judgments against the District, or loss or damage, whether monetary or otherwise, arising out of, wholly or in part by, or in connection with the services to be performed by Manager, its subcontractors, its employees and agents in connection with this Agreement, including litigation, mediation, arbitration, appellate, or settlement proceedings with respect thereto. Additionally, nothing in this Agreement requires Manager to indemnify the District for the District's percentage of fault if the District is adjudged to be more than 50% at fault for any claims against the District and Manager as jointly liable parties; however, Manager shall indemnify the District for any and all percentage of fault attributable to Manager for claims against the District, regardless whether the District is adjudged to be more or less than 50% at fault. Manager further agrees that nothing herein shall constitute or be construed as a waiver of the District's limitations on liability contained in section 768.28, *Florida Statutes*, or other statute. Obligations under this section shall include the payment of all settlements, judgments, damages, liquidated damages, penalties, forfeitures, back pay awards, court costs, arbitration and/or mediation costs, litigation expenses, attorneys' fees, paralegal fees (incurred in court, out of court, on appeal, or in bankruptcy proceedings), any interest, expenses, damages, penalties, fines, or judgments against the District. The indemnity obligations in this Agreement shall survive expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement.

SECTION 7. RECOVERY OF COSTS AND FEES. In the event either the District or the Manager are required to enforce this Agreement or any provision hereof by court proceedings or otherwise then, if prevailing, the District or the Manager, as applicable, shall be entitled to recover from the other all fees and costs incurred, including but not limited to reasonable attorneys' fees, paralegal fees and expert witness fees and costs incurred prior to or during any litigation or other dispute resolution and including fees incurred in appellate proceedings.

SECTION 8. LIMITATIONS ON GOVERNMENTAL LIABILITY. Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed as a waiver of immunity or limits of liability of the District beyond any statutory limited waiver of immunity or limits of liability which may have been adopted by the Florida Legislature in Section 768.28, *Florida Statutes*, or other statute, and nothing in this Agreement shall inure to the benefit of any third party for the purpose of allowing any claim which would otherwise be barred under the Doctrine of Sovereign Immunity or by operation of law.

SECTION 9. ASSIGNMENT. Neither party may assign this Agreement without the prior written approval of the other.

SECTION 10. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR STATUS. In all matters relating to this Agreement, the Manager shall be acting as an independent contractor. Neither the Manager nor employees of the Manager, if there are any, are employees of the District under the meaning or application of any Federal or State Unemployment or Insurance Laws or Old Age Laws or otherwise. The Manager agrees to assume all liabilities or obligations imposed by any one or more of such laws with respect to employees of the Manager, if there are any, in the performance of this Agreement. The Manager shall not have any authority to assume or create any obligation, express or implied, on behalf of the District and the Manager shall have no authority to represent the District as an agent, employee, or in any other capacity, unless otherwise set forth in this Agreement.

SECTION 11. HEADINGS FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY. The descriptive headings in this Agreement are for convenience only and shall neither control nor affect the meaning or construction of any of the provisions of this Agreement.

SECTION 12. AGREEMENT. This instrument shall constitute the final and complete expression of this Agreement between the District and the Manager relating to the subject matter of this Agreement.

SECTION 13. AMENDMENTS. Amendments to and waivers of the provisions contained in this Agreement may be made only by an instrument in writing which is executed by both the District and the Manager.

SECTION 14. AUTHORIZATION. The execution of this Agreement has been duly authorized by the appropriate body or official of the District and the Manager, both the District and the Manager have complied with all the requirements of law in order to effectuate the terms of this Agreement, and both the District and the Manager have full power and authority to comply with the terms and provisions of this instrument.

SECTION 15. NOTICES. All notices, requests, consents and other communications under this Agreement (“**Notices**”) shall be in writing and shall be delivered, mailed by First Class Mail, postage prepaid, or overnight delivery service, to the Parties, as follows:

A. If to Manager:

Empire Management Group, Inc.
801 N. Main Street
Kissimmee, Florida 34744
Attn: _____

B. If to District:

Cypress Bluff CDD
c/o Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC
2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W
Boca Raton, Florida 33431
Attn: District Manager

With a copy to:

Kilinski | Van Wyk PLLC
PO Box 6386
Tallahassee, Florida 32314
Attn: District Counsel

Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, any Notice shall be deemed received only upon actual delivery at the address set forth above. Notices delivered after 5:00 p.m. (at the place of delivery) or on a non-business day, shall be deemed received on the next business day. If any time for giving Notice contained in this Agreement would otherwise expire on a non-business day, the Notice period shall be extended to the next succeeding business day. Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays recognized by the United States government shall not be regarded as business days. Counsel for the District and counsel for the Manager may deliver Notice on behalf of the District and the Manager. Any party or other person to whom Notices are to be sent or copied may notify the other parties and addressees of any change in name or address to which Notices shall be sent by providing the same on five (5) days' written notice to the parties and addressees set forth herein.

SECTION 16. THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARIES. This Agreement is solely for the benefit of the District and the Manager and no right or cause of action shall accrue upon or by reason, to or for the benefit of any third party not a formal party to this Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement expressed or implied is intended or shall be construed to confer upon any person or corporation other than the District and the Manager any right, remedy, or claim under or by reason of this Agreement or any of the provisions or conditions of this Agreement; and all of the provisions, representations, covenants, and conditions contained in this Agreement shall inure to the sole benefit of and shall be binding upon the District and the Manager and their respective representatives, successors, and assigns.

SECTION 17. CONTROLLING LAW; VENUE. This Agreement and the provisions contained in this Agreement shall be construed, interpreted, and controlled according to the laws of the State of Florida. Venue shall be in Lake County, Florida.

SECTION 18. PUBLIC RECORDS. Manager understands and agrees that all documents of any kind provided to the District in connection with this Agreement may be public records, and, accordingly, Manager agrees to comply with all applicable provisions of Florida law in handling such records, including but not limited to Section 119.0701, Florida Statutes. Manager acknowledges that the designated public records custodian for the District is **Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC ("Public Records Custodian")**. Among other requirements and to the extent applicable by law, the Manager shall: 1) keep and maintain public records required by the District to perform the service; 2) upon request by the Public Records Custodian, provide the District with the requested public records or allow the records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time period at a cost that does not exceed the cost provided in Chapter 119, Florida Statutes; 3) ensure that public records which are exempt or confidential, and exempt from public records disclosure requirements, are not disclosed except as authorized by law for the duration of the contract term and following the contract term if the Manager does not transfer the records to the Public Records Custodian of the District; and 4) upon completion of the contract, transfer to the District, at no cost, all public records in the Manager's possession or, alternatively, keep, maintain and meet all applicable requirements for retaining public records pursuant to Florida laws. When such public records are transferred by the Manager, the Manager shall destroy any duplicate public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements. All records stored electronically must be provided to the District in a format that is compatible with Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF formats.

IF THE MANAGER HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO THE MANAGER'S DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THIS CONTRACT, CONTACT THE CUSTODIAN OF PUBLIC RECORDS AT (877) 276-0889, WRATHELLC@WHHASSOCIATES.COM, OR 2300 GLADES ROAD, SUITE 410W, BOCA RATON, FLORIDA 33431.

SECTION 19. SEVERABILITY. The invalidity or unenforceability of any one or more provisions of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining portions of this Agreement, or any part of this Agreement not held to be invalid or unenforceable.

SECTION 20. ARM'S LENGTH TRANSACTION. This Agreement has been negotiated fully between the District and the Manager as an arm's length transaction. The District and the Manager participated fully in the preparation of this Agreement with the assistance of their respective counsel. In the case of a dispute concerning the interpretation of any provision of this Agreement, the Parties are each deemed to have drafted, chosen, and selected the language, and any doubtful language will not be interpreted or construed against any party.

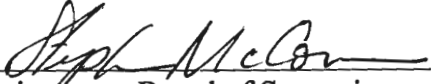
SECTION 21. COUNTERPARTS. This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which when executed and delivered shall be an original; however, all such counterparts together shall constitute, but one and the same instrument. Additionally, the Parties acknowledge and agree that the Agreement may be executed by electronic signature, which shall be considered as an original signature for all purposes and shall have the same force and effect as an original signature. Without limitation, "electronic signature" shall include faxed versions of an original signature, electronically scanned and transmitted versions (e.g. via PDF) of an original signature, or signatures created in a digital format.

SECTION 22. E-VERIFY. The Manager shall comply with and perform all applicable provisions of Section 448.095, *Florida Statutes*. Accordingly, to the extent required by Florida Statute, Manager shall register with and use the United States Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system to verify the work authorization status of all newly hired employees. The District may terminate this Agreement immediately for cause if there is a good faith belief that the Manager has knowingly violated Section 448.091, *Florida Statutes*. By entering into this Agreement, the Manager represents that no public employer has terminated a contract with the Manager under Section 448.095(2)(c), *Florida Statutes*, within the year immediately preceding the date of this Agreement.

[signatures on following page]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties execute this Agreement the day and year first written above.

**CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**



Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

**EMPIRE MANAGEMENT GROUP, INC., a
Florida corporation**

By: _____
Its: _____

- Exhibit A:** Scope of Services
Exhibit B: Insurance Certificate and Endorsements

EXHIBIT A

Scope of Services

FY23 Managerial Services – \$1,487.00 per month

FY24/Build Out Managerial Services - \$2,123.00 per month

1. Operate the Common Elements and other property owned by the CDD (the "Property") according to the approved budget of the District and consistent with the direction of the Board of Supervisors, subject to proper funding being provided to the Agent to operate in accordance with the budget and governing documents.
2. Engage and supervise all persons and/or entities, as needed (which persons or entities may be engaged on a part-time or full-time basis), necessary to properly maintain and operate the District Property in accordance with the District's policies and Rules of Procedure.
3. Solicit and negotiate bids for purchases of services and materials to the District at the direction of the Board.
4. Review District vendor invoices, code invoices according to District Adopted Budget, and review and approve payables aging prepared by District Management prior to each check run.
5. Solicit, analyze and negotiate recurring contracts on behalf of the District, as needed, for recurring services reasonably necessary with respect to the operation, maintenance, upkeep, repair, replacement, and preservation of the Property.
6. Prepare, annually in respect of the next succeeding fiscal year, a proposed operating Budget for the District. The Budget shall be submitted to the District Manager and Board for comments/changes, and only becomes binding after approval by the Board. The Budget shall serve as a supporting document for the schedule of Assessments.
7. Perform two routine inspections per month and make recommendations to the Board as to the maintenance of and improvements to the Property as well as assist the District in the enforcement of the provisions of the District's governing documents, the Rules and Regulations, and architectural guidelines.
8. Make or cause to be made, such repair work or normal maintenance to common elements as may be required for the operation and physical protection of the common elements not to exceed Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars for any one item. Emergency repairs exceeding Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars to avert danger to life, maintain safe operations or prevent an interruption of services may be made with the approval of the District Manager, District Board Chair, or in the absence of the District Manager and Board Chair, the Vice Chair. If no officer is available, the Agent is authorized to take such action as is needed to avert danger to life, maintain safe operations or prevent an interruption of services.
9. Agent may charge the fee prescribed in Schedule A and B for attendance of any additional District Board meetings beyond 12 District Board meetings held during weekdays/ non - Holiday per fiscal year. Any meeting over 3 hours will be billed at \$100 per hour for the time over the three-hour limit. Lastly, any meeting requiring Agent participation that extends beyond 9pm will be billed at \$100 per hour. For example, if a meeting were to start at 7pm and close at 10pm, the time from 9 - 10pm will be billed at \$100 per hour.

EXHIBIT B
Insurance Certificate and Endorsements

CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

UNAUDITED
FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS

**CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
UNAUDITED
FEBRUARY 29, 2024**

**CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FEBRUARY 29, 2024**

	General Fund	Debt Service Fund	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS			
Undeposited funds	\$ 72,284	\$ -	\$ 72,284
Due from Landowner	4,396	22,025	26,421
Total assets	<u>76,680</u>	<u>22,025</u>	<u>98,705</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES			
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable	\$ 48,481	\$ 22,025	\$ 70,506
Due to Landowner	-	22,025	22,025
Due to debt service fund	22,025	-	22,025
Landowner advance	6,000	-	6,000
Total liabilities	<u>76,506</u>	<u>44,050</u>	<u>120,556</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Deferred receipts	4,396	-	4,396
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>4,396</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,396</u>
Fund balances:			
Restricted for:			
Debt service	-	(22,025)	(22,025)
Unassigned	(4,222)	-	(4,222)
Total fund balances	<u>(4,222)</u>	<u>(22,025)</u>	<u>(26,247)</u>
Total liabilities and fund balances	<u>\$ 76,680</u>	<u>\$ 22,025</u>	<u>\$ 98,705</u>

**CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED FEBRUARY 29, 2024**

	Current Month	Year to Date	Budget	% of Budget
REVENUES				
Landowner contribution	\$ 2,169	\$ 44,260	\$ 515,635	9%
Total revenues	2,169	44,260	515,635	9%
EXPENDITURES				
Professional & administrative				
Management/accounting/recording	2,000	10,000	48,000	21%
Legal	197	308	25,000	1%
Engineering	-	-	2,000	0%
Audit	-	-	5,500	0%
Arbitrage rebate calculation*	-	-	500	0%
Dissemination agent*	-	-	1,000	0%
Trustee*	-	-	5,500	0%
Telephone	17	83	200	42%
Postage	18	35	500	7%
Printing & binding	42	208	500	42%
Legal advertising	-	-	1,750	0%
Annual special district fee	-	-	175	0%
Insurance	-	-	5,500	0%
Contingencies/bank charges	-	-	750	0%
Website hosting & maintenance	-	-	705	0%
Website ADA compliance	-	-	210	0%
Total professional & administrative	2,274	10,634	97,790	11%
Operations and Maintenance				
Management & administration				
Contingency	-	-	668	0%
Licenses/taxes/permits	-	-	500	0%
O&M accounting - DM	-	-	4,500	0%
Property insurance	-	-	5,000	0%
Management services	2,123	2,123	17,844	12%
Postage	-	-	800	0%
Office supplies/printing binding	-	-	2,500	0%
General administrative	-	-	2,000	0%
Total management & administration	2,123	2,123	33,812	
Grounds/building maintenance				
General maintenance	-	-	6,500	0%
Irrigation repairs	-	-	3,500	0%
Landscape contract	-	-	120,000	0%
Landscaping extras - replacement & annuals	-	-	3,500	0%
Tree trimming	-	-	1,500	0%
Pressure washing	-	-	4,000	0%
Holiday decorations	-	-	2,500	0%
Walkway maintenance & repair	-	-	2,000	0%
Retaining wall & handrail repairs & maintenance	-	-	4,000	0%

**CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED FEBRUARY 29, 2024**

	Current Month	Year to Date	Budget	% of Budget
Fence & handrail repairs maintenance	-	-	1,500	0%
Total grounds building maintenance	-	-	149,000	
Recreational - amenity				
Insurance amenity	-	-	3,500	0%
Pool maintenance contract	-	-	18,000	0%
Pool/cabana janitorial contract	-	-	10,200	0%
Pool/equipment repairs & maintenance	-	-	2,500	0%
Pool/cabana general maintenance	-	-	3,000	0%
Termite bond/pest control	-	-	1,400	0%
Playground equipment/maintenance/mulch (2 locations)	-	-	4,000	0%
Access control systems/camera	-	-	2,800	0%
Pressure washing	-	-	2,500	0%
Electric - amenity	-	-	9,600	0%
Domestic water/sewer - amenity	-	-	3,000	0%
Irrigation amenity	-	-	4,000	0%
Telephone/cable internet - amenity	-	-	2,400	0%
Pool permits & license	-	-	500	0%
Trash debris removal	-	-	2,400	0%
Landscape maintenance	-	-	12,000	0%
Landscape seasonal (annuals & mulch)	-	-	3,600	0%
Maintenance reserves	-	-	2,000	0%
Total recreational expenses	-	-	87,400	
Utilities				
Electric - common areas/irrigation meters	-	-	4,200	0%
Electric - street lights	-	-	45,000	0%
Irrigation - common areas	-	-	32,000	0%
Total utilities	-	-	81,200	0%
Total field operations	2,123	2,123	351,412	1%
Total expenditures	4,397	12,757	449,202	3%
Excess/(deficiency) of revenues over/(under) expenditures	(2,228)	31,503	66,433	
Fund balances - beginning	(1,994)	(35,725)	-	
Fund balances - ending	<u>\$ (4,222)</u>	<u>\$ (4,222)</u>	<u>\$ 66,433</u>	

*These items will be realized when bonds are issued

**These items will be realized the year after the issuance of bonds.

**CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
DEBT SERVICE FUND
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED FEBRUARY 29, 2024**

	Current Month	Year To Date
REVENUES	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Total revenues	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Debt service		
Cost of issuance	<u>-</u>	<u>8,351</u>
Total debt service	<u>-</u>	<u>8,351</u>
Excess/(deficiency) of revenues over/(under) expenditures	-	(8,351)
Net change in fund balances	-	(8,351)
Fund balances - beginning	<u>(22,025)</u>	<u>(13,674)</u>
Fund balances - ending	<u><u>\$ (22,025)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (22,025)</u></u>

CYPRESS BLUFF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

MINUTES

DRAFT

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CYPRESS BLUFF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

The Board of Supervisors of the Cypress Bluff Community Development District held Public Hearings and a Regular Meeting on June 20, 2023 at 1:00 p.m., at the Cooper Memorial Library, 2525 Oakley Seaver Dr., Room 221 (Conference Room) Clermont, Florida 34711.

Present at the meeting were:

Stephen McConn	Chair
Casey Dare	Vice Chair
Paul Thomas	Assistant Secretary

Also present were:

Ernesto Torres	District Manager
Grace Kobitter	District Counsel
Dave Kelly	Interim District Engineer
James McKrinsky	Public

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order/Roll Call

Mr. Torres called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Supervisors McConn, Thomas and Dare were present. Supervisors-Elect Doug Beasley and Tony Iorio were not present.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS

Public Comments

No members of the public spoke.

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS

Administration of Oath of Office to Elected Supervisors (the following will be provided in a separate package)

Mr. Torres, a Notary of the State of Florida and duly authorized, administered the Oath of Office to Mr. McConn, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Dare. All were familiar with the following:

- A. Guide to Sunshine Amendment and Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees**
- B. Membership, Obligations and Responsibilities**
- C. Chapter 190, Florida Statutes**

D. Financial Disclosure Forms**I. Form 1: Statement of Financial Interests****II. Form 1X: Amendment to Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests****III. Form 1F: Final Statement of Financial Interests****E. Form 8B: Memorandum of Voting Conflict****FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Consideration of Resolution 2023-33,
Canvassing and Certifying the Results of
the Landowners' Election of Supervisors
Held Pursuant to Section 190.006(2),
Florida Statutes, and Providing for an
Effective Date**

Mr. Torres presented Resolution 2023-33. The results of the Landowners' Election were
as follows:

Seat 1	Stephen McConn	157 votes	4-year Term
Seat 2	Doug Beasley	155 votes	2-year Term
Seat 3	Tony Iorio	155 votes	2-year Term
Seat 4	Paul Thomas	155 votes	2-year Term
Seat 5	Casey Dare	157 votes	4-year Term

**On MOTION by Mr. McConn and seconded by Mr. Thomas, with all in favor,
Resolution 2023-33, Canvassing and Certifying the Results of the Landowners'
Election of Supervisors Held Pursuant to Section 190.006(2), Florida Statutes,
and Providing for an Effective Date, was adopted.**

FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

**Consideration of Resolution 2023-34,
Designating Certain Officers of the District,
and Providing for an Effective Date**

Mr. Torres presented Resolution 2023-34. Mr. McConn nominated the following slate:

Chair	Stephen McConn
Vice Chair	Casey Dare
Assistant Secretary	Tony Iorio

74 Assistant Secretary Paul Thomas
75 Assistant Secretary Doug Beasley
76 Assistant Secretary Ernesto Torres

77 No other nominations were made. Prior appointments by the Board for Secretary,
78 Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer(s) remain unaffected by this Resolution.

79

80 **On MOTION by Mr. McConn and seconded by Mr. Dare, with all in favor,**
81 **Resolution 2023-34, Designating Certain Officers of the District, as nominated**
82 **and Providing for an Effective Date, was adopted.**

83

84

85 **SIXTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Public Hearing Confirming the Intent of the District to Use the Uniform Method of Levy, Collection and Enforcement of Non-Ad Valorem Assessments as Authorized and Permitted by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes; Expressing the Need for the Levy of Non-Ad Valorem Assessments and Setting Forth the Legal Description of the Real Property Within the District's Jurisdictional Boundaries that May or Shall Be Subject to the Levy of District Non-Ad Valorem Assessments; Providing for Severability; Providing for Conflict and Providing for an Effective Date

89

100 **A. Affidavit/Proof of Publication**

101 **B. Consideration of Resolution 2023-35, Expressing its Intent to Utilize the Uniform**
102 **Method of Levying, Collecting, and Enforcing Non-Ad Valorem Assessments Which**
103 **May Be Levied by the Cypress Bluff Community Development District in Accordance**
104 **with Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes; Providing a Severability Clause; and Providing**
105 **an Effective Date**

106 Mr. Torres presented Resolution 2023-35.

107

108 **On MOTION by Mr. McConn and seconded by Mr. Thomas, with all in favor,**
109 **the Public Hearing was opened.**

No members of the public spoke.

On MOTION by Mr. McConn and seconded by Mr. Thomas, with all in favor, the Public Hearing was closed.

On MOTION by Mr. McConn and seconded by Mr. Thomas, with all in favor, Resolution 2023-35, Expressing its Intent to Utilize the Uniform Method of Levying, Collecting, and Enforcing Non-Ad Valorem Assessments Which May Be Levied by the Cypress Bluff Community Development District in Accordance with Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes; Providing a Severability Clause; and Providing an Effective Date, was adopted.

SEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Public Hearing to Consider the Adoption of an Assessment Roll and the Imposition of Special Assessments Relating to the Financing and Securing of Certain Public Improvements

- A. Affidavit/Proof of Publication
- B. Mailed Notice to Property Owner(s)

On MOTION by Mr. McConn and seconded by Mr. Thomas, with all in favor, the Public Hearing was opened.

- Hear testimony from the affected property owners as to the propriety and advisability of making the improvements and funding them with special assessments on the property.

No affected property owners or members of the public spoke.

On MOTION by Mr. McConn and seconded by Mr. Thomas, with all in favor, the Public Hearing was closed.

- **Thereafter, the governing authority shall meet as an equalizing board to hear any and all complaints as to the special assessments on a basis of justice and right.**

The Board, sitting as the Equalizing Board, made no changes to the assessments.

C. Master Engineer's Report (for informational purposes)

Mr. Kelly presented the Master Engineer's Report. He noted the following:

➤ The CDD will construct the infrastructure as set forth in the Master Engineer's Report and the plans for which permitting is underway.

➤ The Ownership and Maintenance Table was memorialized through the County for the elements, including the stormwater system, roadways, utilities, landscaping, amenities and street lighting.

➤ Regarding a recent inquiry about making the roads private, in this instance, the CDD was approved such that the City would own and maintain the roads after construction and the County would own the offsite roadway improvements in the right-of-way (ROW).

D. Master Special Assessment Methodology Report (for informational purposes)

Mr. Torres presented the Master Special Assessment Methodology Report and noted the following:

➤ The project provides special benefits to the property owners.

➤ The proposed financing plan for the CDD provides for issuance of bonds in the approximate principal amount of \$28,070,000 to finance approximately \$20,270,573.50 in CIP costs, as reflected in the District Engineer's Report.

Mr. Torres discussed pertinent information, including the types of units in the CDD, types of bonds to be issued, the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), Financing Program and Appendix Tables.

Ms. Kobitter posed and Mr. Kelly answered the following questions:

Ms. Kobitter: Based on your experience, are the cost estimates in your Engineer's Report reasonable and proper?

Mr. Kelly: Yes.

Ms. Kobitter: Do you have any reason to believe the CIP cannot be carried out by the District?

176 **Mr. Kelly:** No.

177 Ms. Kobitter posed and Mr. Torres answered the following questions:

178 **Ms. Kobitter:** In your professional opinion, do the lands subject to the assessments
179 receive special benefits from the District's CIP?

180 **Mr. Torres:** Yes.

181 **Ms. Kobitter:** In your professional opinion, are the master assessments reasonable
182 apportioned among the lands subject to the special assessments?

183 **Mr. Torres:** Yes.

184 **Ms. Kobitter:** In your professional opinion, is it reasonable, proper and just to assess
185 the costs of the CIP as a system of improvements and against the lands of the District in
186 accordance with your Methodology?

187 **Mr. Torres:** Yes.

188 **Ms. Kobitter:** Is it your opinion that the special benefits the land will receive, as set
189 forth in the final assessment roll will be equal to or in excess of the maximum master
190 assessments thereon, when allocated as set forth in the Methodology?

191 **Mr. Torres:** Yes.

192 **Ms. Kobitter:** Is it your opinion that it is in the best interest of the District that the
193 master assessments be paid and collected in accordance with the Methodology and the
194 District's Assessment Resolutions?

195 **Mr. Torres:** Yes.

196 **E. Consideration of Resolution 2023-36, Authorizing District Projects for Construction**
197 **and/or Acquisition of Infrastructure Improvements; Equalizing, Approving, Confirming,**
198 **and Levying Special Assessments on Property Specially Benefited by Such Projects to**
199 **Pay the Cost Thereof; Providing For the Payment and the Collection of Such Special**
200 **Assessments by the Methods Provided for by Chapters 170, 190, and 197, Florida**
201 **Statutes; Confirming the District's Intention to Issue Special Assessment Bonds;**
202 **Making Provisions for Transfers of Real Property to Governmental Bodies; Providing**
203 **for the Recording of an Assessment Notice; Providing for Severability, Conflicts and an**
204 **Effective Date**

Mr. Torres presented Resolution 2023-36.

On MOTION by Mr. McConn and seconded by Mr. Thomas, with all in favor, Resolution 2023-36, Authorizing District Projects for Construction and/or Acquisition of Infrastructure Improvements; Equalizing, Approving, Confirming, and Levying Special Assessments on Property Specially Benefited by Such Projects to Pay the Cost Thereof; Providing For the Payment and the Collection of Such Special Assessments by the Methods Provided for by Chapters 170, 190, and 197, Florida Statutes; Confirming the District's Intention to Issue Special Assessment Bonds; Making Provisions for Transfers of Real Property to Governmental Bodies; Providing for the Recording of an Assessment Notice; Providing for Severability, Conflicts and an Effective Date, was adopted.

EIGHTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Public Hearing to Hear Public Comments and Objections to the Adoption of the Rules of Procedure, Pursuant to Sections 120.54 and 190.035, Florida Statutes

A. Affidavits of Publication

B. Consideration of Resolution 2023-37, Adopting Rules of Procedure; Providing a Severability Clause; and Providing an Effective Date

Mr. Torres presented Resolution 2023-37.

On MOTION by Mr. McConn and seconded by Mr. Thomas, with all in favor, the Public Hearing was opened.

No members of the public spoke.

On MOTION by Mr. McConn and seconded by Mr. Thomas, with all in favor, the Public Hearing was closed.

On MOTION by Mr. McConn and seconded by Mr. Thomas, with all in favor, Resolution 2023-37, Adopting Rules of Procedure; Providing a Severability Clause; and Providing an Effective Date, was adopted.

NINTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**Public Hearing on Adoption of Fiscal Year
2022/2023 Budget****A. Affidavit of Publication****B. Consideration of Resolution 2023-38, Relating to the Annual Appropriations and
Adopting the Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2022 and Ending
September 30, 2023; Authorizing Budget Amendments; and Providing an Effective
Date**

Mr. Torres presented Resolution 2023-38.

**On MOTION by Mr. McConn and seconded by Mr. Thomas, with all in favor,
the Public Hearing was opened.**

No members of the public spoke.

**On MOTION by Mr. McConn and seconded by Mr. Thomas, with all in favor,
the Public Hearing was closed.**

**On MOTION by Mr. McConn and seconded by Mr. Thomas, with all in favor,
Resolution 2023-38, Relating to the Annual Appropriations and Adopting the
Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2022 and Ending September 30,
2023; Authorizing Budget Amendments; and Providing an Effective Date, was
adopted.**

TENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**Public Hearing on Adoption of Fiscal Year
2023/2024 Budget****A. Affidavit of Publication****B. Consideration of Resolution 2023-39, Relating to the Annual Appropriations and
Adopting the Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2023 and Ending
September 30, 2024; Authorizing Budget Amendments; and Providing an Effective
Date**

Mr. Torres presented Resolution 2023-39. This is a Landowner/Developer-funded budget, with expenses funded as they are incurred.

On MOTION by Mr. McConn and seconded by Mr. Thomas, with all in favor, the Public Hearing was opened.

No members of the public spoke.

On MOTION by Mr. McConn and seconded by Mr. Thomas, with all in favor, the Public Hearing was closed.

On MOTION by Mr. McConn and seconded by Mr. Thomas, with all in favor, Resolution 2023-39, Relating to the Annual Appropriations and Adopting the Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2023 and Ending September 30, 2024; Authorizing Budget Amendments; and Providing an Effective Date, was adopted.

ELEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Consideration of Resolution 2023-07, Designating the Location of the Local District Records Office and Providing an Effective Date

Mr. Torres presented Resolution 2023-07.

On MOTION by Mr. McConn and seconded by Mr. Thomas, with all in favor, Resolution 2023-07, Designating Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC, 2300 Glades Road, Suite 410W, Boca Raton, Florida 33431 as the Location of the Local District Records Office and Providing an Effective Date, was adopted.

TWELFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Consideration of Resolution 2023-08, Designating the Primary Administrative Office and Principal Headquarters of the District and Providing an Effective Date

Mr. Torres presented Resolution 2023-08.

On MOTION by Mr. McConn and seconded by Mr. Thomas, with all in favor, deferring this item, was approved.

THIRTEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Consideration of Resolution 2023-15, Designating Dates, Times and Locations for Regular Meetings of the Board of Supervisors of the District for Fiscal Year 2022/2023 and Providing for an Effective Date

Mr. Torres presented Resolution 2023-15.

The following changes were made:

DATE: Delete July meeting

DATE: Insert August 8, 2023 and September 12, 2023

TIME: 1:00 PM

On MOTION by Mr. McConn and seconded by Mr. Thomas, with all in favor, Resolution 2023-15, Designating Dates, Times and Locations for Regular Meetings of the Board of Supervisors of the District for Fiscal Year 2022/2023, as amended, and Providing for an Effective Date, was adopted.

FOURTEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Acceptance of Unaudited Financial Statements as of April 30, 2023

On MOTION by Mr. McConn and seconded by Mr. Thomas, with all in favor, the Acceptance of Unaudited Financial Statements as of April 30, 2023, were accepted.

FIFTEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

A. April 18, 2023 Organizational Meeting

B. May 19, 2023 Landowners' Meeting

On MOTION by Mr. McConn and seconded by Mr. Thomas, with all in favor, the April 18, 2023 Organizational Meeting and May 19, 2023 Landowners' Meeting Minutes, as presented, were approved.

SIXTEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**Staff Reports****A. District Counsel: Kilinski | Van Wyk, PLLC**

Ms. Kobitter stated that the Boundary Amendment Petition was submitted to the City and a response to the City's questions is being prepared and the hearings will be forthcoming. Hearing dates for the bond validation are pending.

B. District Engineer (Interim): Poulos & Bennett LLC

There was no report.

C. District Manager: Wrathell, Hunt and Associates, LLC

- NEXT MEETING DATE: TBD**

The next meeting will be held on August 8, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

SEVENTEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**Board Members' Comments/Requests**

There were no Board Members' comments or requests.

EIGHTEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**Public Comments**

No members of the public spoke.

NINETEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**Adjournment**

On MOTION by Mr. McConn and seconded by Mr. Thomas, with all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

[SIGNATURES APPEAR ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE]

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Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chair/Vice Chair