# Community Concepts Group

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October 1, 2020

Ms. Paul A. Sharff, Chairman Housing Finance Authority of Manatee County 435 12<sup>th</sup> Street West, Suite 117 Bradenton, Florida 34205

RE: Engagement Letter between The Community Concepts Group, Inc. (Susan J. Leigh) & The Housing Finance Authority of Manatee County

Dear Chairman, Sharff:

This letter specifies the terms of the engagement between The Community Concepts Group, Inc. [hereinafter referred to as Susan J. Leigh, located at 1210 Hill N Dale Street South, Tallahassee, Florida, and the Housing Finance Authority of Manatee County [hereinafter referred to as the "Authority"].

This engagement between The Community Concepts Group, Inc. (Susan J. Leigh) and the AUTHORITY shall become effective as of the date of its acceptance as provided below.

# Scope of Municipal Advisory Activities to be Performed

Services will include the following:

All services specified in the Agreement for Services as Financial Advisor, and documents referenced therein.

Services will not include any that are not specified in the Professional Services Contract and documents referenced therein.

# Independent Registered Municipal Advisor ("IRMA")

If acting in the capacity of an Independent Registered Municipal Advisor ("IRMA") with regard to the IRMA exemption of the SEC Rule, Susan J. Leigh will review all third-party recommendations submitted to Susan J. Leigh, in writing by the AUTHORITY.

# **Term of Engagement Agreement**

The commencement date of the agreement is specified in the Agreement for Services as Financial Advisor.

# **Termination of Engagement Agreement**

Termination of the engagement is upon termination by either party in accordance with the terms of the Agreement for Services as Financial Advisor.

### **Compensation and Out-of-Pocket Expenses**

Compensation for the municipal advisory activities to be performed for this engagement is detailed in the Third Addendum to the Agreement for Services as Financial Advisor between the Housing Finance Authority of Manatee County & The Community Concepts Group, Inc.

### **Fiduciary Duty**

Susan J. Leigh is registered as a Municipal Advisor with the SEC and Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board ("MSRB"). As such, Susan J. Leigh has a Fiduciary duty to the AUTHORITY and must provide both a Duty of Care and a Duty of Loyalty that entails the following.

### Duty of Care:

- a) exercise due care in performing its municipal advisory activities;
- b) possess the degree of knowledge and expertise needed to provide the AUTHORITY with informed advice;
- c) make a reasonable inquiry as to the facts that are relevant to the AUTHORITY's determination as to whether to proceed with a course of action or that form the basis for any advice provided to AUTHORITY; and
- d) undertake a reasonable investigation to determine that Susan J. Leigh is not forming any recommendation on materially inaccurate or incomplete information; Susan J. Leigh must have a reasonable basis for:
  - i. any advice provided to or on behalf of the AUTHORITY;
  - ii. any representations made in a certificate that it signs that will be reasonably foreseeably relied upon by the AUTHORITY, any other party involved in the municipal securities transaction or municipal financial product, or investors in the AUTHORITY's securities; and
  - iii. any information provided to the AUTHORITY or other parties involved in the municipal securities transaction in connection with the preparation of an official statement.

### **Duty of Loyalty:**

Susan J. Leigh must deal honestly and with the utmost good faith with the AUTHORITY and act in the Housing Finance Authority of Manatee County's best interests without regard to the financial or other interests of Susan J. Leigh. Susan J. Leigh will eliminate or provide full and fair disclosure (included herein) to the AUTHORITY about each material conflict of interest (as applicable). Susan J. Leigh will not engage in municipal advisory activities with the AUTHORITY as a municipal entity, if it cannot manage or mitigate its conflicts in a manner that will permit it to act in the AUTHORITY's best interests.

# **Conflicts of Interest and Other Matters Requiring Disclosures**

- As of the date of the Agreement, there are no actual or potential conflicts of interest that Susan J. Leigh is aware of that might impair its ability to render unbiased and competent advice or to fulfill its fiduciary duty. If Susan J. Leigh becomes aware of any potential conflict of interest that arise after this disclosure, Susan will disclose the detailed information in writing to the AUTHORITY in a timely manner.
- Susan J. Leigh serves a wide variety of other clients that may from time to time have interests that could have a direct or indirect impact on the interests of another Susan J. Leigh client. For example, Susan J. Leigh as municipal advisor to other municipal advisory clients and, in such cases, owes a regulatory duty to such other clients just as it does to the AUTHORITY. These other clients may, from time to time and depending on the specific circumstances, have competing interests. In acting in the interests of its various clients, Susan J. Leigh could potentially face a conflict of interest arising from these competing client interests. Susan J. Leigh fulfills his regulatory duty and mitigates such conflicts through dealing honestly and with the utmost good faith with the AUTHORITY
- The fee paid to Susan J. Leigh increases the cost of investment to the AUTHORITY. The increased cost occurs from compensating Susan J. Leigh for municipal advisory services provided.
- Susan J. Leigh does not act as principal in any of the transaction(s) related to this Agreement.
- During the term of the municipal advisory relationship, this agreement will be promptly amended or supplemented to reflect any material changes in or additions to the terms or information within this agreement and the revised writing will be promptly delivered to the AUTHORITY
- Susan J. Leigh does not have any affiliate that provides any advice, service, or product to
  or on behalf of the client that is directly or indirectly related to the municipal advisory
  activities to be performed by Susan J. Leigh;

- Susan J. Leigh has not made any payments directly or indirectly to obtain or retain the AUTHORITY's municipal advisory business;
- Susan J. Leigh has not received any payments from third parties to enlist Susan J. Leigh's recommendation to the AUTHORITY of its services, any municipal securities transaction, or any municipal finance product;
- Susan J. Leigh has not engaged in any fee-splitting arrangements involving Susan J. Leigh and any provider of investments or services to the AUTHORITY, except as disclosed below.
- The AUTHORITY has contracted with Susan J. Leigh to provide municipal advisory services and the fees in the contract are divided between The Community Concepts Group, Inc. (Susan J. Leigh) and Mark Hendrickson. The quarterly fee and any fee for a bond issue are to be divided 50% to The Community Concepts Group, Inc. and 50% to Mark Hendrickson. As stated in the Agreement for Services as Financial Advisor, third party applicants for multi-family financing will pay a review fee directly to Mark Hendrickson and a fee per multi-family bond issue. The review and bond closing fees may be divided between The Community Concepts Group, Inc., and Mark Hendrickson.
- Susan J. Leigh does have a conflict of interest from compensation for municipal advisory activities to be performed, that is contingent on closing of multi-family bond issue as to which Susan J. Leigh is providing advice; and
- Susan J. Leigh does not have any legal or disciplinary event that is material to the AUTHORITY's evaluation of the municipal advisory firm or the integrity of its management or advisory personnel.

# **Legal Events and Disciplinary History**

Susan J. Leigh does not have any legal events and disciplinary history on its Form MA and Form MA-I, which includes information about any criminal actions, regulatory actions, investigations, terminations, judgments, liens, civil judicial actions, customer complaints, arbitrations and civil litigation. The AUTHORITY may electronically access Susan J. Leigh's most recent Form MA and each most recent Form MA-I filed with the Commission at the following website: www.sec.gov/edgar/searchedgar/companysearch.html.

There have been no material changes to a legal or disciplinary event disclosure on any Form MA or Form MA-I filed with the SEC.

### Recommendations

If Susan J. Leigh makes a recommendation of a municipal securities transaction or municipal financial product or if the review of a recommendation of another party is requested in writing by the AUTHORITY and is within the scope of the engagement, Susan will determine, based on the information obtained through reasonable diligence of Susan J. Leigh whether a municipal

securities transaction or municipal financial product is suitable for the AUTHORITY. In addition, Susan J. Leigh will inform the AUTHORITY of:

- the evaluation of the material risks, potential benefits, structure, and other characteristics of the recommendation;
- the basis upon which Susan J. Leigh reasonably believes that the recommended municipal securities transaction or municipal financial product is, or is not, suitable for the Housing Finance Authority of Manatee County; and
- whether Susan J. Leigh has investigated or considered other reasonably feasible alternatives to the recommendation that might also or alternatively serve the AUTHORITY's objectives.

If the AUTHORITY elects a course of action that is independent of or contrary to the advice provided by Susan J. Leigh, Susan J. Leigh is not required on that basis to disengage from the AUTHORITY.

### Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board Rule G-10 Disclosure

Pursuant to Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board Rule G-10, on Investor and Municipal Advisory Client Education and Protection, Municipal Advisors are required to provide certain written information to their municipal entity and obligated person clients which include the following:

- Susan J. Leigh is currently registered as a Municipal Advisor with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board.
- Within the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board ("MSRB") website at <a href="www.msrb.org">www.msrb.org</a>,
  the AUTHORITY may obtain the Municipal Advisory client brochure that is posted on the
  MSRB website. The brochure describes the protections that may be provided by the
  MSRB Rules along with how to file a complaint with financial regulatory authorities.

### **Record Retention**

Effective July 1, 2014, pursuant to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) record retention regulations, Susan J. Leigh is required to maintain in writing, all communication and created documents between Susan J. Leigh and the AUTHORITY for 5 years.

If there are any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact Susan J. Leigh. If the foregoing terms meet with your approval, please indicate your acceptance by executing both copies of this letter and returning one copy.

Sincerely,
Susan J. Leigh, The Community Concepts Group, Inc
By: Sleet
Susan J. Leigh
Agreed to and Accepted as of October 1, 2020
Housing Finance Authority of Manatee County
By:
Paul A. Sharff, Chairman