

**Joe Morrow**

Managing Director

June 16, 2021

Mr. Chris Whittaker  
City of Angleton  
121 S. Velasco  
Angleton, Texas 77515

Re: Financial Services Consulting Agreement for Public Improvement Districts

Dear Mr. Whittaker:

HilltopSecurities Inc. is currently providing the City of Angleton (the "City") with financial advisory services pursuant to a certain Financial Advisory Agreement, dated November 16, 1999 (the "FA Agreement"). The FA Agreement provides for HilltopSecurities to advise the City regarding the issuance and sale of certain indebtedness or debt obligations that may be authorized and issued or otherwise created or assumed by the City from time to time during the term of the FA Agreement.

The City has requested that HilltopSecurities provide additional proprietary, strategic and financial services (the "Strategic Consulting and Debt Issuance Services") to the City related to real estate development, development districts, assessment districts, economic incentives, and the issuance of resulting speculative noninvestment grade or low investment grade bonds, indebtedness or debt obligations. The Strategic Consulting and Debt Issuance Services were not contemplated by and are not within the description of services of the existing FA Agreement. Scope of Services and Discharge of Responsibilities.

***Scope of Services:***

In consideration of the compensation set forth below, HilltopSecurities agrees to conduct an objective financial analysis and modeling of costs and benefits, including the effect and anticipated timing of approvals and funding of any proposed program related to the Riverwood Ranch Development Project based on HilltopSecurities' experience with municipalities in Texas. HilltopSecurities will seek to understand land use, density, development timing, projected absorption, and product type to develop a build out proforma. HilltopSecurities will identify and model projected revenues and will work with the City, the developer, and the developer's engineer to identify, model and allocate capital requirements for internal improvements, major improvements and off-site improvements (water, sewer, drainage, roads, public safety, parks, etc). Upon a thorough understanding of the project, HilltopSecurities will develop a comprehensive financial model used throughout the engagement. HilltopSecurities will advise the City on the timing of the debt issuance and will assist in the review of the preliminary official statement. HilltopSecurities will also advise on the pricing of the bonds.

The parties hereto acknowledge that the Issuer shall not be required to act in accordance with any advice or recommendation provided by HilltopSecurities to the Issuer. Upon providing such advice or recommendation to the Issuer, together with the basis for such advice or recommendation, HilltopSecurities shall have discharged its duties with regard to such advice or recommendation and shall not be liable for any financial or other damages resulting from the Issuer's election not to act in accordance with such advice or recommendation. Furthermore, the Issuer shall be estopped from claiming a violation of HilltopSecurities' fiduciary duty to the Issuer as a result of its election not to act in accordance with any advice or recommendation by HilltopSecurities, including but not limited to any claim that HilltopSecurities should have taken steps, in addition to providing its advice or recommendation together with the basis therefor, to cause the Issuer to follow its advice or recommendation.

***Compensation:***

Recognizing the additional unique and proprietary financial services expertise that HilltopSecurities possesses, the significant time and effort involved, and the additional responsibilities and liability involved in the issuance of noninvestment grade or low investment grade bonds, indebtedness or debt obligations, the fee for assisting the City for Strategic Consulting and Debt Issuance Services shall be: A financial advisory fee of 2% of the amount of any resulting debt issuance related to the Project for the provision of the financial consulting services ("Consulting Fee"), payable upon closing of each transaction paid from PID bond proceeds. In addition, HilltopSecurities may seek a nonrefundable upfront fee of \$25,000 from the City which shall be funded by the developer of the Project (the "Upfront Payment"). Upon the successful closing of the first bond issuance of the Project, the Consulting fee shall be reduced by the Upfront Payment.

***Term of Engagement:***

This engagement shall begin upon your written acceptance below and shall remain in effect (i) until consummation of all the Consulting Services set forth above, or (ii) upon termination by either party (the "Expiration Date").

***Miscellaneous:***

In rendering its services hereunder, HilltopSecurities will be using and relying on information provided by the City without independent verification by HilltopSecurities, and HilltopSecurities does not assume responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of that information or any other information that it may receive regarding the Project, including but not limited to the work product of any of the City's other consultants. Any advice rendered by HilltopSecurities pursuant to this engagement is solely for the benefit of the City and may not be relied upon in any manner whatsoever by any other person and may not be disclosed to others without the prior written consent of HilltopSecurities.

In any event regardless of the cause of action, HilltopSecurities' total liability (including loss and expense) to the City in the aggregate shall not exceed the gross amount of fees received by HilltopSecurities pursuant to this letter agreement. The limitations of liability set forth in this Agreement are fundamental elements of the basis of the bargain between HilltopSecurities and the City, and the pricing for the services set forth above reflect such limitations. In addition, HilltopSecurities will not be liable in any event for lost profits or any consequential, indirect, punitive, exemplary or special damages.

HilltopSecurities is providing its Municipal Advisor Disclosure Statement (the "Disclosure Statement"), current as of the date of this Agreement, setting for the disclosures by HilltopSecurities of material conflicts of interest, if any, and of any legal or disciplinary events required to be disclosed pursuant to Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board G-42. The Disclosure Statement also describes how HilltopSecurities addresses or intends to manage or mitigate any disclosed conflicts of interest, as well as the specific type of information regarding, and the date of the last material change, if any, to the legal and disciplinary events required to be disclosed on Forms MA and MA-I filed by HilltopSecurities with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

We look forward to working with you during this engagement. Please acknowledge acceptance of these terms by signing in the space provided below and returning two copies to me.

Sincerely yours,

Joe Morrow  
Managing Director

**Agreed and Accepted:**

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## MUNICIPAL ADVISOR DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

This disclosure statement (“Conflict Disclosures”) is provided by **Hilltop Securities Inc.** (“the Firm”) to you (the “Client”) in connection with this letter agreement, (“the Agreement”). These Conflict Disclosures provide information regarding conflicts of interest and legal or disciplinary events of the Firm that are required to be disclosed to the Client pursuant to MSRB Rule G-42(b) and (c)(ii).

### **PART A – Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest**

MSRB Rule G-42 requires that municipal advisors provide to their clients disclosures relating to any actual or potential material conflicts of interest, including certain categories of potential conflicts of interest identified in Rule G-42, if applicable.

***Material Conflicts of Interest*** – The Firm makes the disclosures set forth below with respect to material conflicts of interest in connection with the Scope of Services under the Agreement with the Firm, together with explanations of how the Firm addresses or intends to manage or mitigate each conflict.

***General Mitigations*** – As general mitigations of the Firm’s conflicts, with respect to all of the conflicts disclosed below, the Firm mitigates such conflicts through its adherence to its fiduciary duty to Client, which includes a duty of loyalty to Client in performing all municipal advisory activities for Client. This duty of loyalty obligates the Firm to deal honestly and with the utmost good faith with Client and to act in Client’s best interests without regard to the Firm’s financial or other interests. In addition, because the Firm is a broker-dealer with significant capital due to the nature of its overall business, the success and profitability of the Firm is not dependent on maximizing short-term revenue generated from individualized recommendations to its clients but instead is dependent on long-term profitability built on a foundation of integrity, quality of service and strict adherence to its fiduciary duty. Furthermore, the Firm’s municipal advisory supervisory structure, leveraging our long-standing and comprehensive broker-dealer supervisory processes and practices, provides strong safeguards against individual representatives of the Firm potentially departing from their regulatory duties due to personal interests. The disclosures below describe, as applicable, any additional mitigations that may be relevant with respect to any specific conflict disclosed below.

**I. Affiliate Conflict.** The Firm, directly and through affiliated companies, provides or may provide services/advice/products to or on behalf of clients that are related to the Firm’s advisory activities within the Scope of Services outlined in the Agreement. Hilltop Securities Asset Management (HSAM), a SEC-registered affiliate of the Firm, provides post issuance services including arbitrage rebate and treasury management. The Firm’s arbitrage team verifies rebate and yield restrictions on the investments of bond proceeds on behalf of clients in order to meet IRS restrictions. The treasury management division performs portfolio management/advisor services on behalf of public sector clients. The Firm, through affiliate Hilltop Securities Asset Management (HSAM), provides a multi-employer trust tailor-made for public entities which allows them to prefund Other Post-Employment Benefit liabilities. The Firm has a structured products desk that provides advice to help clients mitigate risk through investment management, debt management and commodity price risk management products. These products consist of but are not limited to swaps (interest rate, currency, commodity), options, repos, escrow structuring and other securities. Continuing Disclosure services provided by the Firm work with issuers to assist them in meeting disclosure requirements set forth in SEC rule 15c2-12. Services include but are not limited to ongoing maintenance of issuer compliance, automatic tracking of issuer’s annual filings and public notification of material events. The Firm administers government investment pools. These programs offer governmental entities investment options for their cash management programs based on the entities specific needs. The Firm and the aforementioned affiliate’s business with a client could create an incentive for the Firm to recommend to a client a course of action designed to increase the level of a client’s business activities with the affiliates

or to recommend against a course of action that would reduce or eliminate a client's business activities with the affiliates. This potential conflict is mitigated by the fact that the Firm and affiliates are subject to their own comprehensive regulatory regimes.

**II. PlainsCapital Bank Affiliate Conflict.** The Firm, directly and through affiliated companies, provides or may provide services/advice/products to or on behalf of clients that are related to the Firm's advisory activities within the Scope of Services outlined in the Agreement. Affiliate, PlainsCapital Bank, provides banking services to municipalities including loans and custody. The Firm and the aforementioned affiliate's business with a client could create an incentive for the Firm to recommend to a client a course of action designed to increase the level of a client's business activities with the affiliates or to recommend against a course of action that would reduce or eliminate a client's business activities with the affiliates. This potential conflict is mitigated by the fact that the Firm and affiliates are subject to their own comprehensive regulatory regimes.

**III. Other Municipal Advisor or Underwriting Relationships.** The Firm 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 Client. For example, the Firm serves 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 Client. These other clients may, from time to time and depending on the specific circumstances, have competing interests, such as accessing the new issue market with the most advantageous timing and with limited competition at the time of the offering. In acting in the interests of its various clients, the Firm could potentially face a conflict of interest arising from these competing client interests. In other cases, as a broker-dealer that engages in underwritings of new issuances of municipal securities by other municipal entities, the interests of the Firm to achieve a successful and profitable underwriting for its municipal entity underwriting clients could potentially constitute a conflict of interest if, as in the example above, the municipal entities that the Firm serves as underwriter or municipal advisor have competing interests in seeking to access the new issue market with the most advantageous timing and with limited competition at the time of the offering. None of these other engagements or relationships would impair the Firm's ability to fulfill its regulatory duties to Client.

**IV. Secondary Market Transactions in Client's Securities.** The Firm, in connection with its sales and trading activities, may take a principal position in securities, including securities of Client, and therefore the Firm could have interests in conflict with those of Client with respect to the value of Client's securities while held in inventory and the levels of mark-up or mark-down that may be available in connection with purchases and sales thereof. In particular, the Firm or its affiliates may submit orders for and acquire Client's securities issued in an Issue under the Agreement from members of the underwriting syndicate, either for its own account or for the accounts of its customers. This activity may result in a conflict of interest with Client in that it could create the incentive for the Firm to make recommendations to Client that could result in more advantageous pricing of Client's bond in the marketplace. Any such conflict is mitigated by means of such activities being engaged in on customary terms through units of the Firm that operate independently from the Firm's municipal advisory business, thereby reducing the likelihood that such investment activities would have an impact on the services provided by the Firm to Client under this Agreement.

**V. Broker-Dealer and Investment Advisory Business.** The Firm is dually registered as a broker-dealer and an investment advisor that engages in a broad range of securities-related activities to service its clients, in addition to serving as a municipal advisor or underwriter. Such securities-related activities, which may include but are not limited to the buying and selling of new issue and outstanding securities and investment advice in connection with such securities, including securities of Client, may be undertaken on behalf of, or as counterparty to, Client, personnel of Client, and current or potential investors in the securities of Client. These other clients may, from time to time and depending on the specific circumstances, have interests in conflict with those of Client, such as when their buying or selling of Client's securities

may have an adverse effect on the market for Client's securities, and the interests of such other clients could create the incentive for the Firm to make recommendations to Client that could result in more advantageous pricing for the other clients. Furthermore, any potential conflict arising from the firm effecting or otherwise assisting such other clients in connection with such transactions is mitigated by means of such activities being engaged in on customary terms through units of the Firm that operate independently from the Firm's municipal advisory business, thereby reducing the likelihood that the interests of such other clients would have an impact on the services provided by the Firm to Client.

**VI. Compensation-Based Conflicts.** Fees that are based on the size of the issue are contingent upon the delivery of the Issue. While this form of compensation is customary in the municipal securities market, this may present a conflict because it could create an incentive for the Firm to recommend unnecessary financings or financings that are disadvantageous to Client, or to advise Client to increase the size of the issue. This conflict of interest is mitigated by the general mitigations described above.

Fees based on a fixed amount are usually based upon an analysis by Client and the Firm of, among other things, the expected duration and complexity of the transaction and the Scope of Services to be performed by the Firm. This form of compensation presents a potential conflict of interest because, if the transaction requires more work than originally contemplated, the Firm may suffer a loss. Thus, the Firm may recommend less time-consuming alternatives, or fail to do a thorough analysis of alternatives. This conflict of interest is mitigated by the general mitigations described above.

Hourly fees are calculated with, the aggregate amount equaling the number of hours worked by Firm personnel times an agreed-upon hourly billing rate. This form of compensation presents a potential conflict of interest if Client and the Firm do not agree on a reasonable maximum amount at the outset of the engagement, because the Firm does not have a financial incentive to recommend alternatives that would result in fewer hours worked. This conflict of interest is mitigated by the general mitigations described above.

**VII. Additional Conflicts Disclosures.**

In addition to serving as Municipal Advisor to the Issuer on the transaction, the Firm or an affiliate may be providing other services to the Issuer unrelated to the transaction or outside the scope of the Municipal Advisory Agreement and either will receive additional fees or may receive additional fees for such other services from the Issuer.

- The Firm has served as financial advisor to the general partner on prior or current transactions, for which it will receive a financial advisory fee in addition to the fees to be received for serving as Municipal Advisor to the Issuer under a separate contract.
- The Firm serves as bidding agent escrow agent, GIC bidding agent, or swap advisor for the Issuer or provides derivatives or commodities hedging services to the Issuer and receives fees either under a separate contract or from a third-party.
- The Firm's affiliate, Hilltop Securities Asset Management, LLC, provides arbitrage rebate compliance services to the Issuer either under a separate contract or under the municipal advisory fee structure.

**PART B – Disclosures of Information Regarding Legal Events and Disciplinary History**

MSRB Rule G-42 requires that municipal advisors provide to their clients certain disclosures of legal or disciplinary events material to its client's evaluation of the municipal advisor or the integrity of the municipal advisor's management or advisory personnel.

Accordingly, the Firm sets out below required disclosures and related information in connection with such disclosures.

**I. Material Legal or Disciplinary Event** : The Firm discloses the following legal or disciplinary events that may be material to Client's evaluation of the Firm or the integrity of the Firm's management or advisory personnel:

- For related disciplinary actions please refer to the Firm's BrokerCheck webpage.
- The Firm self-reported violations of SEC Rule 15c2-12: Continuing Disclosure. The Firm settled with the SEC on February 2, 2016. The firm agreed to retain independent consultant and adopt the consultant's finding. Firm paid a fine of \$360,000.
- The Firm settled with the SEC in matters related to violations of MSRB Rules G-23(c), G-17 and SEC rule 15B(c) (1). The Firm disgorged fees of \$120,000 received as financial advisor on the deal, paid prejudgment interest of \$22,400.00 and a penalty of \$50,000.00.
- The Firm entered into a Settlement Agreement with Rhode Island Commerce Corporation. Under the Settlement Agreement, the firm agreed to pay \$16.0 million to settle any and all claims in connection with The Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation Job Creation Guaranty Program Taxable Revenue Bond (38 Studios, LLC Project) Series 2010, including the litigation thereto. The case, filed in 2012, arose out of a failed loan by Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation. The firm's predecessor company, First Southwest Company, LLC, was one of 14 defendants. HilltopSecurities' engagement was limited to advising on the structure, terms, and rating of the underlying bonds. Hilltop settled with no admission of liability or wrongdoing.
- On April 30, 2019, the Firm entered into a Settlement Agreement with Berkeley County School District of Berkeley County, South Carolina. The case, filed in March of 2019, arose in connection with certain bond transactions occurring from 2012 to 2014, for which former employees of Southwest Securities, Inc., a predecessor company, provided financial advisory services. The Firm agreed to disgorge all financial advisory fees related to such bond transactions, which amounted to \$822,966.47, to settle any and all claims, including litigation thereto. Under the Settlement Agreement, the Firm was dismissed from the lawsuit with prejudice, no additional penalty, and with no admission of liability or wrongdoing.
- From July 2011 to October 2015, Hilltop failed to submit required MSRB Rule G-32 information to EMMA in connection with 122 primary offerings of municipal securities for which the Firm served as placement agent. During the period January 2012 to September 2015, the Firm failed to provide MSRB Rule G-17 letters to issuers in connection with 119 of the 122 offerings referenced above. From October 2014 to September 2015, the Firm failed to report on Form MSRB G-37 that it had engaged in municipal securities business as placement agent for 45 of these 122 offerings. This failure was a result of a misunderstanding by one branch office of Southwest Securities. Hilltop discovered these failures during the merger of FirstSouthwest and Southwest Securities and voluntarily reported them to FINRA. The Firm paid a fine of \$100,000 for these self-reported violations.

**II. How to Access Form MA and Form MA-I Filings**. The Firm's most recent Form MA and each most recent Form MA-I filed with the SEC are available on the SEC's EDGAR system at [Forms MA and MA-I](#). The SEC permits certain items of information required on Form MA or MA-I to be provided by reference to such required information already filed by the Firms in its capacity as a broker-dealer on Form BD or Form U4 or as an investment adviser on Form ADV, as applicable. Information provided by the Firm on Form BD or Form U4 is publicly accessible through reports generated by Broker Check at <http://brokercheck.finra.org/>, and the Firm's most recent Form ADV is publicly accessible at the Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website at <http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov/>. For purposes of accessing such BrokerCheck reports or Form ADV, click previous hyperlinks.

### **PART C – MSRB Rule G-10 Disclosure**

MSRB Rule G-10 covers Investor and Municipal Advisory Client education and protection. This rule requires that municipal advisors make certain disclosures to all municipal advisory clients. This communication is a disclosure only and does not require any action on your part. The disclosures are noted below.

1. Hilltop Securities Inc. is registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board as a Municipal Advisor.
2. You can access the website for the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board at [www.msrb.org](http://www.msrb.org)
3. The Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board has posted a municipal advisory client brochure. A copy of the brochure is attached to the memo. This link will take you to the electronic version [MA-Clients-Brochure](#).

### **PART D – Future Supplemental Disclosures**

As required by MSRB Rule G-42, this Municipal Advisor Disclosure Statement may be supplemented or amended, from time to time as needed, to reflect changed circumstances resulting in new conflicts of interest or changes in the conflicts of interest described above, or to provide updated information with regard to any legal or disciplinary events of the Firm. The Firm will provide Client with any such supplement or amendment as it becomes available throughout the term of the Agreement.