

June 13, 2024

City of Cartersville
1 North Erwin Street
Cartersville, Georgia 30120

Attn: Mr. Matthew Santini, Mayor

Re: Engagement of and Disclosures by Underwriter
Pursuant to SEC Municipal Advisor Rule and MSRB Rule G-17
City of Cartersville (GA) General Obligation Bonds, Series 2024 (or later Series)
to potentially be issued in connection with the November 2024 SPLOST renewal.

Dear Mr. Santini:

We are writing to confirm our underwriting engagement and provide you, as Mayor of the City of Cartersville, Georgia (“Issuer”), with certain disclosures relating to the captioned bond issue (the “Bonds”), as required by the Securities and Exchange Commission’s Municipal Advisor Rule, and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (“MSRB”) Rule G-17 as set forth in MSRB Notice 2019-20 (Nov. 8, 2019).¹

The Issuer hereby confirms and engages Raymond James & Associates, Inc. (“RJA”), to serve as an underwriter, and not as a financial advisor or municipal advisor, in connection with the issuance of the Bonds.

As part of our services as underwriter, RJA may provide advice concerning the structure, timing, terms, and other similar matters concerning the issuance of the Bonds.

The following G-17 conflict of interest disclosures are now broken down into three types, including: (I) dealer-specific conflicts of interest disclosures (if applicable), (II) transaction-specific disclosures (if applicable), and (III) standard disclosures.

I. Dealer-Specific Conflicts of Interest Disclosures

RJA has identified the following potential or actual dealer-specific material conflicts or business relationships we wish to call to your attention. When we refer to *potential* material conflicts throughout this letter, we refer to ones that are reasonably likely to mature into *actual* material conflicts during the course of the transaction, which is the standard required by MSRB Rule G-17.

In the ordinary course of its various business activities, RJA and its affiliates, officers, directors, and employees may purchase, sell or hold a broad array of investments and may actively trade securities, derivatives, loans, commodities, currencies, credit default swaps, and other financial instruments for their own account and for the accounts of customers. Such investment and trading activities may involve or relate to assets, securities and/or instruments of the Issuer (whether directly, as collateral securing other obligations or otherwise) and/or persons and

¹ Revised Interpretive Notice Concerning the Application of MSRB Rule G-17 to Underwriters of Municipal Securities (effective Mar. 31, 2021).

entities with relationships with the Issuer. RJA and its affiliates also may communicate independent investment recommendations, market advice or trading ideas and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such assets, securities or instruments and at any time may hold, or recommend to clients that they should acquire, long and/or short positions in such assets, securities and instruments.

Additionally, in the ordinary course of its business, RJA and its affiliates may have engaged, and may in the future engage, in transactions with, and perform services for, the Issuer and its affiliates, including without limitation, investment bidding agent services and continuing disclosure dissemination agent services, for which they received or will receive customary fees and expenses.

Further, we understand that the Issuer may, in certain situations, use a portion of the proceeds from the issuance of the Bonds to refund certain of the Issuer's outstanding securities (the "Refunded Bonds"). To the extent that RJA or an affiliate thereof owns Refunded Bonds, RJA or its affiliate, as the case may be, would receive a portion of the proceeds from the issuance of the Bonds.

II. Transaction-Specific Disclosures

- Disclosures Concerning Complex Municipal Securities Financing:
 - Because we have recommended to the Issuer a financing structure that may be a "complex municipal securities financing" for purposes of MSRB Rule G-17, attached is a description of the material financial characteristics of that financing structure as well as the material financial risks of the financing that are known to us and reasonably foreseeable at this time.

III. Standard Disclosures

- Disclosures Concerning the Underwriters' Role:
 - MSRB Rule G-17 requires an underwriter to deal fairly at all times with both issuers and investors.
 - The underwriters' primary role is to purchase the Bonds with a view to distribution in an arm's-length commercial transaction with the Issuer. The underwriters have financial and other interests that differ from those of the Issuer.
 - Unlike a municipal advisor, an underwriter does not have a fiduciary duty to the Issuer under the federal securities laws and is, therefore, not required by federal law to act in the best interests of the Issuer without regard to its own financial or other interests.
 - The Issuer may choose to engage the services of a municipal advisor with a fiduciary obligation to represent the Issuer's interest in this transaction.
 - The underwriters have a duty to purchase the Bonds from the Issuer at a fair and reasonable price, but must balance that duty with their duty to sell the Bonds to investors at prices that are fair and reasonable.

- The underwriters will review the official statement for the Bonds in accordance with, and a part of, their respective responsibilities to investors under the federal securities laws, as applied to the facts and circumstances of this transaction. Under federal securities law, an issuer of securities has the primary responsibility for disclosure to investors. The review of the official statement by the underwriters is solely for purposes of satisfying the underwriters' obligations under the federal securities laws and such review should not be construed by an issuer as a guarantee of the accuracy or completeness of the information in the official statement.
- Disclosures Concerning the Underwriters' Compensation:
 - The underwriters will be compensated by a fee and/or an underwriting discount that will be set forth in the bond purchase agreement to be negotiated and entered into in connection with the issuance of the Bonds. Payment or receipt of the underwriting fee or discount will be contingent on the closing of the transaction and the amount of the fee or discount may be based, in whole or in part, on a percentage of the principal amount of the Bonds. While this form of compensation is customary in the municipal securities market, it presents a conflict of interest since the underwriters may have an incentive to recommend to the Issuer a transaction that is unnecessary or to recommend that the size of the transaction be larger than is necessary.

If you or any other Issuer officials have any questions or concerns about these disclosures, please make those questions or concerns known immediately to the undersigned. In addition, you should consult with the Issuer's own financial and/or municipal, legal, accounting, tax and other advisors, as applicable, to the extent you deem appropriate.

Please note that nothing in this letter should be viewed as a commitment by the underwriters to purchase or sell all the Bonds and any such commitment will only exist upon the execution of any bond purchase agreement or similar agreement and then only in accordance with the terms and conditions thereof.

Either (x) you have been identified by the Issuer as a primary contact for the Issuer's receipt of these disclosures, or (y) it is our understanding that you have the authority to bind the Issuer by contract with us; and, in either case, you are not a party to any disclosed conflict of interest relating to the subject transaction. If the preceding sentence is incorrect, please notify the undersigned immediately.

Under SEC and MSRB Rules, we are required to both (i) confirm our role and engagement as underwriter of the Bonds, and (ii) seek your acknowledgement that you have received this letter. Accordingly, please send me an email **both** (1) confirming that RJA is engaged as underwriter of the Bonds, **and** (2) acknowledging your receipt hereof. Alternatively, you may sign, scan, and return this letter to me via email.

Depending on the structure of the transaction that the Issuer decides to pursue, or if additional actual or potential material conflicts are identified, we may be required to send you additional disclosures regarding the material financial characteristics and risks of such transaction and/or describing those conflicts. At that time, we also will seek your acknowledgement of receipt of any such additional disclosures.

We look forward to working with you and the Issuer in connection with the issuance of the Bonds. We appreciate your business.

Sincerely,

RAYMOND JAMES & ASSOCIATES, INC.

By: 

Confirmed and Acknowledged:

CITY OF CARTERSVILLE (GEORGIA)

By: _____
Mayor

Date: _____

Attest By: _____
City Clerk

Date: _____

CC: City Attorney

Attached: Financing Disclosures

Fixed Rate Structure Disclosure (3.31.21)

The following is a general description of the financial characteristics and security structures of fixed rate municipal bonds ("Fixed Rate Bonds"), as well as a general description of certain financial risks that are known to us and reasonably foreseeable at this time and that you should consider before deciding whether to issue Fixed Rate Bonds. If you have any questions or concerns about these disclosures, please make those questions or concerns known immediately to us. In addition, you should consult with your financial and/or municipal, legal, accounting, tax, and other advisors, as applicable, to the extent you deem appropriate.

If you decide that you would like to pursue this financing alternative, we may provide you with additional information more specific to your issue.

Financial Characteristics

Maturity and Interest. Fixed Rate Bonds are interest-bearing debt securities issued by state and local governments, political subdivisions and agencies and authorities, whether for their benefit or as a conduit issuer for a nongovernmental entity. Maturity dates for Fixed Rate Bonds are fixed at the time of issuance and may include serial maturities (specified principal amounts are payable on the same date in each year until final maturity) or one or more term maturities (specified principal amounts are payable on each term maturity date) or a combination of serial and term maturities. The final maturity date typically will range between 10 and 30 years from the date of issuance. Interest on the Fixed Rate Bonds typically is paid semiannually at a stated fixed rate or rates for each maturity date.

Redemption. Fixed Rate Bonds may be subject to optional redemption, which allows you, at your option, to redeem some or all the bonds on a date prior to scheduled maturity, such as in connection with the issuance of refunding bonds to take advantage of lower interest rates. Fixed Rate Bonds will be subject to optional redemption only after the passage of a specified period, often approximately ten years from the date of issuance, and upon payment of the redemption price set forth in the bonds, which may include a redemption premium. You will be required to send out a notice of optional redemption to the holders of the bonds, usually not less than 30 days prior to the redemption date. Fixed Rate Bonds with term maturity dates also may be subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption, which requires you to redeem specified principal amounts of the bonds annually in advance of the term maturity date. The mandatory sinking fund redemption price is 100% of the principal amount of the bonds to be redeemed.

Security

Payment of principal of and interest on a municipal security, including Fixed Rate Bonds, may be backed by various types of pledges and forms of security, some of which are described below.²

² The discussion of security characteristics is limited to general obligation and revenue bond structures. This summary should be expanded and modified, as necessary, for other security structures, such as bonds that are secured by a double-barreled pledge (general obligation and revenues), annual appropriations or a moral obligation of the issuer or another governmental entity. If the security for the bonds is known at the time this disclosure is provided to the issuer, include only those portions relevant to the actual security for the bonds.

General Obligation Bonds. “General obligation (GO) bonds” are debt securities to which your full faith and credit is pledged to pay principal and interest. If you have taxing power, generally you will pledge to use your ad valorem (property) taxing power to pay principal and interest. The debt service on “unlimited tax” GO bonds are paid from ad valorem taxes which are not subject to state constitutional property tax millage limits, whereas “limited tax” GO Bonds are subject to such limits.

General obligation bonds constitute a debt and, depending on applicable state law, may require that you obtain approval by voters prior to issuance. In the event of default in required payments of interest or principal, the holders of general obligation bonds generally will have certain rights under state law to compel you to impose a tax levy.

Revenue Bonds. “Revenue bonds” are debt securities that are payable only from a specific source or sources of revenues. Revenue bonds are not a pledge of your full faith and credit, and you (or, if you are a conduit issuer, the obligor, as described in the following paragraph) are obligated to pay principal and interest on your revenue bonds only from the revenue source(s) specifically pledged to the bonds. Revenue bonds do not permit the bondholders to compel you to impose a tax levy for payment of debt service. Pledged revenues may be derived from operation of the financed project or system, grants or excise or other specified taxes. Generally, subject to state law or local charter requirements, you are not required to obtain voter approval prior to issuance of revenue bonds. If the specified source(s) of revenue become inadequate, a default in payment of principal or interest may occur. Various types of pledges of revenue may be used to secure interest and principal payments on revenue bonds. The nature of these pledges may differ widely based on state law, the type of issuer, the type of revenue stream and other factors.

Some revenue bonds (conduit revenue bonds) may be issued by a governmental issuer acting as a conduit for the benefit of a private sector entity or a 501(c)(3) organization (the obligor). Conduit revenue bonds commonly are issued for not-for-profit hospitals, educational institutions, single and multi-family housing, airports, industrial or economic development projects, and student loan programs, among other obligors. Principal and interest on conduit revenue bonds normally are paid exclusively from revenues pledged by the obligor. Unless otherwise specified under the terms of the bonds, you are not required to make payments of principal or interest if the obligor defaults.

The description above regarding “Security” is only a summary of certain possible security provisions for the bonds and is not intended as legal advice. You should consult with your bond counsel for further information regarding the security for the bonds.

Financial Risk Considerations

Certain risks may arise in connection with your issuance of Fixed Rate Bonds, including some or all the following (generally, the obligor, rather than the issuer, will bear these risks for conduit revenue bonds):

Issuer Default Risk. You may be in default if the funds pledged to secure your bonds are not enough to pay debt service on the bonds when due. The consequences of a default may be serious for you and, depending on applicable state law and the terms of the authorizing documents, the holders of the bonds, the trustee and any credit support provider may be able to exercise a range of available remedies against you. For example, if the bonds are secured by a general obligation pledge, you may be ordered by a court to raise taxes. Other budgetary

adjustments also may be necessary to enable you to provide sufficient funds to pay debt service on the bonds. If the bonds are revenue bonds, you may be required to take steps to increase the available revenues that are pledged as security for the bonds. A default may negatively impact your credit ratings and may effectively limit your ability to publicly offer bonds or other securities at market interest rate levels. Further, if you are unable to provide sufficient funds to remedy the default, subject to applicable state law and the terms of the authorizing documents, you may find it necessary to consider available alternatives under state law, including (for some issuers) state-mandated receivership or bankruptcy. A default also may occur if you are unable to comply with covenants or other provisions agreed to in connection with the issuance of the bonds.

This description is only a summary of issues relating to defaults and is not intended as legal advice. You should consult with your bond counsel for further information regarding defaults and remedies.

Redemption Risk. Your ability to redeem the bonds prior to maturity may be limited, depending on the terms of any optional redemption provisions. If interest rates decline, you may be unable to take advantage of the lower interest rates to reduce debt service.

Refinancing Risk. If your financing plan contemplates refinancing some or all the bonds at maturity (for example, if you have term maturities or if you choose a shorter final maturity than might otherwise be permitted under the applicable federal tax rules), market conditions or changes in law may limit or prevent you from refinancing those bonds when required.

Reinvestment Risk. You may have proceeds from the issuance of the bonds available to invest prior to the time that you are able to spend those proceeds for the authorized purpose. Depending on market conditions, you may not be able to invest those proceeds at or near the rate of interest that you are paying on the bonds, which is referred to as “negative arbitrage”.

Tax Compliance Risk. The issuance of tax-exempt bonds is subject to several requirements under the United States Internal Revenue Code, as enforced by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). You must take certain steps and make certain representations prior to the issuance of tax-exempt bonds. You also must covenant to take certain additional actions after issuance of tax-exempt bonds. A breach of your representations or your failure to comply with certain tax-related covenants may cause the interest on bonds to become taxable retroactively to the date of issuance of the bonds, which may result in an increase in the interest rate that you pay on the bonds or the mandatory redemption of the bonds. The IRS also may audit you or your bonds, in some cases on a random basis and in other cases targeted to specific types of bond issues or tax concerns. If tax-exempt bonds are declared taxable, or if you are subject to audit, the market price of your bonds may be adversely affected. Further, your ability to issue other tax-exempt bonds also may be limited.

This description of tax compliance risks is not intended as legal advice and you should consult with your bond counsel regarding tax implications of issuing the bonds.