

Joanna Lippman Salinas

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June 24, 2024

Scott Moore, City Manager City of Manor 105 E. Eggleston Street Manor, Texas 78653

Re: Cause No. J1-CV-24-3083; In the Justice of the Peace; Precinct One; Travis

County, Texas

Austin Bocce League vs. City of Manor

Dear Mr. Moore:

This letter confirms that Fletcher, Farley, Shipman & Salinas, L.L.P. will represent City of Manor ("City of Manor") in connection with a lawsuit styled: Cause No. J1-CV-24-3083; In the Justice of the Peace; Precinct One; Travis County, Texas; *Austin Bocce League vs. City of Manor* (the "Matter"). Our acceptance of that representation (the "Representation") becomes effective upon the execution and return of the enclosed copy of this letter.

## **Terms of Engagement**

This letter sets out the terms of our engagement in the Representation. Certain of those terms are included in the body of this letter, and additional terms are contained in the attached document, entitled *Additional Terms of Engagement*. That document is expressly incorporated into this letter, and it should be read carefully. The execution and return of the enclosed copy of this letter constitutes an unqualified agreement to all the terms set forth in this letter and in the attached *Additional Terms of Engagement*.

It is understood and agreed that our engagement is limited to the Representation. We are not being retained as general counsel, and our acceptance of this engagement does not imply any undertaking to provide legal services other than those set forth in this letter.

## Our Personnel Who Will Be Working on the Matter

I will be primarily working on the Matter, and you may call, write, or e-mail me whenever you have any questions about the Representation. Other firm personnel, including firm lawyers and legal assistants, will participate in the Representation if, in my judgment, their participation is necessary or appropriate.

### **Our Legal Fees and Other Charges**

Legal fees and costs are difficult to estimate. Accordingly, we have made no commitment concerning the maximum fees and charges that will be necessary to resolve or complete the Representation.

From time to time, we may furnish estimates of legal fees and other charges that we anticipate will be incurred in connection with the Matter. Such estimates are by their nature inexact because of the potential for unforeseeable circumstances; and therefore, our actual fees and other charges may vary from such estimates.

It is expressly understood that payment of our fees and charges is in no way contingent on the ultimate outcome of the Representation.

Our fees in the Matter will be based on the time spent by firm personnel, primarily firm lawyers or legal assistants, who participate in the Representation. We will charge for all time spent by such personnel in the Representation in increments of tenths of an hour. For example, we charge for time spent in the following: telephone and office conferences with clients, representatives of clients, opposing counsel, and others; conferences among our attorneys and legal assistants; factual investigation if needed; legal research; responding to requests from you that we provide information to you; drafting letters and other documents; and travel, if needed.

Partners' time during the Representation will be billed at \$285.00/hour, Senior Associate at \$265.00/hour, Associate at \$235.00/hour and Legal Assistants at \$130.00/hour. Other lawyers, legal assistants, and other personnel may be assigned as necessary to achieve proper staffing. Billing rates for attorneys and legal assistants are reviewed annually and generally are revised at the beginning of each year. No retainer is being requested.

#### **Conflicts of Interest**

Before accepting the Representation, we have undertaken reasonable and customary efforts to determine whether there are any potential conflicts of interest that would bar our firm from representing you in the Matter. Based on the information available to us, we are not aware of any potential disqualification. We reviewed that issue in accordance with the rules of professional responsibility adopted in Texas. We believe that those rules, rather than the rules of any other jurisdiction, are applicable to the Representation; and the execution and return of the enclosed copy of this letter by you represents an express agreement to the applicability of those rules.

#### Conclusion

This letter and the attached *Additional Terms of Engagement* constitute the entire terms of the engagement of Fletcher, Farley, Shipman & Salinas, L.L.P. in the Representation. These written terms of engagement are not subject to any oral agreements or understandings, and they can be modified only by further written agreement signed both by you and Fletcher, Farley, Shipman & Salinas, L.L.P. Unless expressly stated in these terms of engagement, no obligation or undertaking shall be implied on the part of either you or Fletcher, Farley, Shipman & Salinas, L.L.P.

Please carefully review this letter and the attached *Additional Terms of Engagement*. If there are any questions about these terms of engagement, or if these terms are inaccurate in any way, please let me know immediately. Otherwise, if both documents are acceptable, please sign and return the enclosed copy of this letter so that we may commence the Representation.

Very truly yours,

FLETCHER, FARLEY, SHIPMAN & SALINAS, L.L.P.

Joanna Lippman Salinas

JOANNA LIPPMAN SALINAS

JLS/teh

The City of Manor Agrees to and Accepts this Letter and the Attached Terms of Engagement:

/s/ Scott Moore

Authorized Representative of the City of Manor

Name/Title: Scott Moore, City Manager

Date: June 25, 2024

Page 4 June 24, 2024

Cc: Via Email: Paige@cityattorneytexas.com>

Paige H. Saenz, Partner

The Knight Law Firm, LLP

223 West Anderson Lane, Suite A-105

Austin, Texas 78752

### Fletcher, Farley, Shipman & Salinas, L.L.P.

## Additional Terms of Engagement

This is a supplement to our attached engagement letter. The purpose of this document is to set out additional terms of our agreement to provide the representation described in our engagement letter (the "Representation") in the Matter (as defined in the attached engagement letter). Because these additional terms of engagement are a part of our agreement to provide legal services, you should review them carefully and should promptly communicate to us any questions concerning this document. We suggest that you retain this statement of additional terms along with our engagement letter and any related documents.

#### The Scope of the Representation

As lawyers, we undertake to provide representation and advice on the legal matters for which we are engaged. It is important for our clients to have a clear understanding of the legal services that we have agreed to provide. Thus, if there are any questions about the scope of the Representation that we are to provide in the Matter, please raise those questions promptly, so that we may resolve them at the outset of the Representation.

Any expressions on our part concerning the outcome of the Representation, or any other legal matters, are based on our professional judgment and are not guarantees. Such expressions, even when described as opinions, are necessarily limited by our knowledge of the facts and are based on our views of the state of the law at the time they are expressed.

Upon accepting this engagement on your behalf, Fletcher, Farley, Shipman & Salinas, L.L.P. agrees to do the following: (1) provide legal counsel in accordance with these terms of engagement and the related engagement letter and in reliance upon information and guidance provided by you; and (2) keep you reasonably informed about the status and progress of the Representation.

To enable us to provide effective representation, you agree to do the following: (1) disclose to us, fully and accurately and on a timely basis, all facts and documents that are or might be material or that we may request, (2) keep us apprised on a timely basis of all developments relating to the Representation that are or might be material, (3) attend meetings, conferences, and other proceedings when it is reasonable to do so, and (4) otherwise cooperate fully with us.

Our firm has been engaged to provide legal services in connection with the Representation in the Matter, as specifically defined in our engagement letter. After completion of the Representation, changes may occur in the applicable laws or regulations that could affect your future rights and liabilities in regard to the Matter. Unless we are actually engaged after the completion of the

representation to provide additional advice on such issues, the firm has no continuing obligation to give advice with respect to any future legal developments that may pertain to the Matter.

It is our policy and your agreement that the person or entity that we represent is the one identified in our engagement letter, and that our attorney-client relationship does not include any related persons or entities. For example, if a corporation, partnership, or other organization is identified as our client in our engagement letter referenced above, we do not represent any related parent companies, subsidiaries, affiliates, employees, officers, directors, shareholders, partners, members, commonly owned corporations or partnerships, or other such persons, entities, or affiliates, whether becoming such by virtue of merger, dissolution, acquisition, or any other means. Accordingly, it is understood that we may represent another client with interests adverse to any such affiliated or related person or entity without first obtaining consent from you or related persons or entities.

It is further agreed that the attorney-client relationship terminates upon our completion of the services for which we have been retained in the Representation.

## Who Will Provide the Legal Services

As our engagement letter confirms, Fletcher, Farley, Shipman & Salinas, L.L.P. will represent you in the Matter. Fletcher, Farley, Shipman & Salinas, L.L.P. is a registered limited liability partnership that has elected to adopt the Texas Revised Partnership Act.

Our firm will be providing legal services. The work required in the Representation, or parts of it, may be performed by firm personnel, including lawyers and legal assistants. Such delegation may be for the purpose of involving other firm personnel with experience in a given area or for the purpose of providing services on an efficient and timely basis.

## **Our Relationships With Others**

Our law firm represents many companies and individuals. In some instances, the applicable rules of professional conduct may limit our ability to represent clients with conflicting or potentially conflicting interests. Those rules of conduct often allow us to exercise our independent judgment in determining whether our relationship with one client prevents us from representing another. In other situations, we may be permitted to represent a client only if the other clients consent to that representation.

Rules concerning conflicts of interest vary with the jurisdiction. In order to avoid any uncertainty, it is our policy that the governing rules will be those applicable to the particular office of our firm that prepares the engagement letter for a particular matter. The acceptance by you of our engagement letter constitutes an express agreement with that policy, unless the

engagement letter specifically states that some other rules of professional responsibility will govern our attorney-client relationship.

If a controversy unrelated to the Matter develops between you and any other client of the firm, we will follow the applicable rules of professional responsibility to determine whether we may represent either you or the other client in the unrelated controversy.

From time to time, our firm may concurrently represent one client in a particular case or matter and, at the same time, our firm may be asked to represent an adversary of that same client in an unrelated case or matter. We would consider doing so only if it is our professional judgment that the firm could undertake the concurrent representation impartially and without any adverse effect on the responsibilities that the firm has to either client.

Specifically, it is possible that, during the Representation, some of our present or future clients will have disputes with you. By accepting these terms of engagement, it is expressly understood and agreed that we may continue to represent, or may undertake in the future to represent, existing or new clients in any matter that is not substantially related to the Representation, even if the interests of such clients in those other matters are directly adverse to yours. We agree, however, that the prospective consent to conflicting representation contained in the preceding sentence shall not apply if, as a result of the Representation, we have obtained proprietary or other confidential information of a non-public nature that, if known to the other client, could be used in any other matter by that client with the result of any material disadvantage to you.

With respect to any such issues that may relate to the Representation, we agree to exercise our professional judgment in accordance with the governing rules pertaining to conflicts of interest. At the same time, it is agreed that you will consent to our representation of other clients in such circumstances if the request for consent is reasonable.

In addition to our representation of other companies and individuals, we also regularly represent lawyers and law firms. As a result, opposing counsel in the Matter may be a lawyer or law firm that we may represent now or in the future. Likewise, opposing counsel in the Matter may represent our firm now or in the future. Further, we have professional and personal relationships with many other attorneys, often because of our participation in bar associations and other professional organizations. It is our professional judgment that such relationships with other attorneys do not adversely affect our ability to represent any client. The acceptance of these terms of engagement represents an unqualified consent to any such relationships between our firm and other lawyers or law firms, even counsel who is representing a party that is adverse to yours in the Matter that is the subject of this engagement or in some other matter.

## **Communications and Confidentiality**

We have available Internet communication procedures that allow our attorneys to use e-mail for client communications in many instances. Accordingly, unless you specifically direct us otherwise, we may use unencrypted e-mail sent on the Internet to communicate with you and to send documents we have prepared or reviewed.

We recognize our obligation to preserve the confidentiality of attorney-client communications as well as client confidences, as required by the governing rules of professional responsibility. If the Matter involves transactions, litigation or administrative proceedings or like proceedings in which our firm appears as counsel of record for you in publicly available records, we reserve the right to inform others of the fact of our representation of you in the Matter and (if likewise reflected of record in publicly available records) the results obtained, unless you specifically direct otherwise.

#### Retainers

Clients are often asked to deposit a retainer with the firm. If a retainer has been agreed upon, it is further agreed that we have a security interest in that deposit. Retainers are usually considered to be unearned advances. They are placed in trust accounts, usually placed in pooled interest-bearing trust accounts governed by rules adopted by the bar associations in the jurisdictions in which we practice. All accruing interest is paid to a charitable fund established by those bar associations.

#### Disclaimer

Fletcher, Farley, Shipman & Salinas, L.L.P. has made no promises or guarantees to you about the outcome of the Representation or the Matter, and nothing in these terms of engagement shall be construed as such a promise or guarantee.

#### **Termination**

At any time, you may, with or without cause, terminate the Representation by notifying us of your intention to do so. Any such termination of services will not affect the obligation to pay for legal services rendered and expenses and charges incurred before termination, as well as additional services and charges incurred in connection with an orderly transition of the Matter.

We are subject to the codes or rules of professional responsibility for the jurisdictions in which we practice. There are several types of conduct or circumstances that could result in our withdrawing from representing a client, including, for example, the following: non-payment of fees or charges; misrepresentation or failure to disclose material facts; fraudulent or criminal

conduct; action contrary to our advice; and conflict of interest with another client. We try to identify in advance and discuss with our clients any situation that may lead to our withdrawal.

A failure by you to meet any obligations under these terms of engagement shall entitle Fletcher, Farley, Shipman & Salinas, L.L.P. to terminate the Representation. In that event, you will take all steps necessary to release Fletcher, Farley, Shipman & Salinas, L.L.P. of any further obligations in the Representation or the Matter, including without limitation the execution of any documents necessary to effectuate our withdrawal from the Representation or the Matter. The right of Fletcher, Farley, Shipman & Salinas, L.L.P. to withdraw in such circumstances is in addition to any rights created by statute or recognized by the governing rules of professional conduct.

#### **Billing Arrangements and Terms of Payment**

Our engagement letter specifically explains our fees for services in the Matter. We will bill on a regular basis, normally each month, for fees and expenses and charges. It is agreed that you will make full payment within 30 days of receiving our statement. We will give notice if an account becomes delinquent, and it is further agreed that any delinquent account must be paid upon the giving of such notice. If the delinquency continues and you do not arrange satisfactory payment terms, we may withdraw from the Representation and pursue collection of our account.

#### **Document Retention**

At the close of any matter, we send our files in that matter to a storage facility for storage at our expense. The attorney closing the file determines how long we will maintain the files in storage. After that time, we will destroy the documents in the stored files.

At the conclusion of the Representation, we return to the client any documents that are specifically requested to be returned. As to any documents so returned, we may elect to keep a copy of the documents in our stored files.

## **Charges for Other Expenses and Services**

Typically, our invoices will include amounts, not only for legal services rendered, but also for other expenses and services. Examples include charges for photocopying, travel and conference expenses, messenger deliveries, and computerized research, and other electronic transmissions. In addition, we reserve the right to send to you for direct payment any invoices delivered to us by others, including experts and any vendors. It is further agreed that we are expressly authorized to retain any consultants, experts, or vendors that are appropriate, in our judgment, during the Representation.

In situations where we can readily determine the exact amount of expenses for products and services provided by third parties to be charged to your account, our invoices will reflect the cost to us of the products and services. In many situations, however, the precise total cost of providing a product or service is difficult to establish, in which case we will use our professional judgment on the charges to be made for such product or service, which charges may vary from or exceed our direct cost of such product or service. In some situations, we can arrange for ancillary services to be provided by third parties with direct billing to the client. Attached is a copy of our current recharge schedule for expenses and services, which is subject to change from time to time.

## Standards of Professionalism and Attorney Complaint Information

Pursuant to rules promulgated by the Texas Supreme Court and the State Bar of Texas, we are to advise our clients of the contents of the Texas Lawyer's Creed, a copy of which is attached. In addition, we are to advise clients that the State Bar of Texas investigates and prosecutes complaints of professional misconduct against attorneys licensed in Texas. A brochure entitled Attorney Complaint Information is available at all of our Texas offices and is likewise available upon request. A client that has any questions about State Bar's disciplinary process should call the Office of the General Counsel of the State Bar of Texas at 1-800-932-1900 toll free.

# FLETCHER, FARLEY, SHIPMAN & SALINAS, L.L.P.

# **EXPENSES AND SERVICES SUMMARY**

EXPENSE/SERVICE	CHARGE
Binding	Direct Cost
Data Base Research	
Westlaw	Direct Cost
Deliveries	
Overnight/Express	Direct Cost
Outside Courier	Direct Cost
In-House	N/A
Courthouse Messengers	Direct Cost
Document Scanning	\$.10 per page
Duplicating	
Photocopy	\$0.10 per page
Color photocopy	\$1.00 per page
Microfilm/Microfiche	Direct Cost
Videography (duplication)	Direct Cost
Electronic Mail (via Internet)	No charge
Postage	Direct Cost
Transportation	
Mileage (personal automobile)	Applicable IRS allowable rate per mile
Lodging	Direct Cost
Meals	Direct Cost
Car Rental/Airline/Rail/Etc.	Direct Cost
E-Discovery	Direct Cost

#### THE TEXAS LAWYER'S CREED

#### A Mandate for Professionalism

Promulgated by The Supreme Court of Texas and the Court of Criminal Appeals November 7, 1989

The Texas Supreme Court and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals adopted this Creed, with the requirement that lawyers advise their clients of its contents when undertaking representation.

I am a lawyer; I am entrusted by the People of Texas to preserve and improve our legal system. I am licensed by the Supreme Court of Texas. I must therefore abide by the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, but I know that Professionalism requires more than merely avoiding the violation of laws and rules. I am committed to this Creed for no other reason than it is right. I. OUR LEGAL SYSTEM

A lawyer owes to the administration of justice personal dignity, integrity, and independence. A lawyer should always adhere to the highest principles of professionalism.

- 1. I am passionately proud of my profession. Therefore, "My word is my bond."
- I am responsible to assure that all persons have access to competent representation regardless of wealth or position in
- 3. I commit myself to an adequate and effective pro bono program.
- I am obligated to educate my clients, the public, and other lawyers regarding the spirit and letter of this Creed.
   I will always be conscious of my duty to the judicial system.

#### II. LAWYER TO CLIENT

A lawyer owes to a client allegiance, learning, skill, and industry. A lawyer shall employ all appropriate means to protect and advance the client's legitimate rights, claims, and objectives. A lawyer shall not be deterred by any real or imagined fear of judicial disfavor or public unpopularity, nor be influenced by mere self-interest.

- 1. I will advise my client of the contents of this Creed when undertaking representation.
- 2. I will endeavor to achieve my client's lawful objectives in legal transactions and in litigation as quickly and economically as
- 3. I will be loyal and committed to my client's lawful objectives, but I will not permit that loyalty and commitment to interfere with my duty to provide objective and independent advice.
- 4. I will advise my client that civility and courtesy are expected and are not a sign of weakness.
- 5. I will advise my client of proper and expected behavior.
- 6. I will treat adverse parties and witnesses with fairness and due consideration. A client has no right to demand that I abuse anyone or indulge in any offensive conduct.
- 7. I will advise my client that we will not pursue conduct which is intended primarily to harass or drain the financial resources
- I will advise my client that we will not pursue tactics which are intended primarily for delay.
- I will advise my client that we will not pursue any course of action which is without merit.
- 10. I will advise my client that I reserve the right to determine whether to grant accommodations to opposing counsel in all matters that do not adversely affect my client's lawful objectives. A client has no right to instruct me to refuse reasonable requests made by other counsel.
- 11. I will advise my client regarding the availability of mediation, arbitration, and other alternative methods of resolving and settling disputes.

#### III. LAWYER TO LAWYER

A lawyer owes to opposing counsel, in the conduct of legal transactions and the pursuit of litigation, courtesy, candor, cooperation, and scrupulous observance of all agreements and mutual understandings. Ill feelings between clients shall not influence a lawyer's conduct, attitude, or demeanor toward opposing counsel. A lawyer shall not engage in unprofessional conduct in retaliation against other unprofessional conduct.

- 1. I will be courteous, civil, and prompt in oral and written communications.
- 2. I will not quarrel over matters of form or style, but I will concentrate on matters of substance.
- I will identify for other counsel or parties all changes I have made in documents submitted for review.
- I will attempt to prepare documents which correctly reflect the agreement of the parties. I will not include provisions which have not been agreed upon or omit provisions which are necessary to reflect the agreement of the parties.

- I will notify opposing counsel, and, if appropriate, the Court or other persons, as soon as practicable, when hearings, depositions, meetings, conferences or closings are cancelled.
- 6. I will agree to reasonable requests for extensions of time and for waiver of procedural formalities, provided legitimate objectives of my client will not be adversely affected.
- 7. I will not serve motions or pleadings in any manner that unfairly limits another party's opportunity to respond.
- 8. I will attempt to resolve by agreement my objections to matters contained in pleadings and discovery requests and responses.
- I can disagree without being disagreeable. I recognize that effective representation does not require antagonistic or obnoxious behavior. I will neither encourage nor knowingly permit my client or anyone under my control to do anything which would be unethical or improper if done by me.
- 10. I will not, without good cause, attribute bad motives or unethical conduct to opposing counsel nor bring the profession into disrepute by unfounded accusations of impropriety. I will avoid disparaging personal remarks or acrimony towards opposing counsel, parties and witnesses. I will not be influenced by any ill feeling between clients. I will abstain from any allusion to personal peculiarities or idiosyncrasies of opposing counsel.
- 11. I will not take advantage, by causing any default or dismissal to be rendered, when I know the identity of an opposing counsel, without first inquiring about that counsel's intention to proceed.
- 12. I will promptly submit orders to the Court. I will deliver copies to opposing counsel before or contemporaneously with submission to the court. I will promptly approve the form of orders which accurately reflect the substance of the rulings of the Court.
- 13. I will not attempt to gain an unfair advantage by sending the Court or its staff correspondence or copies of correspondence.
- 14. I will not arbitrarily schedule a deposition, Court appearance, or hearing until a good faith effort has been made to schedule it by agreement.
- 15. I will readily stipulate to undisputed facts in order to avoid needless costs or inconvenience for any party.
- 16. I will refrain from excessive and abusive discovery.
- 17. I will comply with all reasonable discovery requests. I will not resist discovery requests which are not objectionable. I will not make objections nor give instructions to a witness for the purpose of delaying or obstructing the discovery process. I will encourage witnesses to respond to all deposition questions which are reasonably understandable. I will neither encourage nor permit my witness to quibble about words where their meaning is reasonably clear.
- 18. I will not seek Court intervention to obtain discovery which is clearly improper and not discoverable.
- 19. I will not seek sanctions or disqualification unless it is necessary for protection of my client's lawful objectives or is fully justified by the circumstances.

#### IV. LAWYER AND JUDGE

Lawyers and judges owe each other respect, diligence, candor, punctuality, and protection against unjust and improper criticism and attack. Lawyers and judges are equally responsible to protect the dignity and independence of the Court and the profession.

- I will always recognize that the position of judge is the symbol of both the judicial system and administration of justice. I
  will refrain from conduct that degrades this symbol.
- 2. I will conduct myself in court in a professional manner and demonstrate my respect for the Court and the law.
- 3. I will treat counsel, opposing parties, witnesses, the Court, and members of the Court staff with courtesy and civility and will not manifest by words or conduct bias or prejudice based on race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, sex, or sexual orientation.
- 4. I will be punctual.
- 5. I will not engage in any conduct which offends the dignity and decorum of proceedings.
- 6. I will not knowingly misrepresent, mischaracterize, misquote or miscite facts or authorities to gain an advantage.
- 7. I will respect the rulings of the Court.
- 8. I will give the issues in controversy deliberate, impartial and studied analysis and consideration.
- I will be considerate of the time constraints and pressures imposed upon the Court, Court staff and counsel in efforts to administer justice and resolve disputes.