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December 9, 2022

New Mexico Finance Authority
207 Shelby St.
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City of Rio Communities
360 Rio Communities Boulevard
Rio Communities, NM 87002

\$131,719 New Mexico Finance Authority Loan to
City of Rio Communities, New Mexico (PPRF-
5912)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as Loan Counsel to the New Mexico Finance Authority (the “Finance Authority”) in connection with the \$131,719 Loan Agreement (the “Loan Agreement”) between the City of Rio Communities, New Mexico (the “Governmental Unit”) and the Finance Authority. The Loan Agreement is executed and delivered by the Governmental Unit pursuant to Sections 3-31-1 through 3-31-12 and Sections 29-13-1 through 29-13-9, NMSA 1978, as amended, and the Governmental Unit’s Resolution No. _____, adopted on October 24, 2022 (the “Resolution”). The Loan Agreement has been executed and delivered to provide funds for the purpose of purchasing two new police vehicles and the respective equipment, as described in the Loan Agreement.

We have examined the Loan Agreement, Resolution and such other law and certified proceedings and other documents as we deem necessary to deliver this opinion. As to all questions of fact material to the opinions set forth herein, we have relied upon representations of the Governmental Unit contained in the Resolution and certified proceedings and other documents furnished to us, without undertaking to verify the same by independent investigation. In addition, we have relied upon statements of law made by the Governmental Unit’s legal counsel in the certified proceedings.

Based on our examination, we are of the opinion that, under existing laws, regulations, rulings and judicial decisions as of the date hereof, subject to the provisions of federal bankruptcy law and other laws affecting creditors' rights and further subject to the exercise of judicial discretion in accordance with general principles of equity and the assumptions, qualifications and limitations contained in this opinion:

1. The Resolution creates a valid and binding special limited obligation of the Governmental Unit enforceable in accordance with its terms and creates the pledge of the Law Enforcement Protection Fund Revenues (the "Pledged Revenues") which it purports to create.

2. The Loan Agreement is a valid and binding special limited obligation of the Governmental Unit, enforceable in accordance with its terms and provisions and the terms and provisions of the Resolution.

3. The Loan Agreement is a valid and binding special limited obligation of the Finance Authority, enforceable against the Finance Authority in accordance with its terms and provisions.

4. The Loan Agreement is payable solely from, and such payment is secured by a valid and binding first lien (but not an exclusive first lien) on the Pledged Revenues and on a parity with the lien thereon of other outstanding obligations secured by a first lien on the Pledged Revenues as set forth in the Loan Agreement. The Finance Authority has no right to have taxes levied by the Governmental Unit for the payment of principal of or interest on the Loan Agreement and the Loan Agreement does not represent or constitute a debt or a pledge of, or a charge against, the general credit of the Governmental Unit.

5. Assuming continuing compliance by the Finance Authority and the Governmental Unit with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), with the covenants of the Governmental Unit regarding the use, expenditure and investment of Loan Agreement proceeds and assuming the accuracy of certain representations of the Finance Authority and the Governmental Unit, interest on the Loan Agreement is excludable from gross income of the owners of the Loan Agreement for purposes of federal income taxation. Failure of the Governmental Unit to comply with its covenants and with the requirements of the Code may cause interest on the Loan Agreement to become includable in gross income for federal income tax purposes retroactive to the date of the Loan Agreement.

6. Interest on the Loan Agreement is excluded from net income of the owners thereof for State of New Mexico income tax purposes.

7. The Loan Agreement may be pledged as an "Additional Pledged Loan" or as a "Loan" under the General Indenture of Trust and Pledge dated as of June 1, 1995, as amended and supplemented, by and between the Finance Authority and BOKF, NA, as successor trustee (the "Trustee"), or the Subordinated General Indenture of Trust and Pledge dated as of March 1, 2005, as supplemented, by and between the Finance Authority and the Trustee, as determined by the Finance Authority pursuant to a pledge notification or supplemental indenture.

We express no opinion with respect to the provisions of the Loan Agreement and the Resolution with respect to indemnification, provisions requiring that amendments be in writing or

payment of attorneys' fees. Other than as described in this opinion, we have not addressed nor are we opining on the tax consequences to any person of the investment in, or the receipt of interest on, the Loan Agreement.

This opinion letter is limited to matters expressly stated in this opinion letter and no opinion is inferred or may be implied beyond the matters expressly stated in this opinion letter.

We express no opinion as to, or the effect or applicability of, any laws other than the laws of the State of New Mexico and the federal laws of the United States of America. The opinions expressed herein are based only on the laws in effect as of the date hereof, and in all respects are subject to and may be limited by future legislation, as well as developing case law. We undertake no obligation to update or modify this opinion for any future events or occurrences, including, but not limited to, determining or confirming continuing compliance by the Finance Authority and the Governmental Unit with the requirements of the Code.

The foregoing opinions represent our legal judgment based upon a review of existing legal authorities that we deem relevant to render such opinions and are not a guarantee of results.

We understand that this opinion is being relied upon by the addressees hereof, and we consent to such reliance, but this opinion may not be delivered to or relied upon by any other person or entity without our written consent.

Very truly yours,

SUTIN, THAYER & BROWNE
A Professional Corporation

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