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March 19, 2024

MEMORANDUM VIA E-MAIL
(sedmondson@stonemountaincity.org)

TO: Mr. Shawn Edmonson
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk

FROM: Mr. Kevin Jeselnik
Assistant General Counsel

SUBJECT: **Action Required: Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System
Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Restatement**

The City of Stone Mountain previously adopted the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System ("GMEBS") Defined Benefit Retirement Plan ("Plan"), which is comprised of the Basic Plan Document and Adoption Agreement. The Plan is considered a "qualified plan" under the Internal Revenue Code, which is important to ensure the tax-exempt status of the trust fund.

To protect the Plan's tax-qualified status, GMEBS filed draft restated Plan documents, updated to reflect recent amendments and comply with changes in federal tax law, with the IRS on June 29, 2022. On August 31, 2023, the IRS issued a favorable opinion letter ("IRS opinion letter") for the restated Plan documents. The IRS opinion letter provides assurance to employers providing retirement benefits for their employees through the GMEBS Plan that GMEBS is maintaining a qualified pension benefit program that allows employees to accrue benefits tax-free until retirement benefits are distributed to them.

To ensure continued tax-qualified status for all GMEBS-member retirement plans, all participating employers must readopt their plans using the most recent IRS-approved Adoption Agreement. To that end, we have completed the attached Adoption Agreement to include the benefit and eligibility provisions that you currently have in place.

If the draft document is acceptable, please have the designated representatives sign and date where indicated (p. 37). Next, please scan and email the document to Gina Gresham at rgresham@gacities.com no later than **May 20, 2024**. We will then countersign it and return an electronic copy to you. Please note, GMEBS will not execute documents that have been edited by the city. If the Adoption Agreement requires revisions, please let us know before adopting it.

Mr. Shawn Edmondson

March 19, 2024

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The draft Adoption Agreement will take effect on the date of its approval by the governing authority. **Please note that per O.C.G.A. § 47-5-40, the Adoption Agreement has been drafted in the form of an ordinance.**

We have also attached a copy of the restated Basic Plan Document and Amendment 1, which do not need to be adopted by the city. Finally, we have included a summary of key amendments to the Plan relating to the restatement.

If you have any questions about the information provided in this letter or require further information, please contact Gina Gresham.

Encl.

C: Mr. Jeffrey M. Strickland, City Attorney, City of Stone Mountain (w/ encl.)
Ms. Marinetty Bienvenu, Director, Retirement Quality Assurance (w/o encl.)
Ms. Michelle Warner, Director, GMEBS Retirement and DC Programs (w/o encl.)
Ms. Gwin Hall, Senior Associate General Counsel (w/o encl.)