# MEMBER AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

# County of Erie Hon. Mark C. Poloncarz, Erie County Executive

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature issued a Resolution dated November 29, 2021 (the "County Resolution"), which authorized the establishment of the ErieNet Local Development Corporation (the "Corporation") pursuant to and in accordance with Section 1411 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law ("N-PCL") as a charitable not-for-profit corporation of the State of New York (the "State") with purposes and powers included and as set forth within N-PCL Section 1411 (hereinafter, the "Act"); and

WHEREAS, the Corporation was established pursuant that certain Certificate of Incorporation establishing the Corporation as filed with the New York Secretary of State on April 26, 2022 (the "Certificate") and is charged with undertaking the overall ErieNet Project in accordance with the purposes and powers vested with local development corporations pursuant to the Act; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned, being the sole Member of the Corporation (the "Member") acting on behalf of the County, ex officio, desires to (i) confirm and appoint the Directors of the Corporation; and (ii) approve the form of proposed By-laws of the Corporation, such proposed By-laws being attached hereto as <u>Exhibit A</u>, and (iii) authorize the Board of Director to undertake organizational activities, including the adoption of By-Laws in accordance with the Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE UNDERSIGNED, HEREBY AUTHORIZES AND APPROVES:

1. Consistent with the Corporation's Certificate, the Member hereby confirms the acknowledges the appointment of, and appoints, the following persons (those with a title listed next to their name are deemed appointed to serve ex-officio during the pendency of the identified County office) as Directors of the Corporation until their respective successors are appointed and shall qualify or until their earlier resignations:

Timothy Meyers, Erie County Legislature Majority Leader Joseph Lorigo, Erie County Legislature Minority Leader Mark Cornell, Erie County Deputy Budget Director Michael Breeden, Erie County Chief Information Officer Jeremy Toth, Erie County Attorney Daniel Castle, Erie County Commissioner of Environment and Planning John Spears, Director of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library Thomas Baines, Deputy Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development 2. The adoption of By-Laws by the appointed Directors in the form attached hereto as <u>Exhibit A</u>.

3. That the Directors and officers of the Corporation be, and the same hereby are, authorized, empowered and directed to do all things and acts and to execute all documents as may be necessary or advisable and proper to carry on the business of the Corporation.

4. The Member of the Corporation hereby approves and ratifies the actions taken heretofore by the incorporator and/or any initial directors in the incorporation of the Corporation.

5. These resolutions shall take effect immediately.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

Member By: Hon. Mark C. Poloncarz, Erie County Executive

# <u>Exhibit A</u>

[ErieNet By-laws]

# ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ORGANIZATIONAL RESOLUTION

The initial meeting of the Initial and Appointed of Directors of the ErieNet Local Development Corporation was convened on September 12, 2022 at 10:00, a.m.

The following resolution was duly offered and seconded, to wit:

ORGANIZATIONAL RESOLUTION OF THE INITIAL AND APPOINTED DIRECTORS OF THE ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ADOPTING CERTAIN POLICIES, STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES RELATING TO ITS ORGANIZATION AND IN CONNECTION WITH THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2005, AS AMENDED BY CHAPTER 506 OF THE LAWS OF 2009 OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

WHEREAS, pursuant to a certain Resolution of the Erie County Legislature dated as of November 29, 2021 (the "Authorizing Resolution"), the County of Erie, New York (the "County") acting by and through the Erie County Executive (the "County Executive"), authorized, among other things, the establishment of the ErieNet Local Development Corporation (the "Corporation") as a local development corporation pursuant to Section 1411 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation law ("N-PCL"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Authorizing Resolution and N-PCL Section 1411 (hereinafter referred to as the "Act"), a Certificate of Incorporation (the "Certificate") establishing the Corporation was filed with the New York Secretary of State on April 26, 2022 (a copy of said Certificate being attached hereto as <u>Exhibit A</u>); and

WHEREAS, the Initial Directors of the Corporation (as established within the Authorizing Resolution and within the Certificate) have been appointed Directors of the Corporation by the County as sole member of the Corporation, acting by and through the County Executive, pursuant to a certain resolution, adopted on September 12, 2022 (the "Initial Member Resolution"), wherein the County Executive further approved the form of By-laws for the Corporation to be considered as a component of this Organizational Resolution, such By-laws being attached hereto as **Exhibit B**; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2 of the Public Authorities Law ("PAL") of the State of New York, the provisions of the Public Authorities Accountability Act of 2005, as amended by Chapter 506 of the Laws of 2009 of the State of New York ("PAAA"), apply to certain defined "local authorities," including the Corporation; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation, by and through the Board, desires to take certain other initial organizational matters, including the adoption of certain policies, standards

and procedures to comply with the provisions of the N-PCL, PAAA, Open Meetings Law and Freedom of Information Law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Initial and Appointed Directors of the Corporation as follows:

Section 1. The following persons were appointed by the Member to serve as Initial and Appointed Directors of the Corporation, ex officio:

Timothy Meyers, Erie County Legislature Majority Leader Joseph Lorigo, Erie County Legislature Minority Leader Mark Cornell, Erie County Deputy Budget Director Michael Breeden, Erie County Chief Information Officer Jeremy Toth, Erie County Attorney Daniel Castle, Erie County Commissioner of Environment and Planning John Spears, Director of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library Thomas Baines, Deputy Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development

Section 2. The Directors of the Corporation hereby adopt the By-laws of the Corporation, in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

Section 3. Pursuant to and in accordance with the By-laws of the Corporation, the Directors of the Corporation hereby elect the following Directors to serve in the respective offices of the Board:

| Thomas Baines, Chair        |
|-----------------------------|
| Michael Breeden, Vice Chair |

Section 4. Pursuant to and in accordance with the By-laws of the Corporation, the Directors of the Corporation hereby appoint the following individuals to serve in the following appointed positions:

| Pending Hiring, Executive Director |
|------------------------------------|
| Mark Cornell, Treasurer            |
| Jeremy Toth, Secretary             |

The foregoing officers shall enter upon the discharge of their duties as provided in the By-Laws of the Corporation.

Section 5. The Corporation authorizes the Chair to initiate the Executive Director hiring process.

Section 6. The Corporation authorizes the issuance of a request for proposals for banking and insurance, accounting, and legal professionals.

Section 7. All acts and transactions of any incorporator or director, including the Initial Directors, as defined within the Certificate, or the persons named herein as officers of the Corporation that were taken or made prior to and including the date of the creation of the Corporation and all acts and transactions (if any) of any director, and the persons named herein as officers of the Corporation that were taken or made from the date of creation of the Corporation to the date of this resolution are ratified and approved.

Section 8. The Chair, Vice Chair, and Executive Director and other authorized representatives of the Corporation are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to do all things, and acts and to execute all documents as may be necessary, or advisable and proper, to carry on the business of the Corporation, for and on behalf of the Corporation, including, but not limited to, establishing a federal Employer Identification Number ("EIN") for the Corporation and applying to the Internal Revenue Service and to the New York Department of Taxation and Finance for tax-exempt status and recognition.

Section 9. The Chair, Vice Chair, Executive Director, and Directors and other authorized representatives of the Corporation are hereby directed to develop a budget for the Corporation, with such budget to be reviewed, and if necessary, modified, for acceptance and approval at the next meeting of the Board.

Section 10. As required pursuant to subdivision 2 of Section 2824 of the PAL, all Directors shall participate in State-approved training regarding their legal, fiduciary, financial and ethical responsibilities as directors within one (1) year of their appointment to the Corporation. In addition, all Directors of the Board shall participate in such continuing training as may be required to remain informed of best practices, regulatory and statutory changes relating to the effective oversight of the management and financial activities of public authorities and to adhere to the highest standards of responsible governance. Further, each Director shall execute (i) a Certification of No Conflict of Interest (ii) an Acknowledgement of Fiduciary Duties and Responsibilities. Such certifications shall be executed in substantially the form attached hereto as **Exhibit D** and **Exhibit E**, respectively.

Section 11. As early as practicable the Corporation shall prepare, adopt and submit to the Authorities Budget Office an authority mission statement and performance measurements including the following components: a brief mission statement expressing the purpose and goals of the Corporation, a description of the stakeholders of the Corporation and their reasonable expectations from the Corporation, and a list of measurements by which performance of the Corporation and the achievement of its goals may be evaluated. The Corporation shall reexamine its mission statement and measurements on an annual basis, and publish a self-evaluation based on the stated measurements unless the Corporation obtains a waiver to the requirement to conduct such re-examination from the Authorities Budget Office pursuant to the PAL.

Section 12. Pursuant to subdivision 4 of Section 2824 of the PAL, and in accordance with the By-laws of the Corporation, an Audit and Finance Committee of the Corporation is established and shall initially be comprised of the following Directors:

| Mark Cornell, Chair |
|---------------------|
| Timothy Meyers      |
| John Spears         |

The Audit and Finance Committee shall perform the functions as described in the By-Laws.

Section 13. Pursuant to subdivision 7 of Section 2824 of the PAL, and in accordance with the By-laws of the Corporation, a Governance Committee of the Corporation is established and shall initially be comprised of the following Directors:

| Jeremy Toth, Chair |
|--------------------|
| Michael Breeden    |
| Daniel Castle      |

The Governance Committee shall perform the functions as described in the By-Laws.

Section 14. Pursuant to subdivision 2(a) of Section 2800 of the PAL, unless the Corporation obtains a waiver to the requirement to provide such information from the Authorities Budget Office, the Board shall submit to the County, the Chair of the County Legislature, the County Clerk, and the Authorities Budget Office within ninety (90) days after the end of the Corporation's fiscal year, a complete and detailed report (the "Annual Report") by and through the Authorities Budget Office Public Authorities Information Reporting System ("PARIS") that shall contain:

- (a) the Corporation's operations and accomplishments;
- (b) the Corporation's financial reports, including (i) audited financials in accordance with all applicable regulations and following generally accepted accounting principles as defined in subdivision ten of section two of the state finance law, (ii) grants and subsidy programs, (iii) operating and financial risks, (iv) current ratings if any, of its bonds issued by recognized municipal bond rating agencies and notice of changes in such ratings, and (v) long-term liabilities, including leases and employee benefit plans;
- (c) the Corporation's mission statement and measurements including its most recent measurement report;
- (d) a schedule of the Corporation's bonds and notes outstanding at the end of its fiscal year, together with a statement of the amounts redeemed and incurred during such fiscal year as part of a schedule of debt issuance that includes the date of issuance, term, amount, interest rate and means of

repayment. Additionally, the debt schedule shall also include all refinancing, calls, refunding, defeasements and interest rate exchange or other such agreements, and for any debt issued during the reporting year, the schedule shall also include a detailed list of costs of issuance for such debt;

- (e) a compensation schedule that shall include, by position, title and name of the person holding such position or title, the salary, compensation, allowance and/or benefits provided to any officer, director or employee in a decision making or managerial position of the Corporation whose salary is in excess of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000);
- (f) the projects undertaken by the Corporation during the past year;
- (g) a listing of (i) all real property of the Corporation having an estimated fair market value in excess of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) that the Corporation acquires or disposes of during such period. The report shall contain the price received or paid by the Corporation and the name of the purchaser or seller for all such property sold or bought by the Corporation during such period;
- (h) the Corporation's code of ethics;
- (i) an assessment of the effectiveness of its internal control structure and procedures;
- (j) a copy of the legislation that forms the statutory basis of the Corporation;
- (k) a description of the Corporation and its board structure, including (i) names of committees and committee members, (ii) lists of board meetings and attendance, (iii) descriptions of major Corporation units, subsidiaries, (iv) number of employees, and (v) organizational chart;
- (1) the Corporation's charter, if any, and By-Laws;
- (m) a listing of material changes in operations and programs during the reporting year;
- (n) the Corporation's four-year financial plan, including (i) a current and projected capital budget, and (ii) an operating budget report, including an actual versus estimated budget, with an analysis and measurement of financial and operating performance;
- (o) the Corporation's board performance evaluations;
- (p) a description of the total amounts of assets, services or both assets and services bought or sold without competitive bidding, including (i) the nature of those assets and services, (ii) the names of the counterparties, and (iii) where the contract price for assets purchased exceeds fair market value, or where the contract price for assets sold is less than fair market value, a detailed explanation of the justification for making the purchase or sale without competitive bidding, and a certification by the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation that they

have reviewed the terms of such purchase or sale and determined that it complies with applicable law and procurement guidelines; and

(q) a description of any material pending litigation in which the Corporation is involved as a party during the reporting year, except that no provider of medical services need disclose information about pending malpractice claims beyond the existence of such claims.

Once completed, and prior to submission, the Executive Director and the Treasurer of the Corporation shall certify that the information contained in the Annual Report (i) is accurate, correct and does not contain any untrue statements of material fact, (ii) does not omit any material information which, if omitted, would cause the Annual Report to be misleading in light of the circumstances under which such statements are made, and (iii) fairly presents in all material respects the financial condition and results of operation of the Corporation as of, and for, the periods presented in the Annual Report. The certification executed shall be in substantially the form attached hereto as **Exhibit F**.

Section 15. Pursuant to subdivision 2 of Section 2801 of PAL, as soon as practicable, the Corporation will submit to the County Legislature, along with the New York State Authority Budget Office, the Corporation's budget at least 60 days prior to the commencement of each budget year.

Section 16. The Corporation shall comply with the following rules relating to audit services:

- (a) the certified independent public accounting firm performing the Corporation's audit will be prohibited from providing audit services if the lead (or coordinating) audit partner responsible for reviewing the audit, has performed audit services for the Corporation in each of the five (5) previous fiscal years;
- (b) the certified independent public accounting firm performing the audit shall be prohibited from performing any non-audit services to the Corporation contemporaneously with the audit, unless receiving previous written approval by the audit committee including: (i) bookkeeping or other services related to the accounting records or financial statement of the Corporation, (ii) financial information systems design and implementation, (iii) appraisal or valuation services, fairness opinions, or contribution-in-kind reports, (iv) actuarial services, (v) internal audit outsourcing services, (vi) management functions or human services, (vii) broker or dealer, investment advisor, or investment banking services and (viii) legal services and expert services unrelated to the audit; and
- (c) it shall be prohibited for any certified independent public accounting firm to perform for such Corporation any audit service if the chief executive officer, comptroller, chief financial officer, chief accounting officer, or any other person serving in an equivalent position for the Corporation, was employed by that certified independent public accounting firm and

participated in any capacity in the audit of the Corporation during the one (1) year period preceding the date of the initiation of the audit.

Section 17. The following policies, as presented at this meeting, are hereby adopted and approved:

- (a) The Code of Ethics and Conflicts of Interest Policy attached hereto as <u>Exhibit G</u>;
- (b) The Compensation, Reimbursement and Attendance Policy attached hereto as **Exhibit H**;
- (c) The Defense and Indemnification Policy attached hereto as **Exhibit I**;
- (d) The Real Property Acquisition Policy attached hereto as **Exhibit J**;
- (e) The Disposition of Property Guidelines attached hereto as **Exhibit K**;
- (f) The Investment Policy attached hereto as **<u>Exhibit L</u>**;
- (g) The Procurement Policy attached hereto as **<u>Exhibit M</u>**;
- (h) The Travel and Discretionary Funds Policy attached hereto as **Exhibit N**;
- (i) The Whistleblower Policy attached hereto as **Exhibit O**,
- (j) The Sexual Harassment and Prevention Policy as **Exhibit P**;
- (k) The Continuity of Operations Plan Policy as **Exhibit Q**; and
- (1) The Public Access to Records Policy as <u>Exhibit R</u>.

Section 18. The Board hereby designates the Executive Director of the Corporation as the Corporation's FOIL Records Access Officer and Contracting Officer. The Chair shall serve as the FOIL Appeals Officer of the Corporation.

Section 19. The Corporation hereby authorizes the preparation and ultimate submission the federal application to obtain federal tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

Section 19. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

# EXHIBIT A

# **CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION**

# NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, STATE RECORDS AND UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE FILING RECEIPT

ENTITY NAME : DOCUMENT TYPE : ENTITY TYPE : ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION DOMESTIC NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION (LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION)

DOS ID : FILE DATE : FILE NUMBER : TRANSACTION NUMBER : EXISTENCE DATE : DURATION/DISSOLUTION : COUNTY : 6468309 04/26/2022 220427001373 202204260004072-844421 04/26/2022 PERPETUAL ERIE



**SERVICE OF PROCESS ADDRESS :** 

FILER :

SERVICE COMPANY : SERVICE COMPANY ACCOUNT : THE CORP. 95 FRANKLIN STREET 16TH FL , BUFFALO, NY, 14202, USA ROBERT G. MURRAY, ESQ. HARRIS BEACH PLLC , 726 EXCHANGE STREET STE 1000 BUFFALO, NY, 14210, USA UNITED CORPORATE SERVICES, INC. 37

| You may verfiy this document online at :<br>AUTHENTICATION NUMBER : | <u>http://ecorp.dos.ny.gov</u><br>100001470650 |                          |          |  |
|---|--|--------------------------|----------|--|
| TOTAL FEES:   | \$100.00                                       | TOTAL PAYMENTS RECEIVED: | \$100.00 |  |
| FILING FEE:   | \$75.00  | CASH:                    | \$0.00   |  |
| CERTIFICATE OF STATUS:  | \$0.00   | CHECK/MONEY ORDER:       | \$0.00   |  |
| CERTIFIED COPY:   | \$0.00   | CREDIT CARD:             | \$0.00   |  |
| COPY REQUEST:   | \$0.00   | DRAWDOWN ACCOUNT:        | \$100.00 |  |
| EXPEDITED HANDLING:   | \$25.00  | REFUND DUE:              | \$0.00   |  |

# STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF STATE

I hereby certify that the annexed copy for ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, File Number 220427001373 has been compared with the original document in the custody of the Secretary of State and that the same is true copy of said original.



WITNESS my hand and official seal of the Department of State, at the City of Albany, on April 27, 2022.

Brandon C. Hughan

Brendan C. Hughes Executive Deputy Secretary of State

Authentication Number: 100001467622 To Verify the authenticity of this document you may access the Division of Corporation's Document Authentication Website at <u>http://ecorp.dos.ny.gov</u>

#### CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

#### OF

#### ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

A Not-For-Profit Local Development Corporation under Section 1411 of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law of the State of New York

THE UNDERSIGNED, being over the age of eighteen years, for the purpose of forming a not-for-profit local development corporation pursuant to Section 1411 of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law of the State of New York, hereby certifies as follows:

FIRST: The name of the corporation shall be "ErieNet Local Development Corporation" (hereinafter referred to as the "Corporation").

SECOND: The Corporation will be a corporation as defined in subparagraph (a)(5) of Section 102 of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law of the State of New York and, as provided in Section 1411 of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law, will be a charitable corporation as defined in Section 201 of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law. The Corporation shall serve as a public instrumentality of and supporting organization for, but separate and apart from, Erie County, New York (the "County"). There is no requirement under the New York Not-for-Profit Corporation Law or any other statute of the State of New York requiring any approval or consent before filing of this certificate of incorporation.

THIRD: The purposes for which the Corporation is to be formed and operated are exclusively for charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, to relieve and reduce unemployment, promote and provide for additional and maximum employment, improve and maintain job opportunities, and lessen the burden of government and act in the public interest. In furtherance of said purposes, the Corporation's powers shall include:

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(a) To foster the creation, retention and expansion of jobs and economic opportunities for the benefit of the County, New York State and local economies; and

(b) To construct, acquire, rehabilitate and improve for use by others, facilities in the territory in which its operations are principally to be conducted, to assist financially in such construction, acquisition, rehabilitation and improvement, to maintain and/or lease such facilities on its behalf or for others in such territory; to disseminate information and furnish advice, technical assistance and liaison with federal, state and local authorities with respect thereto;

(c) To acquire by purchase, lease, gift, bequest, devise or otherwise real or personal property or interests therein;

(d) To apply for loans and borrow money without limit as to amount; to make, draw, accept, endorse, execute and issue negotiable bonds, debentures, notes and other obligations therefor;

(c) To sell, lease, mortgage or otherwise dispose of or encumber any such facilities or any of its real or personal property or any interest therein upon such terms as it may determine;

(f) To enter into covenants and agreements and to comply with all the terms, conditions and provisions thereof, and otherwise to carry out its corporate purposes and to foster and encourage the location or expansion of facilities and related businesses in the territory in which the operations of the Corporation are principally to be conducted;

(g) To apply for and make grants and loans and to execute any and all documents necessary in connection therewith;

(h) To do any other act or thing incidental to or connected with the foregoing purposes or in advancement thereof, but not for the pecuniary profit or financial gain of its members, directors, officers or any private person;

(i) In general, to perform any and all acts and things, and exercise any and all powers which may now or hereafter be lawful for the Corporation to do or exercise under and pursuant to the laws of the State of New York for the purpose of accomplishing any of the foregoing purposes of the Corporation.

FOURTH: The Corporation's mission and public objective, which the Corporation's purposes will achieve, include, but are not limited to, the lessening of the burdens of government by undertaking and promoting economic development projects and initiatives in the Erie County, New York area that will include real estate leasing, acquisition, development and management, real estate project finance, infrastructure development, operation and maintenance, along with other community-based economic development activities permissible under the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law.

FIFTH: The operations of the Corporation will be principally conducted within the territory of Eric County, New York and surrounding communities.

SIXTH: Pursuant to the requirements of Section 1411(e) of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law:

(a) All income and earnings of the Corporation shall be used exclusively for its corporate purposes with the intent being that all income and earnings will be expended or deposited in appropriate reserves for corporate purposes; to the extent not so used, the income and earnings will accrue and be paid to the Job Development Authority to the extent required by Section 1411 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law.

(b) The property of the Corporation is irrevocably dedicated to its corporate purposes. No part of the income or earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit or profit of, nor shall any distribution of its property or assets be made to, any member, director or officer of the Corporation, or private person, corporate or individual, or to any other private interest, except that the Corporation may repay loans made to it and may repay contributions (other than dues) made to it to the extent that any such contribution may not be allowable as a deduction in computing taxable income under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

(c) If the Corporation accepts a mortgage loan or loans from the New York Job Development Authority, the Corporation shall be dissolved in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (g) of Section 1411 of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law upon the repayment or other discharge in full by the Corporation of all such loans.

SEVENTH: (a) The Corporation shall not attempt to influence legislation by propaganda or otherwise, or participate in or intervene, directly or indirectly, in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

(b) The Corporation shall not engage in any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from federal income taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

EIGHTH: Upon the dissolution of the Corporation no member or private person, corporate or individual, or other private interest, shall be entitled to any distribution or division of its remaining funds and other property and rights and interests in property, and the balance thereof, after the payment of all debts and liabilities of the Corporation of whatsoever kind and nature, (including the payment of loans and contributions the repayment of which has been authorized in the certificate of incorporation) shall be distributed to Erie County, New York for furtherance of the

purposes set forth in paragraph (a) of Section 1411 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law of the State of New York. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by order of the Supreme Court of the State of New York pursuant to Section 1008 of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law.

NINTH: The offices of the Corporation shall be located in Erie County, New York.

TENTH: The offices of the Corporation shall be functionally separate from those of Eric County or any of its affiliated entities (collectively, the "County Entities") (although such office may be in a facility leased from the County or any of its affiliates on arms-length terms). The Corporation at all times shall:

(a) maintain separate accounting records and other corporate records from those of the County Entities;

(b) not divert the Corporation's funds to any other person or for other than the use of the Corporation and not commingle any of the Corporation's assets with those of the County Entities;

(c) pay any employee, consultant or agent of the Corporation, or any other operating expense incurred by the Corporation, from the assets of the Corporation and not from the assets of any of the County Entities;

(d) maintain its own deposit account or accounts, separate from those of the County Entities, with commercial banking institutions and/or trust companies;

(e) to the extent that the Corporation contracts or does business with vendors or service providers where the goods and services provided are partially for the benefit of any other person, the costs incurred in so doing shall be fairly allocated to

or among the Corporation and such persons for whose benefit the goods and services are provided, and the Corporation and each such person shall bear its fair share of such costs;

(f) conduct its business in its own name and conduct all material transactions between the Corporation and the County Entities only on an arm's-length basis;

(g) observe all necessary, appropriate and customary corporate formalities, including, but not limited to, holding all regular and special members' and directors' meetings appropriate to authorize all corporate action, keeping separate and accurate minutes of such meetings, passing all resolutions or consents necessary to authorize actions taken or to be taken, and maintaining accurate and separate books, records, and accounts, including, but not limited to, intercompany transaction accounts. Regular members' and directors' meetings shall be held at least annually;

(h) ensure that decisions with respect to its business and daily operations shall be independently made by the Corporation (although the officer making any particular decision also may be an employee, officer or director of the County Entities);

(i) act solely in its own corporate name and through its own authorized officers and agents, and use its own stationery;

(j) other than as expressly provided herein, pay all expenses, indebtedness and other obligations incurred by it;

(k) not enter into any guaranty, or otherwise become liable, with respect to any obligation of the County Entities;

(1) cause any financial reports required of the Corporation to be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and be audited

annually and be issued separately from, although they may be consolidated with, any reports prepared for any member of the County Entities; and

(m) ensure that at all times it is adequately capitalized to engage in the transactions contemplated herein.

ELEVENTH: The types or classes of Membership in the Corporation and the number of Members of the Corporation shall be described in the Corporation's By-laws,

TWELFTH: The Corporation shall be managed by a Board of Directors, who are to be comprised of those persons named in paragraph THIRTEENTH hereof (the "Directors"). Each of the Directors will serve at the pleasure of the Member and continue to hold office until his or her successor is appointed by the Member. Any subsequent increase or decrease in the size of the Board of Directors will require the unanimous approval of the Member(s) and the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors.

THIRTEENTH: The Corporation will consist of not less than seven (7) nor more than fifteen (15) Directors. The Directors will be appointed by the Member and will include (a) Erie County Legislature Majority Leader, ex officio, (b) Erie County Legislature Minority Leader, ex officio (c) Erie County Deputy Budget Director, ex officio, (d) Erie County Chief Information Officer, ex officio, (e) Erie County Attorney, ex officio, (f) Erie County Commissioner of Environment and Planning, ex officio, (g) Buffalo and Erie County Public Library Director, ex officio, and (h) any additional person(s) as so appointed by the Member.

The names and addresses of the initial Directors of the Corporation are as follows:

Timothy Meyers Eric County Legislature Majority Leader 95 Franklin Street, 4th Floor, Buffalo, New York 14202

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Joseph Lorigo Eric County Legislature Minority Leader 95 Franklin Street, 4th Floor, Buffalo, New York 14202

Benjamin Swanekamp Deputy Director, Eric County Division of Budget and Management 95 Franklin Street, 16th Floor, Buffalo, New York 14202

Michael C. Breeden Chief Information Officer 95 Franklin Street, Room 1500A, Buffalo, New York 14202

Michael Siragusa, Esq., Erie County Attorney 95 Franklin Street, Room 1634, Buffalo, New York 14202

Daniel Castle Commissioner Brie County Department of Environment and Planning 95 Franklin Street, 10th Floor, Buffalo, New York 14202

Jeannine M. Doyle Director Buffalo and Erie County Public Library 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, NY 14203

FOURTEENTH: The duration of the Corporation shall be perpetual.

FIFTEENTH: The Corporation shall indemnify each Member, each Director, each officer, and, to the extent authorized by the Board of Directors, each other person authorized to act for the Corporation or on its behalf, to the full extent to which indemnification is permitted under the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law.

SIXTEENTH: The Secretary of State of the State of New York is designated as agent of the Corporation upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Corporation served upon him is as follows: ErieNet Local Development Corporation, 95 Franklin Street, 16th Floor, Buffalo, New York 14202.

SEVENTEENTH: The By-laws of the Corporation may be adopted, amended or repealed by a majority of the Directors of the Corporation or by majority vote of the Member(s).

EIGHTEENTH: The Corporation will not do any of the following:

(a) Without the affirmative vote of all Members of the Corporation and the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors, increase or decrease the number of Members of the Corporation or increase or decrease the number of Directors of the Corporation.

(b) Without the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors of the Corporation (i) dissolve or liquidate, in whole or in part, or institute proceedings to be adjudicated bankrupt or insolvent, (ii) consent to the institution of bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings against it, (iii) file a petition seeking or consenting to reorganization or relief under any applicable federal or state law relating to bankruptcy or insolvency, (iv) consent to the appointment of a receiver, liquidator, assignee, trustee, sequestrator or other similar official of the Corporation or a substantial part of its property, (v) make a general assignment for the benefit of creditors, (vi) admit in writing its inability to pay its debts generally as they become due or (vii) take any corporate action in furtherance of the actions set forth in clauses (i) through (vi) of this paragraph.

(c) Without the affirmative vote of all of the Directors of the Corporation and all of the Corporation's members, merge or consolidate with any other corporation, company or entity or, except to the extent contemplated by paragraph THIRD hereof, sell all or substantially all of its assets or acquire all or substantially all of the assets or capital stock or other ownership interest of any other corporation, company or entity,

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this certificate has been subscribed this 21st day of April, 2022.

•

/s/ Robert G. Murray Robert G. Murray, Esq., Incorporator Harris Beach PLLC 726 Exchange Street, Suite 1000 Buffalo, New York 14210

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# NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, STATE RECORDS AND UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE FILING RECEIPT

ENTITY NAME : DOCUMENT TYPE : ENTITY TYPE :

ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION NAME RESERVATION DOMESTIC NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION

**RESERVATION ID:** FILE DATE : FILE NUMBER : TRANSACTION NUMBER : EXISTENCE DATE : **DURATION**: COUNTY : **RESERVATION PIN :** 

6445191 03/25/2022 220331002316 202203250001288-747350 04/05/2022 05/31/2022

FILER :

SERVICE COMPANY : SERVICE COMPANY ACCOUNT : CUSTOMER REFERENCE :

CARLA PENAZEK C/O HARRIS BEACH PLLC, 99 GARNSEY ROAD, PITTSFORD, NY, 14534, USA UNITED CORPORATE SERVICES, INC. 37 ERIEN84874

You may verfig this document online at : <u>http://ecorp.dos.ny.gov</u> AUTHENTICATION NUMBER : 100001463661 TOTAL FEES: \$35.00 TOTAL PAYMENIS RECEIVED: \$35.00 FILING FEE \$10.00 CASII: \$0.00 CERTIFICATE OF STATUS: \$0.00 CHECK/MONEY ORDER: \$0.00 CERTIFIED COPY: \$0.00 CREDIT CARD: \$0.00 COPY REQUEST: \$0.00 DRAWDOWN ACCOUNT: \$35.00 EXPEDITED HANDLING: \$25.00 **REFUND:** \$0.00

# Filed with the NYS Department of State on 04/26/2022 Filing Number: 220427001373 DOS ID: 6468309

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#### CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

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OF

#### ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(Under Section 1411 of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law of the State of New York)

# **UNI-37**

# DRAWDOWN

Filed by:

Robert G. Murray, Esq. Harris Beach PLLC 726 Exchange Street, Suite 1000 Buffalo, New York 14210

# EXHIBIT B

# **BY-LAWS**

**BY-LAWS** 

OF

# ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Adopted on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

# **BY-LAWS**

# OF

# ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

# **ARTICLE I - THE CORPORATION**

# SECTION 1. NAME.

The Corporation shall be known as "ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION" (hereinafter, the "Corporation"), as established within that certain Certificate of Incorporation establishing the Corporation as filed with the New York Secretary of State on April 26, 2022 (the "Certificate").

# SECTION 2. OFFICES.

The principal office of the Corporation shall be located in the County of Erie, New York (the "County"). The Corporation may also have offices at such other places within the State of New York as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine or the activities of the Corporation may require.

# SECTION 3. PURPOSES.

The Corporation shall have such purposes as are now or hereafter set forth in its Certificate of Incorporation.

# **ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP**

#### SECTION 1. COMPOSITION OF MEMBERSHIP.

The sole member of the Corporation (the "Member") shall be the County of Erie acting by and through the Erie County Executive, ex officio.

# SECTION 2. RIGHTS AND POWERS OF THE MEMBER(S).

The Member shall have and exercise all the rights and powers of corporate membership created by the laws of the State of New York, the Certificate of Incorporation and the By-Laws of the Corporation.

# SECTION 3. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION.

The Member shall hold an annual meeting of the Corporation within six months after the end of each fiscal year at a convenient time and place designated by the Member. At the annual meeting, the Member shall receive the annual report if and to the extent required under Section 4 of these By-Laws and transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting, including the appointment of Directors when appropriate.

# SECTION 4. ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBER.

At the annual meeting of the Member(s), the Directors or designated officer of the Corporation shall present an annual report showing in appropriate detail the following information:

(a) A complete audited financial statement of the Corporation for the fiscal year immediately preceding the date of the report showing the assets and liabilities, principal changes in assets and liabilities, revenue, receipts, expenses and disbursements of the Corporation; and

(b) A summary of the activities of the Corporation during the preceding year.

The annual report shall be filed with the minutes of the annual meeting.

# SECTION 5. SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE MEMBER.

The Chair, Executive Director, and/or the Treasurer may, when he/she deems it desirable, and shall, upon the request of the Member, call a special meeting of the Membership of the Corporation for the purpose of transacting any business designated in the call. The call for a special meeting may be given personally to the member or may be mailed to the business or home address of the member, or sent via electronic mail, not less than ten (10) days nor more than fifty (50) days prior to the date of the special meeting. Waivers of notice may be signed by the member for failing to receive a proper notice. At such special meeting no business shall be considered other than as designated in the call, but if the member is agreeable thereto, with or without notice thereof, any and all business may be transacted at such special meeting.

# SECTION 6. PLACE OF MEETINGS; ORGANIZATION

All membership meetings shall be held at the principal office of the Member(s) or at such other convenient location as may be determined by the Member(s). The Secretary, or, in his or her absence, a person chosen by the Member, shall keep complete and accurate minutes of the meeting.

# SECTION 7. NOTICE OF MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS; WAIVERS

(a) Notice of each membership meeting shall state the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, the place, date and time of the meeting and, unless it is the annual meeting, shall indicate that it is being issued by or at the direction of the person or persons calling the meeting. Such notice shall be given either personally, by mail or e-mail to the Member, not less than ten (10) nor more than fifty (50) days before the date of the meeting. If mailed, the notice is given when deposited in the United States mail, with postage thereon prepaid, directed to a Member at his or her address as it appears on the records of the Corporation or, if he or she shall have filed with the Secretary a written request that notices be mailed to some other address, then directed to such other address.

(b) Formal notice of meeting need not be given to a Member if he or she executes a waiver of notice, either before or after the meeting. The attendance of a Member at a meeting, without protesting prior to the conclusion of the meeting the lack of notice of such meeting, shall constitute a waiver of notice.

# SECTION 8. NO ACTION BY MEMBER WITHOUT A MEETING.

Whenever the Member is required or permitted to take any action by vote, no such action may be taken without a meeting where the Member entitled to vote thereon is present.

# SECTION 9. PROPERTY RIGHTS OF MEMBERS.

No Member shall have any rights or interests in or to the property or assets of the Corporation.

# **ARTICLE III - BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

# SECTION 1. POWER OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The Corporation shall be managed by its Board of Directors, which shall establish all general policies governing its operations.

# SECTION 2. NUMBER, ELECTION AND TERM OF DIRECTORS.

(a) The number of Directors shall be no less than seven (7) and no more than fifteen (15). Each Director shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Member of the Corporation. Directors shall continue to hold office until his or her successor is appointed by the Member. For the avoidance of all doubt, the initial number of Directors shall be seven (7), consisting of the following as follows: Erie County Legislature Majority Leader, ex officio, Erie County Legislature Minority Leader, ex officio, Erie County Deputy Budget Director, ex officio, Erie County Chief Information Officer, ex officio, Erie County Attorney, ex officio, Erie County Director, ex officio, and any additional person(s) as so appointed by the Member. Any subsequent increase or decrease in the size of the Board of Directors will require the unanimous approval of the Member and the affirmative vote of a majority of the Director.

(b) All Directors of the Board shall participate in training approved by the State of New York regarding their legal, fiduciary, financial and ethical responsibilities as Directors

within one (1) year of appointment to the Board. Thereafter, the Directors shall participate in such continuing training as may be required to remain informed of best practices, regulatory and statutory changes relating to the effective oversight of the management and financial activities of the Corporation and to adhere to the highest standards of responsible governance.

(c) As soon as practicable and in compliance with Section 2825 of the Public Authorities Law, the majority of the Directors shall be Independent Directors, as such term is defined in paragraph (f) below.

(d) Independence. For the purposes of these By-Laws, except for ex officio Directors, an Independent Director means any person who:

(i) is not, and in the past two (2) years has not been, employed by the Corporation or another corporate body having the same ownership and control of the Corporation in an executive capacity;

(ii) is not, and in the past two (2) years has not been, employed by an entity that received remuneration valued at more than fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) for goods and services provided to the Corporation or received any other form of financial assistance valued at more than fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) from the Corporation;

(iii) is not a relative of an executive officer or employee in an executive position of the Corporation or another corporate body having the same ownership and control of the Corporation; and

(iv) is not, and in the past two (2) years has not been, a lobbyist registered under a state or local law and paid by a client to influence the management decisions, contract awards, rate determinations or any other similar actions of the Corporation or another corporate body having the same ownership and control of the Corporation.

(e) Board Offices. A Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected from among the Directors of the Board at the organizational meeting and subsequent annual meetings of the Board of Directors. The Chair shall have the authority to sign all agreements, contracts, deeds and any other instruments on behalf of the Corporation. The Chair shall submit his/her recommendation and such information as he/she shall deem pertinent concerning the business, affairs, and policies of the Corporation at each meeting of the Board. In the event of a vacancy on a committee of the Corporation, the Chair may designate a successor to fill the unexpired portion of the term. In the event of a vacancy in the chair of a committee of the Corporation, the Chair will designate a successor to fill the unexpired portion of the term.

# SECTION 3. RESIGNATIONS AND REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS.

(a) Any Director of the Corporation may resign at any time by giving written notice to the other Directors or to the Chair or the Secretary. Such resignation shall take effect at the

time specified therein or, if no time is specified, then on delivery. Acceptance of the resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

(b) Any Director may be removed from the Board with or without cause by the Member(s) or for cause by vote of a majority of the Directors provided there is a quorum of not less than a majority of the entire Board present.

# SECTION 4. NEWLY CREATED DIRECTORSHIPS AND VACANCIES.

Newly created directorships resulting from an increase in the number of Directors shall be filled as described in the resolution of the Member approving such increase. Newly created directorships resulting from any vacancies occurring for any reason shall be filled by the Member. In each case, such appointments shall be made as soon as practicable but in no event later than sixty (60) days after the increase or vacancy occurs. A Director appointed to fill a vacancy caused by resignation, death, disability or removal shall hold office for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor in office and until a successor is appointed and takes office.

# SECTION 5. ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held after the annual meeting of the Member of the Corporation described in Article II, Section 3 above at a convenient time and location designated by the Board. Written notice of the annual meeting shall be mailed, emailed, or delivered to each Director of the Corporation prior to the meeting.

# SECTION 6. - ANNUAL REPORT.

The Executive Director or the Treasurer shall present at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors a copy of the annual report described in Article II, Section 4 above.

# SECTION 7. MEETINGS AND NOTICE.

(a) Regular meetings of the Board of Directors may be called at any time by the majority of Directors or by the Chair or the Executive Director. Notice of each meeting shall state the place, date and time of the meeting and, unless it is the annual meeting, shall indicate that it is being issued by or at the direction of the person or persons calling the meeting. Such notice shall be given either personally, by mail or e-mail to the Member, not less than ten (10) nor more than fifty (50) days before the date of the meeting. If mailed, the notice is given when deposited in the United States mail, with postage thereon prepaid, directed to a Member at his or her address as it appears on the records of the Corporation or, if he or she shall have filed with the Secretary a written request that notices be mailed to some other address, then directed to such other address. If electronic notice of said meeting is utilized, the transmission of the consent must be sent by e-mail and set forth, or be submitted with, information from which it can reasonably be determined that the transmission was authorized by the Director.

(b) Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called at any time by a majority of Directors or by the Chair, the Executive Director, or any other officer of the

Corporation. At least one (1) days' written notice of any special meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given to each Director, either personally or by e-mail. Said notice shall state the purpose(s), time and place of the special meeting and that no business other than that specified in the notice may be transacted; provided, however, if by unanimous consent all of the Directors present at such meeting elect to transact business not previously described in the aforementioned notice, then the Directors may transact such other business. If electronic notice of said meeting is utilized, the transmission of the consent must be sent by e-mail and set forth, or be submitted with, information from which it can reasonably be determined that the transmission was authorized by the Director.

# SECTION 8. WAIVERS OF NOTICE.

Notice of a meeting need not be given to any Director who submits a signed waiver of notice whether before or after the meeting, or who attends the meeting without protesting, prior thereto or at its commencement, the lack of notice to him or her.

# SECTION 9. PLACE OF MEETINGS.

The Board of Directors may hold its meetings at such place or places within or outside the State of New York as the Directors may from time to time by resolution determine.

# SECTION 10. OPEN MEETINGS.

The Corporation is subject to Open Meetings Law and the Corporation shall comply with the Open Meetings Law of the State of New York, as set forth within Article 7 of the New York State Public Officers Law.

# SECTION 11. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.

The Corporation is subject to the Freedom of Information Law and the Corporation shall comply with the Freedom of Information Law of the State of New York, as set forth within Article 6 of the New York State Public Officers Law.

# SECTION 12. PUBLIC AUTHORITIES ACCOUNTABILITY ACT.

The Corporation is subject to the Public Authorities Accountability Act of 2005, as amended by Chapter 506 of the Laws of 2009 (collectively, the "PAAA"), and shall comply with the PAAA, as set forth within the New York State Public Authorities Law.

# SECTION 13. QUORUM AND ADJOURNED MEETINGS.

(a) A majority of the entire Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at meetings of the Board. When a quorum is once present to organize a meeting, it shall not be broken by the subsequent withdrawal of any Director(s).

(b) A majority of the Directors present, whether or not a quorum is present, may adjourn any Board meeting to another time and place. If a quorum is present at the adjourned meeting, any business may be transacted that might have been transacted on the original date of the meeting. Notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given to all Directors.

# SECTION 14. ACTION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Any corporate action to be taken by the Board of Directors means action at a meeting of the Board. Each Director shall have one vote regarding any corporate action to be taken by the Board. Except as otherwise provided by law or these By-Laws, the vote of a majority of the Directors present at the time of the vote at a duly convened meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors. All references to actions of the Board of Directors herein and in the Certificate of Incorporation shall mean the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors present at the time of the vote at a duly convened meeting at which a quorum is present.

# SECTION 15. ORGANIZATION.

At each meeting of the Board of Directors, the Chair, or, in his or her absence, the Vice-Chair, shall preside. The Secretary, or, in his or her absence, a person chosen by a majority of the Directors present, shall keep complete and accurate minutes of the meeting.

# SECTION 16. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS.

Attendance at each meeting of the Board shall be recorded by the Secretary or the designated Director in the minutes thereof.

### SECTION 17. COMPENSATION.

The Directors shall serve in their capacity as Directors of the Corporation without compensation. All Directors may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of corporate duties.

#### SECTION 18. ANNUAL INDEPENDENT AUDIT.

The Audit Committee shall present to the Board upon its completion, the annual independent audit report performed in accordance with the requirements of the PAAA and generally accepted government auditing standards certified by a firm of independent public accountants. The certified independent public accounting firm that performs the annual independent audit shall timely report to the Audit Committee the following:

(i) the assets and liabilities, including the status of reserve, depreciation, special or other funds including the receipts and payments of such funds, of the Corporation as of the end of the fiscal year;

(ii) the principal changes in assets and liabilities, including trust funds, during said fiscal period;

(iii) the revenue or receipts of the Corporation, both unrestricted and restricted, to particular purposes during said fiscal period;

(iv) the expenses or disbursements of the Corporation for both general and restricted purposes, during said fiscal period; and

(v) a schedule of the bonds and notes of the Corporation outstanding during said fiscal period, including all refinancings, calls, refundings, defeasements, and interest rate exchange or other such agreements, and for any debt issued during the fiscal period, together with a statement of the amounts redeemed and incurred during such fiscal period as a part of a schedule of debt issuance that include the date of issuance, term, amount, interest rate, means of repayment and cost of issuance.

Furthermore, the certified independent public accounting firm that performs the annual independent audit shall timely report to the Audit Committee the following:

(i) all critical accounting policies and practices to be used;

(ii) all alternative treatments of financial information within generally accepted accounting principals that have been discussed with the management of the Corporation, ramifications of the use of such alternative disclosures and treatments, and the treatment preferred by the certified independent public accounting firm;

(iii) other material written communications between the certified independent public accounting firm and the management of the Corporation, such as the management letter along with management's response or plan of corrective action, material corrections identified or schedule of unadjusted differences, where applicable.

# SECTION 19. PROPERTY RIGHTS.

No Director of the Corporation shall, by reason of that position, have any rights to or interest in the property or assets of the Corporation.

# **ARTICLE IV - COMMITTEES**

# SECTION 1. STANDING COMMITTEES.

Except as otherwise provided in these By-laws, the chairs and all members of the committees shall be appointed by the Board at the annual meeting of the Board, and shall serve until the next annual meeting and until their successors are duly appointed and qualified. Committee members appointed to fill vacancies shall serve until the next annual meeting of the

Board and until their successors are appointed and qualified. The Standing Committees of the Board shall be as described below. Except as otherwise provided by these By-Laws, each Standing Committee shall consist of at least three Directors. In the event of a vacancy on a committee of the Corporation, or a vacancy in the chair of a committee of the Corporation, the Chair may designate a successor to fill the unexpired portion of the term. No Standing Committee shall have authority as to the following matters:

- (i) The submission to the Member of any action requiring its approval;
- (ii) The filling of vacancies on the Board of Directors or any committee;
- (iii) The amendment or repeal of these By-Laws or the adoption of new By-Laws; or
- (iv) The amendment or repeal of any resolution of the Board which by its terms is not so amendable or repealable.

# SECTION 2. FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE.

(a) The Finance & Audit Committee shall be comprised of the following:

(i) At least three (3) independent individuals whom, to the extent practicable, shall be familiar with corporate financial and accounting practices, appointed with the consent of the Board at the annual meeting of the Board.

(b) The committee chair for the Finance & Audit Committee shall be designated by a majority of the Board.

(c) The Finance & Audit Committee shall be responsible:

(i) To provide assistance to the Board in fulfilling its fiduciary responsibilities relating to accounting, reporting and regulatory compliance practices;

(ii) To maintain a direct line of communication between the Board and the Corporation's independent accountants and auditors to provide for exchanges of views and information;

(iii) To maintain, as appropriate, a direct line of communication between the Board and the governmental authorities having audit authority or official oversight of the Corporation; and

(iv) To approve the budget of the Corporation for submission to the Board.

Particularly, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Finance & Audit Committee shall be responsible for recommending to the Board the level of cash reserves and the level of fund balances. The Finance & Audit Committee shall also recommend to the Board the

hiring of a certified independent accounting firm, establish the compensation to be paid to such accounting firm, provide direct oversight of the performance of the independent audit performed by the accounting firm hired for such purposes and receive reports from such accounting firm. The Finance & Audit Committee shall report to the Board on a periodic basis, at least annually, the findings of its independent accountants and auditors. These reports shall include careful consideration of the actions taken by management on the independent accountants' and auditors' suggestions for correcting weaknesses, if any, in the Corporation's internal controls, regulatory compliance, organizational structure and operations. These reports may include the adequacy of the audit effort by the Corporation's independent accountants and auditors, the financial and regulatory compliance reporting decisions of management, the adequacy of disclosure of information essential to a fair presentation of the financial affairs and regulatory compliance efforts of the Corporation, and the organization and quality of the Corporation's system of management and internal accounting control.

(d) The Finance & Audit Committee shall be comprised of not less than three independent members, within the meaning of, and to the extent required by, Section 2825 of the New York Public Authorities Law, as amended from time to time. In the event that the Corporation has less than three independent members of its Board, the Corporation may appoint non-independent members to the Finance & Audit Committee, provided that the independent members must constitute a majority of the members of the Finance & Audit Committee.

## SECTION 3. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE.

(a) The Governance Committee shall be comprised of the following:

(i) At least three (3) independent individuals appointed with the consent of the Board at the annual meeting of the Board, who shall serve for terms of one (1) year.

(b) The committee chair for the Governance Committee shall be designated by a majority of the Board.

(c) The Governance Committee shall be responsible to:

- (i) Keep the Board informed of current best governance practices;
- (ii) Review corporate governance trends;
- (iii) Update the Corporation's corporate governance principles; and

(iv) Advise those responsible for appointing members to the Board of the skills and experience required of potential Board members.

(d) The Governance Committee shall be comprised of not less than three independent members, within the meaning of, and to the extent required by, Section 2825 of the New York Public Authorities Law, as amended from time to time. In the event that the

Corporation has less than three independent members of its Board, the Corporation may appoint non-independent members to the Governance Committee, provided that the independent members must constitute a majority of the members of the Governance Committee.

#### SECTION 4. SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

The Board of Directors, by resolution adopted by a majority of the entire Board of Directors, may create Special Committees, which shall have only the powers specifically delegated to them and shall in no case have powers which are not authorized for Standing Committees.

#### SECTION 5. MEETINGS.

Meetings of committees shall be held at such times and places as shall be fixed by the respective committee chairpersons, or by vote of a majority of all of the members of the committee. Written notice shall be mailed (via regular mail or electronic mail) or delivered to all members of the committee prior to each meeting. Written minutes of the proceedings shall be kept at all committee meetings. Formal notice of meeting need not be given to committee members if he or she executes a waiver of notice, either before or after the meeting. The attendance of a committee member at a meeting, without protesting prior to the conclusion of the meeting the lack of notice of such meeting, shall constitute a waiver of notice.

#### SECTION 6. QUORUM.

Unless otherwise provided by resolution of the Board of Directors, a majority of all of the members of a committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

#### SECTION 7. MANNER OF ACTING.

Any corporate action to be taken by a committee shall mean such action to be taken at a meeting of the committee. Action by a committee shall be taken by majority vote at a meeting.

#### **ARTICLE V - OFFICERS**

#### SECTION 1. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; TREASURER; OTHER OFFICERS.

The Corporation may have an Executive Director, a Treasurer, and a Secretary and other officers and assistant officers as the Board of Directors may determine. The offices of Executive Director and Secretary shall not be held by the same person. The officers shall have such duties as may be prescribed by these By-Laws and the Board of Directors.

#### SECTION 2. TERMS OF OFFICERS.

The officers shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at its annual meeting. Unless a shorter term is provided in the resolution of the Board appointing such officer, the term of office of each officer shall extend for one year after his or her appointment and until a successor is appointed and qualified. Officers shall be eligible to serve an unlimited number of consecutive terms.

### SECTION 3. ADDITIONAL OFFICERS.

Additional officers may be appointed for such period, have such authority and perform such duties, either in an administrative or subordinate capacity, as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine.

## SECTION 4. REMOVAL OF OFFICERS.

Any officer may be removed by majority vote of the Directors, with or without cause, at any time, provided there is a quorum of not less than a majority of the entire Board of Directors present at the meeting at which such action is taken.

#### SECTION 5. RESIGNATION.

Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board of Directors, the Executive Director or the Secretary; provided, however, the Executive Director must provide written notice of his or her intent to resign to the Board of Directors and the Secretary must provide written notice of his or her intent to resign to the Chair or the Board of Directors. Any such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein, or, if no time is specified, then on delivery. Acceptance of the resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

#### SECTION 6. VACANCIES.

A vacancy in any office of the Corporation shall be filled by the majority vote of the entire Board of Directors.

#### SECTION 7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

The Board of Directors shall appoint the Executive Director by resolution, which resolution shall set the Executive Officer's annual compensation. The Executive Director shall generally supervise all affairs of the Corporation. The Executive Director shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him or her from time to time by the Board of Directors.

## SECTION 8. SECRETARY.

The Board of Directors shall appoint the Secretary by resolution, which resolution shall set the Secretary's annual compensation. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to supervise the preparation of minutes of all meetings of the Member and the Board of Directors and its committees, the giving of all notices required to be given by the Corporation, and the keeping of a current list of the Members of the Corporation, Directors and officers and their residence addresses. The Secretary shall be responsible for supervising the preparation and maintenance of the books and records of the Corporation. The Secretary shall attend to such correspondence as may be assigned to him or her and perform all the duties customarily incidental to that office and such other duties as may be assigned to him or her by the Board of Directors or the Executive Director. From time to time, the Board of Directors may employ or contract with an appointed Acting Secretary to whom the Board of Directors may designate certain duties of the Secretary and other such duties as may be assigned to him or her.

#### SECTION 9. TREASURER.

The Board of Directors shall appoint the Treasurer by resolution, which resolution shall set the Treasurer's annual compensation. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer of the Corporation to oversee the financial affairs of the Corporation, report at each regular meeting of the Board of Directors, and participate in preparing the annual report of the Corporation and the filing of all required tax returns and other regulatory reports. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him or her by the Board of Directors or the Executive Director.

#### **ARTICLE VI - CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DRAFTS AND BANK ACCOUNTS**

#### SECTION 1. EXECUTION OF CONTRACTS.

The Board of Directors may on its own, except as these By-Laws otherwise provide, or may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, employee or employees, in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances; but, unless so authorized by the Board of Directors, or expressly authorized by these By-Laws, no officer, agent or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the Corporation by any contract or engagement or to pledge its credit or to render it liable pecuniarily in any amount for any purpose.

#### SECTION 2. LOANS.

No loans shall be contracted on behalf of the Corporation unless specifically authorized by the Board of Directors.

#### SECTION 3. CHECKS, DRAFTS, ETC.

All checks, drafts and other orders for the payment of money out of the funds of the Corporation, and all notes or other evidences of indebtedness of the Corporation, must be signed on behalf of the Corporation by two of following persons: the Executive Director, the Treasurer or the Chair of the Board.

#### SECTION 4. DEPOSITS.

All funds of the Corporation not otherwise employed shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Corporation in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the Treasurer may recommend and the Board of Directors approves.

#### SECTION 5. INVESTMENTS.

The Board of Directors may authorize the Corporation to contract with an investment advisor and custodian to manage its investments in accordance with an investment policy established by the Board.

#### **ARTICLE VII - GENERAL**

#### SECTION 1. SEAL.

The corporate seal shall have inscribed thereon the name of the Corporation, the year of its organization, and the words "Corporate Seal, New York." The seal may be used by causing it or a facsimile thereof to be impressed or affixed or otherwise reproduced.

#### SECTION 2. BOOKS AND RECORDS.

There shall be kept by the Corporation (1) correct and complete books and records of account, (2) minutes and statements of written action by the Member, (3) minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Directors and its committees, (4) a current list of the Members, Directors and officers of the Corporation and their residence addresses, (5) a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation, and (6) a copy of these By-Laws. The foregoing items shall be subject to inspection and/or audit at any time by or at the direction of the Board of Directors.

#### SECTION 3. INDEMNIFICATION.

The Corporation shall indemnify each Member, each Director, each officer, and, to the extent authorized by the Board of Directors, each other person authorized to act for the Corporation or on its behalf, to the full extent to which indemnification is permitted under the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law.

#### SECTION 4. INTERESTED DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS.

The Board of Directors may adopt a policy regarding conflicts of interest which shall apply to all directors and officers.

#### SECTION 5. LOANS TO MEMBERS AND OFFICERS.

The Corporation, either directly or indirectly, including through any subsidiary, is prohibited from extending or maintaining credit, arranging for the extension of credit or

renewing any extension of credit, in the form of a personal loan to or for any Member, Director, or Officer, or to any other company, corporation, firm, association or other entity in which one or more of the Member, Directors or Officers of the Corporation are members, director or officers or hold a substantial financial interest.

#### **ARTICLE VIII - FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall commence on the first day of January of each calendar year and end on the last day of December.

## **ARTICLE IX - RULES OF ORDER AND BYLAW CHANGES**

#### SECTION 1. RULES OF ORDER.

The Member shall preside over meetings of the Member. The Chair shall preside over all meetings of the Board of Directors. The chair of a committee shall preside over all meetings of such committee.

#### SECTION 2. BY-LAW CHANGES.

The By-Laws may be adopted, amended or repealed by the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the individuals then serving as directors or by the affirmative vote of the Member of the Corporation.

# EXHIBIT C

Reserved

#### EXHIBIT D

### ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION CERTIFICATION OF NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, being a duly appointed (member/officer/employee) of the ErieNet Local Development Corporation (the "Corporation"), do hereby certify pursuant to the By-laws and policies of the Corporation, that neither I nor my spouse, minor children, nor dependents has any interest in any contract with the Corporation; and I do further certify that I am not engaged in any activity which would constitute a conflict of interest, as defined within the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law of the State of New York.

Further, I hereby certify that I have (1) not accepted other employment which will impair my independence of judgment in the exercise of my official duties; (2) not accepted employment or engaged in any business or professional activity which will require me to disclose confidential information which I have gained by reason of my being a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation; (3) not disclosed confidential information acquired in the course of my official duties nor used such information to further my own personal interests; (4) not used or attempted to use my position with the Corporation to secure unwarranted privileges or exemptions for myself or others; (5) not engaged in any transaction as a representative or agent of the Corporation with any business entity in which I have a direct or indirect financial interest that might reasonably tend to conflict with proper discharge of my official duties; (6) not given reasonable basis for the impression that any person can improperly influence me or unduly enjoy my favor in the performance of my duties, or that I am affected by the kinship, rank, position or influence of any party or person; (7) abstained from making personal investments in enterprises which I have reason to believe may be directly involved with my responsibilities or which will otherwise create substantial conflict between my duty in the public interest and my private interests; and (8) endeavored to pursue a course of conduct which will not raise suspicion among the public that I am likely to be engaged in acts that are in violation of my Corporation responsibilities.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_

Signature

## <u>EXHIBIT E</u>

## ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FIDUCIARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As a member of the Board of Directors of the ErieNet Local Development Corporation (the "Corporation"), I understand that I have a fiduciary obligation to perform my duties and responsibilities to the best of my abilities, in good faith and with proper diligence and care, consistent with the enabling statute, mission, and By-Laws of the Corporation and the laws of New York State. The requirements set forth in this acknowledgement are based on the provisions of New York State law, including but not limited to the Public Authorities Reform Act of 2005, as amended by Chapter 506 of the Laws of 2009 of the State of New York, Public Officers Law, and General Municipal Law. As a member of the Board of Directors:

#### I. <u>Mission Statement</u>

I have read and understand the mission of the Corporation; and the mission is designed to achieve a public purpose on behalf of the State of New York. I further understand that my fiduciary duty to this Corporation is derived from and governed by its mission.

I agree that I have an obligation to become knowledgeable about the mission, purpose, functions, responsibilities, and statutory duties of the Corporation and, when I believe it necessary, to make reasonable inquiry of management and others with knowledge and expertise so as to inform my decisions.

## II. Deliberation

I understand that my obligation is to act in the best interests of the Corporation and the people of the State of New York whom the Corporation serves.

I agree that I will exercise independent judgment on all matters before the Board of Directors.

I understand that any interested party may comment on any matter or proposed resolution that comes before the Board of Directors consistent with the laws governing procurement policy and practice, be it the general public, an affected party, a party potentially impacted by such matter or an elected or appointed public official. However, I understand that the ultimate decision is mine and will be consistent with the mission of the Corporation and my fiduciary duties as a member of the Corporation's Board of Directors.

I will participate in training sessions, attend Board and committee meetings, and engage fully in the Board's and committee's decision-making process.

## III. Confidentiality

I agree that I will not divulge confidential discussions and confidential matters that come before the Board of Directors for consideration or action.

#### IV. Conflict of Interest

I agree to disclose to the Board any conflicts, or the appearance of a conflict, of a personal, financial, ethical, or professional nature that could inhibit me from performing my duties in good faith and with due diligence and care.

I do not have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engage in any business or transaction or professional activity or incur any obligation of any nature, which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of my duties in the public interest.

| Signature:        |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Print Name:       |  |
| Corporation Name: |  |
| Date:             |  |

#### EXHIBIT F

## FORM OF CERTIFICATE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF THE ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The undersigned Executive Director and Treasurer of the ErieNet Local Development Corporation, a local development corporation organized pursuant to Section 1411 of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law of the State of New York, hereby certify, pursuant to subdivision 3 of Section 2800 of the Public Authorities Law, as follows:

The financial information provided within the Annual Report of the ErieNet Local Development Corporation (the "Corporation"), dated as of \_\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ (the "Annual Report"), is accurate, correct, and does not contain any untrue statement of material fact. The Annual Report does not omit any material fact which, if omitted, would cause the report to be misleading in light of the circumstances under which the report and any such statements made therein are made. The Annual Report fairly presents in all material respects the financial condition and results of operations of the Corporation as of, and for, the periods presents in said report.

The Annual Report is hereby approved.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned Executive Director and Treasurer have executed this Certificate as of this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

Name: Title: Executive Director

Name: Title: Treasurer

# EXHIBIT G

# CODE OF ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY

### **ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

#### CODE OF ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY

This Code of Ethics and Conflicts of Interest Policy ("Policy") shall apply to the ErieNet Local Development Corporation (the "Corporation").

The members of the board (the "Board") of the Corporation, with the officers and staff of the Corporation, shall comply with and adhere to the provisions of this Code of Ethics and Conflicts of Interest Policy ("Code") adopted pursuant to and in accordance with Section 2824 of the Public Authorities Law.

## ARTICLE I Conflicts of Interest

A conflict of interest is a situation in which the financial, familial, or personal interests of a member, director, officer or employee come into "actual" or "perceived" conflict with their duties and responsibilities with the Corporation.

"Perceived" conflicts of interest are situations where there is the appearance that a member, director, officer or employee can personally benefit from actions or decisions made in their official capacity, or where a member, director, officer or employee may be influenced to act in a manner that does not represent the best interests of the Corporation. The perception of a conflict may occur if circumstances would suggest to a reasonable person that a member, director, officer or employee may have a conflict.

"Actual" conflicts of interest are situations where a member, director, officer or employee can personally benefit from actions or decisions made in their official capacity, or where a member, director, officer or employee is influenced to act in a manner that does not represent the best interests of the Corporation.

Perceived and Actual conflicts of interest should be treated in the same manner for purposes of disclosure under Article III herein.

## **ARTICLE II** Standards of Conduct

1. No member, director, officer or employee of the Corporation should accept other employment which will impair their independence of judgment in the exercise of their official duties.

2. No member, director, officer or employee of the Corporation should accept employment or engage in any business or professional activity which will require them to disclose confidential information which they have gained by reason of their official position or authority. 3. No member, director, officer or employee of the Corporation should disclose confidential information acquired by them in the course of their official duties nor use such information to further their personal interests.

4. No member, director, officer or employee of the Corporation should use or attempt to use their official position to secure unwarranted privileges or exemptions for themselves or others.

5. No member, director, officer or employee of the Corporation should engage in any transaction as representative or agent of the Corporation with any business entity in which they have a direct or indirect financial interest that might reasonably tend to conflict with the proper discharge of their official duties.

6. No member, director, officer or employee of the Corporation should by their conduct give reasonable basis for the impression that any person can improperly influence them or unduly enjoy their favor in the performance of their official duties, or that they are affected by the kinship, rank, position or influence of any party or person.

7. Each member, director, officer and employee of the Corporation should abstain from making personal investments in enterprises which they have reason to believe may be directly involved in decisions to be made by them or which will otherwise create substantial conflict between their duty in the public interest and their private interest.

8. Each member, director, officer or employee of the Corporation should endeavor to pursue a course of conduct which will not raise suspicion among the public that they are likely to be engaged in acts that are in violation of his or her trust.

## **ARTICLE III Procedures for Disclosing a Conflict of Interest**

All members, directors, officers or employees of the Corporation shall adhere to the following procedures:

1. All members, directors, officers and employees shall examine their specific facts and circumstances giving rise to the question of a conflict in order to determine:

- (i) whether such member, director, officer or employee can personally benefit from the actions or decisions made in their official capacity (i.e. Actual Conflict); or
- (ii) whether a member, director, officer or employee is influenced to act in a manner that does not represent the best interests of the Corporation (i.e. Actual Conflict); or
- (iii) whether a reasonable person would conclude that such member, director, officer or employee may have a conflict (i.e. Perceived Conflict). In determining

whether a reasonable person would conclude that there is a conflict, such member, director, officer or employee must assess the materiality within the context of the specific facts and circumstances. Provided that the event giving rise to the question of a conflict is material within the context of the specific facts and circumstances, then it would be reasonable for a person to conclude that there may be a conflict.

2. All Actual and Perceived conflicts of interest shall be disclosed in writing to the Ethics Officer as soon as practicable after learning of the Actual or Perceived conflict of interest. The written disclosure must (i) identify the matter before the Corporation, (ii) identify the Standard of Conduct in question and (iii) contain sufficient facts and circumstances in order to accurately convey the extent of the member's, director's, officer's or employee's interest in such matter. In addition, in the event a member of the board of directors of the Corporation has a conflict, he or she shall verbally disclose the conflict during a public session of a board meeting at which the matter creating the conflict appears on the agenda. Such verbal disclosure shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and be made part of the public record.

3. The member, director, officer or employee with the conflict of interest shall recuse themselves and refrain from participating in all discussions or decisions on the matter creating the conflict. In addition, in the event a member of the board of directors of the Corporation has a conflict, he or she shall, in addition to the foregoing, abstain from voting on such matter creating the conflict.

4. The member, director, officer or employee with the conflict of interest shall refrain from directly or indirectly attempting to influence the discussions, decisions, deliberations or vote on the matter giving rise to such conflict.

## **ARTICLE V**

## Penalties

Any employee that fails to comply with this Policy may be subject to termination. In addition, any member, director, officer or employee that fails to comply with this Policy may be penalized in a manner provided for in law.

#### ARTICLE VI Ethics Officer

The Executive Director shall serve as the Ethics Officer of the Corporation. In the event of a vacancy, the Board Chair shall serve as the Ethics Officer until such time as the Corporation's Board appoints a successor.

The Ethics Officer shall report to the Board. The Ethics Officer shall have the powers and duties set forth below, and such other powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Board:

1. Advise in confidence each member, director, officer or employee of the Corporation who seeks guidance regarding ethical behavior and conflicts of interest.

2. Review matters concerning ethics and conflicts of interest and advise the Corporation accordingly.

3. Receive and record disclosures of conflicts of interest.

4. Receive and investigate complaints about possible violations of this Code of Ethics. Dismiss complaints found to be without substance.

5. Report to the governance committee.

6. Prepare investigative reports when deemed appropriate of his or her findings to be submitted for action by the Executive Director or the Board.

7. Seek consultation and guidance from counsel to the Corporation, the Corporation's governance committee, or any appropriate New York State Corporation.

## ARTICLE VII Whistleblower Policy

In accordance with Title 12 of Article 9 of the Public Authorities Law, the Corporation adopted a Whistleblower Policy to afford certain protections to individuals who, in good faith, report violations of the Corporation's Code of Ethics or other instances of potential wrongdoing within the Corporation. The Policy provides Corporation members, directors, officers and employees with a confidential means to report credible allegations of misconduct, wrongdoing, or unethical behavior and to protect those individuals, when acting in good faith, from personal or professional retaliation. The Policy is provided and is accessible to all members, directors, officers and employees of the Corporation and is reviewed annually by the Corporation's Governance Committee. For additional information on this Policy, see "Whistleblower Policy & Procedures" on the Corporation's website.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 2022

# <u>EXHIBIT H</u>

# COMPENSATION, REIMBURSEMENT AND ATTENDANCE POLICY

## **ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

## BOARD MEMBER COMPENSATION, REIMBURSEMENT AND ATTENDANCE POLICY

This Compensation, Reimbursement and Attendance Policy is adopted in accordance with Section 2824 of the Public Authorities Law and applies to all directors of the ErieNet Local Development Corporation (the "Corporation").

Pursuant to and in accordance Article III, Section 17 of the Corporation's By-Laws, the members of the board the Corporation (the "Board") shall serve without salary but may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of Corporation duties. The Executive Officers of the Corporation may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of Corporation duties. Reimbursements for any expenses shall be reviewed and approved by the Board Chair. Provided, however, if the Board Chair is seeking the reimbursement allowed herein then such reimbursement shall be subject to the approval by the Chair of the Audit Committee.

The members of the Board shall be available as required to perform the operations of the Corporation and as set forth within the By-Laws of the Corporation, as may be amended, restated or revised by the Board from time to time. Said members of the Board shall put forth their best efforts to perform their respective duties as outlined in the By-Laws of the Corporation and any other directives of the Board relating to same.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_2022

# <u>EXHIBIT I</u>

# DEFENSE AND INDEMNIFICATION POLICY

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## ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

### DEFENSE AND INDEMNIFICATION POLICY

This Defense and Indemnification Policy is adopted pursuant to Article VII, Section 3 of the ErieNet Local Development Corporation (the "Corporation") By-Laws and applies to all members, directors, committee members, officers and employees of the Corporation.

The Corporation shall defend and indemnify all members and directors of the Board of the Corporation and each committee member, officer and employees thereof, in the performance of their duties, and to the extent authorized by the Board, each other person authorized to act for the Corporation or on its behalf, in accordance with the By-Laws or to the extent permitted by law.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_day of \_\_\_\_\_2022

# <u>EXHIBIT J</u>

# REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION POLICY

## ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

# **REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION POLICY**

This Real Property Acquisition Policy ("Policy") shall apply to the ErieNet Local Development Corporation (the "Corporation").

## SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

The purpose of this property acquisition policy (the "Policy") is to implement Section 2824(1)(e) of Title Two of Article 9 of the Public Authorities Law (the "Regulatory Act"), which requires that the members of the Corporation establish written policies and procedures applicable to the acquisition of real property by the Corporation.

## **SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS**

(A) "Acquire" or "acquisition" shall mean acquisition of title or any other beneficial interest in real property by the Corporation, but shall not include the acquisition of any interest in property to secure a loan or other financial obligation of another party.

(B) "Contracting Officer" shall mean the Executive Director of the Corporation or such other officer or employee of the Corporation who shall be appointed by resolution of the members of the Corporation to be responsible for the acquisition of real property by the Corporation.

## **SECTION 3. DUTIES**

(A) <u>Inventory Controls.</u> The Corporation shall maintain adequate inventory controls and accountability systems for all real property owned by the Corporation and under its control.

(B) <u>Property List.</u> The Corporation shall prepare, not less frequently than annually, a report listing all real property owned by the Corporation. Such report shall consist of a list and full description of all real and personal property acquired during such period. The report shall contain the price paid by the Corporation and the name of the seller for all such real property acquired by the Corporation during such period.

## SECTION 4. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY

(A) <u>Supervision and Direction.</u> Except as otherwise provided herein, the duly appointed Contracting Officer shall have supervision and direction over the acquisition of real property of the Corporation. The Corporation shall have the right to acquire its real property for any valid corporate purpose.

(B) <u>Appraisal Report.</u> An independent appraiser shall be hired to provide an opinion of fair market value before the Corporation shall make an offer with respect to the acquisition of the real property. The appraiser should have a professional affiliation with a national appraisal

organization and must not have an interest in the property (or be retained as an agent to sell the property). The appraisal report shall be in form and substance satisfactory to the Corporation and shall be included in the record of the transaction.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the preparation of an appraisal report shall not be required where the Corporation is acquiring the real property pursuant to a donation, or if the valuation of the real property is uncomplicated in the reasonable judgment of the Corporation and the fair market value is determined to be less than \$10,000.

## SECTION 5. METHOD OF ACQUISITION

Unless otherwise permitted by applicable law or this Policy, the Corporation shall acquire real property for not more than its fair market value by sale, exchange, or transfer, for cash, credit, or other property, with or without warranty, and upon such other terms and conditions as the Corporation and/or contracting officer deems proper. The Corporation may execute such documents for the acquisition of title or other interest in real property and take such other action as it deems necessary or proper to acquire such real property under the provisions of this Policy. Provided, however, the Corporation may acquire real property for more than its fair market value, as described in an appraisal report reviewed by the Corporation, upon a finding by the Corporation pursuant to a resolution of the members of the Corporation that the acquisition of such real property at such price is necessary for the Corporation to further its corporate purpose.

## SECTION 6. VALIDITY OF DEED, BILL OF SALE, LEASE, OR OTHER INSTRUMENT

A deed, bill of sale, lease, or other instrument executed by or on behalf of the seller of the real property and accepted by the Corporation, purporting to transfer title or any other interest in the real property of the seller to the Corporation in accordance herewith shall be conclusive evidence of compliance with the provisions of this Policy and all applicable law insofar as concerns title or other interest of any bona fide grantor or transferor who has received valuable consideration for such title or other interest and has not received actual or constructive notice of lack of such compliance prior to closing.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

# EXHIBIT K

# DISPOSITION OF REAL PROPERTY GUIDELINES

## ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

## DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY GUIDELINES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 2896 OF THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES LAW

This Disposition of Property Policy ("Policy") shall apply to the ErieNet Local Development Corporation (the "Corporation"). The Corporation, pursuant to Section 2896 of the Public Authorities Law of the State of New York, sets forth the following policies and internal controls for disposition of property.

## **SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS**

A. "Contracting officer" shall mean the officer or employee of the Corporation who shall be appointed by resolution to be responsible for the disposition of property.

B. "Dispose" or "disposal" shall mean transfer of title or any other beneficial interest in personal or real property in accordance with section 2897 of the Public Authorities Law.

C. "Property" shall mean personal property in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in value, and real property, and any inchoate or other interest in such property, to the extent that such interest may be conveyed to another person for any purpose, excluding an interest securing a loan or other financial obligation of another party.

#### **SECTION 2. DUTIES**

A. The Corporation shall:

(i) maintain adequate inventory controls and accountability systems for all property owned by the Corporation and under its control;

(ii) periodically inventory such property to determine which property shall be disposed of;

(iii) produce a written report of such property in accordance with subsection B herewith; and

(iv) transfer or dispose of such property as promptly and practicably as possible in accordance with Section 3 below.

B. The Corporation shall

(i) publish, not less frequently than annually, a report listing all real property owned in fee by the Corporation. Such report shall consist of a list and full description of all real and personal property disposed of during such period. The report shall contain the price received by the Corporation and the name of the purchaser for all such property sold by the Corporation during such period; and

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(ii) shall deliver copies of such report to the Comptroller of the State of New York, the Director of the Budget of State of New York, the Commissioner of the New York State Office of General Services, and the New York State Legislature (via distribution to the majority leader of the senate and the speaker of the assembly).

## SECTION 3. TRANSFER OR DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY

A. Supervision and Direction. Except as otherwise provided herein, the duly appointed contracting officer (the "Contracting Officer") shall have supervision and direction over the disposition and sale of property of the Corporation. The Corporation shall have the right to dispose of its property for any valid corporate purpose.

B. Custody and Control. The custody and control of Corporation property, pending its disposition, and the disposal of such property, shall be performed by the Corporation or by the Commissioner of General Services when so authorized under this section.

C. Method of Disposition. Unless otherwise permitted, the Corporation shall dispose of property for not less than its fair market value by sale, exchange, or transfer, for cash, credit, or other property, with or without warranty, and upon such other terms and conditions as the Corporation and/or contracting officer deems proper. The Corporation may execute such documents for the transfer of title or other interest in property and take such other action as it deems necessary or proper to dispose of such property under the provisions of this section. Provided, however, no disposition of real property, any interest in real property shall be made unless an appraisal of the value of such property has been made by an independent appraiser and included in the record of the transaction and provided further, that no disposition of any other property, which because of its unique nature or the unique circumstances of the proposed transaction is not readily valued by reference to an active market for similar property, shall be made without a similar appraisal.

D. Sales by the Commissioner of General Services (the "Commissioner"). When the Corporation shall have deemed that transfer of property by the Commissioner will be advantageous to the State of New York, the Corporation may enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of pursuant to which Commissioner may dispose of property of the Corporation under terms and conditions agreed to by the Corporation and the Commissioner. In disposing of any such property, the Commissioner shall be bound by the terms hereof and references to the contracting officer shall be deemed to refer to such Commissioner.

E. Validity of Deed, Bill of Sale, Lease, or Other Instrument. A deed, bill of sale, lease, or other instrument executed by or on behalf of the Corporation, purporting to transfer title or any other interest in property of the in accordance herewith shall be conclusive evidence of compliance with the provisions of these guidelines and all applicable law insofar as concerns title or other interest of any bona fide grantee or transferee who has given valuable consideration for such title or other interest and has not received actual or constructive notice of lack of such compliance prior to the closing.

F. Bids for Disposal; Advertising; Procedure; Disposal by Negotiation; Explanatory Statement.

(i) Except as permitted by all applicable law, all disposals or contracts for disposal of property made or authorized by the Corporation shall be made after publicly advertising for bids except as provided in subsection (iii) of this Section F.

(ii) Whenever public advertising for bids is required under subsection (i) of this Section F:

(A) the advertisement for bids shall be made at such time prior to the disposal or contract, through such methods, and on such terms and conditions as shall permit full and free competition consistent with the value and nature of the property proposed for disposition;

(B) all bids shall be publicly disclosed at the time and place stated in the advertisement; and

(C) the award shall be made with reasonable promptness by notice to the responsible bidder whose bid, conforming to the invitation for bids, will be most advantageous to the Corporation, price and other factors considered; provided, that all bids may be rejected at the Corporation's discretion.

(iii) Disposals and contracts for disposal of property may be negotiated or made by public auction without regard to subsections (i) and (ii) of this Section F but subject to obtaining such competition as is feasible under the circumstances, if:

(A) the personal property involved has qualities separate from the utilitarian purpose of such property, such as artistic quality, antiquity, historical significance, rarity, or other quality of similar effect, that would tend to increase its value, or if the personal property is to be sold in such quantity that, if it were disposed of under subsections (i) and (ii) of this Section F, would adversely affect the state or local market for such property, and the estimated fair market value of such property and other satisfactory terms of disposal can be obtained by negotiation;

(B) the fair market value of the property does not exceed fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000);

(C) bid prices after advertising therefor are not reasonable, either as to all or some part of the property, or have not been independently arrived at in open competition;

(D) the disposal will be to the state or any political subdivision or public benefit corporation, and the estimated fair market value of the property and other satisfactory terms of disposal are obtained by negotiation;

(E) under those circumstances permitted by subsection (v) below; or

(F) such action is otherwise authorized by law.

(iv) (A) An explanatory statement shall be prepared of the circumstances of each disposal by negotiation of:

(1) any personal property which has an estimated fair market value in excess of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000);

(2) any real property that has an estimated fair market value in excess of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), except that any real property disposed of by lease or exchange shall only be subject to clauses (3) and (4) of this subparagraph;

(3) any real property disposed of by lease, if the estimated annual rent over the term of the lease is in excess of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000); or

(4) any real property or real and related personal property disposed of by exchange, regardless of value, or any property any part of the consideration for which is real property.

(B) Each such statement shall be transmitted to the persons entitled to receive copies of the report required under Section 2(B) above not less than ninety (90) days in advance of such disposal, and a copy thereof shall be preserved in the files of the Corporation.

(v) Disposal of Property for less than Fair Market Value ("FMV").

(A) No assets owned, leased or otherwise in the control of the Corporation may be sold, leased, or otherwise alienated for less than its FMV except if:

(1) the transferee is a government or public entity and terms of transfer require ownership and use to remain with the government or public entity; or

(2) the purpose of transfer is within purpose, mission of the Corporation; or

(3) the Corporation provides written notification to the Governor, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the Temporary President of the Senate; provided, however, that such notification is subject to denial by the Governor, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the Temporary President of the Senate pursuant to the PAAA.

(B) If the Corporation proposes to make a transfer below FMV, the following information is required to be provided to the Corporation's Board of Directors and the public:

- (1) a full description of the asset;
- (2) an appraisal of the FMV of the asset;

(3) a description of purpose of transfer, the kind and amount of the benefit to the public resulting from the transfer such as jobs and wages created or preserved;

(4) a statement of the value to be received compared to FMV;

(5) the names of any private participating in the transfer, and, if different than the information required by paragraph 4 immediately above, a statement of the value to the private party;

(6) the names of other private parties that have made an offer for the asset being transferred, the value offered, and the purpose for which the asset would have been used.

(C) The Board of Directors of the Corporation must make a written determination that there is no reasonable alternative to the proposed below-market transfer that would achieve the same purpose of such transfer.

The guidelines are subject to modification and amendment at the discretion of the Corporation board and shall be filed annually with all local and state agencies as required under all applicable law.

The designated Contracting Officer for the Corporation is the Executive Director.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

# EXHIBIT L

# **INVESTMENT POLICY**

## ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

# **INVESTMENT POLICY**

This Investment Policy of the ErieNet Local Development Corporation (the "Corporation") shall apply to all operating funds, bond proceeds and other funds and all investment transactions involving operating funds, bond proceeds and other funds accounted for in the financial statements of the Corporation. Each investment made pursuant to this Investment Policy must be authorized by applicable law and this written Investment Policy. This Investment Policy is intended to comply with the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law of New York, the Public Authorities Law of New York, and any other applicable laws of New York State.

## **Delegation of Authority**

The responsibility for conducting investment transactions involving the Corporation resides with the Executive Director of the Corporation under the direction and oversight of the Treasurer of the Corporation. Only the Executive Director and those authorized by resolution or the Corporation's By-laws may invest Corporation funds.

All contracts or agreements with outside persons investing Corporation funds, advising on the investment of Corporation funds, directing the deposit of Corporation funds or acting in a fiduciary capacity for the Corporation, shall require the outside person to notify the Corporation in writing, within thirty (30) days of receipt of all communication from its auditor of the outside person or any regulatory authority, of the existence of material weakness in the internal control structure of the outside person or regulatory orders or sanctions regarding the type of services being provided to the Corporation by the outside person.

The records of investment transactions made by or on behalf of the Corporation are public records and are the property of the Corporation whether in the custody of the Corporation or in the custody of a fiduciary or other third party.

The Executive Director of the Corporation under the direction and oversight of the Treasurer shall establish a written system of internal controls and investment practices. The controls shall be designed to prevent losses of Corporation funds, to document those officers and employees of the Corporation responsible for elements of the investment process and to address the capability of investment management. The controls shall provide for receipt and review of the audited financial statements and related reports on internal control structure of all outside persons performing any of the following for the Corporation:

- (i) investing funds of the Corporation;
- (ii) advising on the investment of funds of the Corporation;
- (iii) directing the deposit or investment of funds of the Corporation; or
- (iv) acting in a fiduciary capacity for the Corporation.

A bank, savings and loan association or credit union providing only depository services shall not be required to provide an audited financial statement and related report on its internal control structure.

## Objectives

The primary objectives, in order of priority, of all investment activities involving the financial assets of the Corporation shall be the following:

(i) <u>Safety</u>: Safety and preservation of principal in the overall portfolio is the foremost investment objective;

(ii) <u>Liquidity</u>: Maintaining the necessary liquidity to match expected liabilities and expenses is the second investment objective;

(iii) <u>Return</u>: Obtaining a reasonable return is a third investment objective

## **Operative Policy**

The Corporation shall conduct its investment activities involving all operating funds, bond proceeds and other funds and all investment transactions involving operating funds, bond proceeds and other funds accounted for in the financial statements of the Corporation in a manner that complies with the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law and the Public Authorities Law of New York State.

Prior to making an investment of any operating funds, bond proceeds and other funds of the Corporation, other than those associated with a bank, savings and loan association or credit union involving a depository relationship only, the Corporation shall obtain at least three (3) bids and award the contract to the most responsible bidder whose bid most closely meets the objectives of this Investment Policy.

The Executive Director, the Treasurer and all officers and employees of the Corporation involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with the proper execution of the investment program, or which could impair their ability to make impartial investment decisions.

The Executive Director/Treasurer shall submit to the Board an investment report that summarizes recent market conditions and investment strategies employed since the last investment report. The report shall set out the current portfolio in terms of maturity, rates of return and other features and summarize all investment transactions that have occurred during the reporting period and compare the investment results with budgetary expectations, if any.

## **Investments & Deposits**

- A. Investments
  - 1. Permitted Investments

Pursuant to the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law ("N-PCL"), the Corporation is authorized to invest moneys not required for immediate expenditure for terms not to exceed its projected cash flow needs in the following types of investments:

- a. Special time deposit accounts;\*
- b. Certificates of deposit;\*
- c. Obligations of the United States of America;\*\*
- d. Obligations guaranteed by agencies of the United States of America where payment of principal and interest are guaranteed by the United States of America;\*\*
- e. Obligations of the State of New York;\*

\*Special time deposit accounts and certificates of deposit are permitted investments provided that (1) they shall be payable within such time as the proceeds shall be needed to meet expenditures for which the moneys were obtained and (2) they are collateralized in the same manner as set forth in paragraph (B) below for deposits of public funds.

\*\*All investment obligations shall be payable or redeemable at the option of the Corporation within such times as the proceeds will be needed to meet expenditures for purposes for which the moneys were provided and, in the case of obligations purchased with the proceeds of bonds or notes, shall be payable or redeemable at the option of the Corporation within two years of the date of purchase.

2. Authorized Financial Institutions and Dealers

The Corporation shall maintain a list of financial institutions and dealers, approved for investment purposes and establish appropriate limits to the amount of investments which can be made with each financial institution or dealer. All financial institutions with which the local government conducts business must be credit worthy. Banks shall provide their most recent Consolidated Report of Condition (Call Report) at the request of the Corporation. Security dealers not affiliated with a bank shall be required to be classified as reporting dealers affiliated with the New York Federal Reserve Bank, as primary dealers. The Chairman or Chairperson of the Board of Directors is responsible for evaluating the financial position and maintaining a listing of proposed depositaries, trading partners and custodians. Such listing shall be evaluated at least annually.

3. Purchase of Investments

The Corporation may contract for the purchase of investments:

- a. Directly, including through a repurchase agreement, from an authorized trading partner.
- b. By utilizing an ongoing investment program with an authorized trading partner pursuant to a contract authorized by the board of Directors.

All purchased obligations, unless registered or inscribed in the name of the Corporation, shall be purchased through, delivered to and held in the custody of a bank or trust company. Such obligations shall be purchased, sold or presented for redemption or payment by such bank or trust company only in accordance with prior written authorization from the officer authorized to make the investment. All such transactions shall be confirmed in writing to the Corporation by the bank or trust company shall be held pursuant to a written custodial agreement as described in the N-PCL.

The custodial agreement shall provide that securities held by the bank or trust company, as agent of and custodian for, the Corporation, will be kept separate and apart from the general assets of the custodial bank or trust company and will not, in any circumstances, be commingled with or become part of the backing for any other deposit or other liabilities. The agreement shall describe how the custodian shall confirm the receipt and release of the securities. Such agreement shall include all provisions necessary to provide the Corporation a perfected interest in the securities.

4. Repurchase Agreements

Repurchase agreements are authorized subject to the following restrictions:

- a. All repurchase agreements must be entered into subject to a Master Repurchase Agreement.
- b. Trading partners are limited to banks or trust companies authorized to do business in New York State and primary reporting dealers.
- c. Obligations shall be limited to obligations of the United States of America and obligations guaranteed by agencies of the United States of America.
- d. No substitution of securities will be allowed.
- e. The custodian shall be a party other than the trading partner.

## B. Deposits

1. Collateralization of Deposits

All deposits of the Corporation, including certificates of deposit and special time deposits, in excess of the amount insured under the provisions of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act shall be secured:

- a. By pledge of "eligible securities" with an aggregate "market value" as provided by the N-PCL, equal to the aggregate amount of deposits from the categories designated in Exhibit A attached hereto.
- b. By an eligible "irrevocable letter of credit" issued by a qualified bank other than the bank with the deposits in favor of the Corporation for a term not to exceed ninety (90) days with an aggregate value equal to 140% of the aggregate amount of deposits and the agreed upon interest, if any. A qualified bank is one whose commercial paper and other unsecured short-term debt obligations are rated in one of the three highest rating categories by at least on nationally recognized statistical rating organization or by a bank that is in compliance with applicable federal minimum risk-based capital requirements.
- c. By an eligible surety bond payable to the Corporation for an amount at least equal to 100% of the aggregate amount of deposits and the agreed upon interest, if any, executed by an insurance company authorized to do business in New York State, whose claims-paying ability is rated in the highest rating category by at least two nationally recognized statistical rating organizations. The terms and conditions of any eligible surety shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

## 2. Safekeeping and Collateralization

Eligible securities used for collateralizing deposits shall be held by the depository bank or trust company subject to security and custodial agreements.

The security agreement shall provide that eligible securities are being pledged to secure Corporation deposits together with agreed upon interest, if any and any costs or expenses arising out of the collection of such deposits upon default. It shall also provide the conditions under which the securities may be sold, presented for payment, substituted or released and the events, which will enable the Corporation to exercise its rights against the pledged securities. In the event that the securities are not registered or inscribed in the name of the Corporation, such securities shall be delivered in a form suitable for transfer or with an assignment in blank to the Corporation or its custodial bank.

The custodial agreement shall provide that securities held by the bank or trust company, or agent of and custodian for, the Corporation, will be kept separate and apart from the general assets of the custodial bank or trust company and will not, in any circumstances, be commingled with or become part of backing for any other deposit or other liabilities. The agreement should also describe that the custodian shall confirm the receipt, substitution or release of the securities. The agreement shall provide for the frequency of revaluation of eligible securities and for the substitution of securities when a change in the rating of a security may cause ineligibility. Such agreement shall include all provisions necessary to provide the Corporation a perfected interest in the securities.

Approved and adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

## EXHIBIT A

## SCHEDULE OF ELIGIBLE SECURITIES

(1) Obligations issued, or fully insured or guaranteed as to the payment of principal and interest by the United States of America, an Agency thereof or a United States government sponsored corporation.

(2) Obligations issued or fully guaranteed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the African Development Bank.

(3) Obligations partially insured or guaranteed by any Corporation of the United States of America, at a proportion of the Market Value of the obligation that represents the amount of the insurance or guaranty.

(4) Obligations issued or fully insured or guaranteed by the State of New York, obligations issued by a municipal corporation, school district or district corporation or such State or obligations of any public benefit corporation which under a specific State statute may be accepted as security for deposit of public moneys.

(5) Obligations issued by states (other than the State of New York) of the United States rated in one of the three highest rating categories by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

(6) Obligations of Puerto Rico rated in one of the three highest rating categories by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

(7) Obligations of countries, cities and other governmental entities of a state other than the State of New York having the power to levy taxes that are backed by the full faith and credit of such governmental entity and rated in one of the three highest categories by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

(8) Obligations of domestic corporations rated one of the two highest rating categories by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

(9) Commercial paper and bankers' acceptances issued by a bank, other than the Bank, rated in the highest short term category by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization and having maturities of not longer than 60 days from the date they are pledged.

(10) Zero Coupon obligations of the United States government marketed as "Treasury strips".

# EXHIBIT M

# **PROCUREMENT POLICY**

# ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

#### **PROCUREMENT POLICY**

#### A. Introduction

- 1. Applicability This Procurement Policy ("Policy") shall apply to the ErieNet Local Development Corporation (the "Corporation") upon approval by the respective Board of Directors or Members of the Corporation.
- 2. Scope In accordance with Section 104-b of the New York General Municipal Law (the "GML") and the Public Authorities Accountability Act of 2005, the Corporation is required to adopt procurement policies which will apply to the procurement of goods and services paid for by the Corporation for its own use and account.
- 3. Purpose Pursuant to Section 104-b of the GML, the primary objectives of this Policy are to assure the prudent and economical use of public monies in the best interests of the taxpayers of the County of Erie, to facilitate the acquisition of goods and services of maximum quality at the lowest possible cost under the circumstances and to guard against favoritism, improvidence, extravagance, fraud and corruption.

#### **B. Procedures**

- 1. Solicitation Procedures for the Purchase of Commodities, Equipment, Goods or Services.
  - a. Up to \$5,000 per instance The discretion of the Executive Director of the Corporation or authorized designee.
  - b. Greater than \$5,000 to \$20,000 per instance Documented verbal quotations or written/fax/email quotations from at least three vendors.
  - c. Greater than \$20,000 per instance Written Request for Proposal.
- 2. Exceptions. Alternative proposals or quotations shall not be required for procurements made through or with respect to:
  - a. New York State or Erie County Contracts when the Corporation is able to procure commodities, equipment, goods or services through New York State or Erie County contracts, it is unnecessary to obtain quotations or bids;
  - b. State Finance Law Section 175-b (from agencies for the blind or severely handicapped);

- c. Correction Law Section 186 (articles manufactured in correctional institutions);
- d. Emergency Procurements as also described in Section E(2), below, an emergency exists if the delay caused by soliciting quotes would endanger health, welfare, property or an economic development opportunity. Approval of the Executive Director is necessary, which shall be documented and shall also include a description of the facts giving rise to the emergency.
- e. Sole Source Procurements A "sole source" means a situation where (i) there is only one possible source from which to produce goods and/or services available in the marketplace, (ii) no other goods and/or services provide substantially equivalent or similar benefits, and (iii) considering the benefits, the cost to the Corporation is reasonable.
- f. Utilities and Affiliate Transactions The purchase of utilities and inter-affiliate transactions are excepted from alternative proposal/quotation requirements.
- g. Unavailability of three (3) vendors who are able or willing to provide a quote.
- 3. Basis for the Award of Contracts.

Contracts will be awarded to the lowest responsible dollar offeror who meets the specifications therefor, except in circumstances that the Corporation determines justify an award to other than the lowest responsible dollar offeror. In making any such determination, the Corporation may consider relevant factors including, without limitation:

- a. Delivery requirements
- b. Quality requirements
- c. Quantity requirements
- d. Past vendor performance and/or experience
- e. The unavailability of three or more vendors who are able or willing to quote on a procurement.
- f. It may be in the best interests of the Corporation to consider only one vendor who has previous expertise with respect to a particular
- g. Any procurement excepted from the alternative proposal/quotation requirements as set forth in subdivision 2 of this Section B, and the procurement of professional services in Section F of this Policy.

- 4. Documentation.
  - a. A record of all solicitations for alternative proposals or quotations, the response (if applicable), and any determinations pursuant thereto shall be maintained in the procurement file.
  - b. For each procurement by the Corporation the Executive Director of the Corporation or authorized designee shall set forth in writing the category of procurement that is being made and what method of procurement is specified.
  - c. Whenever an award is made to other than the lowest responsible dollar offeror the reasons for doing so shall be set forth in writing and maintained in the procurement file.
  - d. Whenever the specified number of quotations cannot or will not be secured, the reasons for this shall be indicated in writing and maintained in the procurement file.

# C. Preferred Source Procurement

In accordance with Section 162(4) of State Finance Law, the Corporation seeks to purchase goods and services from veterans, not-for-profit organizations that serve and employ people who are blind and severely handicapped, and from correctional industry programs if they meet the Corporation's needs.

# **D.** Effect on Other Procurement Requirements.

Where the procurement of a specific good or service is to be accomplished using funds other than the funds of the Corporation and such funding sources specify different or more restrictive procurement requirements than are provided for in this Policy, the procurement requirements of the funding source will supersede the requirements of this Policy. Toward this end, the Corporation will follow the procurement standards as set forth in 2 CFR Part 200 for any procurements utilizing federal funds unless otherwise superseded by the specific federal award agreement.

# E. Circumstances where Solicitations of Alternative Proposals and Quotations not in the Best Interest of the Corporation.

Pursuant to Section 104-b(2)(g) of the New York General Municipal Law, this Policy may contain circumstances when, or types of procurements for which, in the sole discretion of the members of the Board of Directors of the Corporation, the solicitation of alternative proposals or quotations will not be in the best interest of the Corporation. In the following circumstances, it may not be in the best interests of the Corporation to solicit quotations or document the basis for not accepting the lowest bid:

**1. Professional Services.** Professional services are services requiring special or technical skill, licensing, training or expertise. The individual, company or firm must be chosen based on accountability, reliability, responsibility, skill, conflict of

interests, reputation, education and training, judgement, integrity, continuity of service and moral worth. Furthermore, certain professional services to be provided to the Corporation, e.g., legal and accounting services, impact liability issues of the Corporation and its members, including securities liability in circumstances where the Corporation is issuing bonds. These qualifications and the concerns of the Corporation regarding its liability and the liability of its members are not necessarily found or addressed in the individual, company or firm that offers the lowest price and the nature of these services are such that they do not readily lend themselves to competitive procurement procedures.

In determining whether a service fits into this category, the Corporation shall take into consideration the following guidelines: (a) whether the services are subject to state licensing or testing requirements; (b) whether substantial formal education or training is a necessary prerequisite to the performance of the services; and (c) whether the services require a personal relationship between the individual and the members of the Corporation. Professional or technical services shall include but not be limited to the following: services of an attorney (including bond counsel); technical services of an engineer or architect engaged to prepare plans, maps and estimates; securing insurance coverage and/or services of an insurance broker; services of a certified public accountant; investment management services; management of Corporation-owned property; and computer software or programming services for customized programs, or services involved in substantial modification and customizing of pre-packaged software.

**2. Emergency Purchases.** Emergency purchases pursuant to Section 103(4) of the General Municipal Law. Due to the nature of this exception, these goods or services must be purchased immediately and a delay in order to seek alternate proposals may threaten the life, health, safety or welfare of the public. This section does not preclude alternate proposals if time permits.

#### F. Procurement of Insurance.

Procurement of Insurance Brokerage services is subject to this Policy as a professional service. Notwithstanding the foregoing actual insurance policies procured are not subject to requirements of this Policy.

#### G. Procurement Lobbying Law.

In accordance with Chapter 1 of the Laws of 2005, generally referred to as the "Procurement Lobbying Law", the Corporation shall implement the provision of such Procurement Lobbying Law for any contract or other agreement for an article of procurement involving an estimated annualized expenditure in excess of \$15,000.

# H. Unintentional Failure to Comply.

The unintentional failure to comply with the provisions of Section 104-b of the GML shall not be grounds to void action taken or give rise to a cause of action against the Corporation or any officer thereof.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

# EXHIBIT N

# TRAVEL AND DISCRETIONARY FUNDS POLICY

# ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TRAVEL & DISCRETIONARY FUNDS POLICY

## Section 1. PURPOSE & APPLICABILITY

#### A. INTRODUCTION

Applicability – This Travel and Discretionary Funds Policy ("Policy") shall apply to the ErieNet Local Development Corporation (the "Corporation").

The purpose of this policy is to implement a provision of the Public Authorities Accountability Act requiring the adoption of certain policies and to adhere to the recommended practices of the NYS Authorities Budget Office (the "ABO") to protect against the use of discretionary funds for purposes that do not advance the Corporation's mission and public purposes. Public Authorities Law §2824 requires the Corporation to adopt a policy to govern business travel and the ABO, by and through its Recommended Practice entitled <u>Written Policies</u> Governing the Use of Authority Discretionary Funds (November 2012), that specifically recommends adoption by the Corporation a policy on the proper use of discretionary funds that incorporates the legal principals set forth in NYS Attorney General in opinion #2007-F4. This Policy shall apply to the Corporation, along with every member of the board (the "Board") of the Corporation and all officers and employees thereof.

#### Section 2. TRAVEL

#### A. APPROVAL OF TRAVEL

All official travel for which a reimbursement will be sought must be approved by the Executive Director prior to such travel. Provided, however, in the instance where the Executive Director will seek reimbursement for official travel, such travel must be pre-authorized by the Chair.

#### B. PAYMENT OF TRAVEL

The Corporation will reimburse all reasonable expenses related to meals, travel and lodging that were incurred by any director, officer or employee as a result of the performance of their official duties. All official travel shall be properly authorized, reported and reimbursed. Under no circumstances shall expenses for personal travel be charged to, or temporarily funded by the Corporation. It is the traveler's responsibility to report his or her travel expenses in a responsible and ethical manner, in accordance with this policy.

# C. TRAVEL EXPENSES

Travelers may use their private vehicle for business purposes if it is less expensive than renting a car, taking a taxi, or using alternative transportation, or if it saves time. The traveler will be reimbursed at a standard mileage reimbursement rate.

Meals will be reimbursed at actual expense or a per diem rate, whichever is less. Lodging will be reimbursed at actual expense up to certain daily rate caps established for various locations. The applicability of such caps shall be determined on a case by case basis talking into consideration availability of lodging and other extenuating circumstances.

Reimbursement for miscellaneous expenses shall be determined on a case by case basis. Mileage rates, per diem allowances and lodging caps will be established and from time to time amended by the Executive Director or his or designee. All expense reimbursement determinations made pursuant to this paragraph C. shall be made by the Executive Director or his or her designee.

#### Section 3. DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

#### A. USE OF DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

The expenditure of Corporation funds must relate directly to an enumerated power, duty or purpose of the Corporation. Therefore, the use of discretionary funds shall be limited to expenditures that directly benefit the Corporation in advancing its mission and public purposes. Discretionary funds shall not be used in a manner that primarily benefits the individual board member, officer or employee.

#### B. PRIOR APPROVAL

All expenditures of discretionary funds shall be approved by the Executive Director prior to such expenditure. Provided, however, in the instance where the Executive Director will seek an expenditure of discretionary funds, such expenditure shall be pre-authorized by the Chair of the Corporation. The Executive Director or the Chair, as the case may be, shall review the proposed use of funds and reasonably determine whether such use (i) primarily benefits the Corporation as opposed to an individual board member, officer or employee and (ii) directly advances the mission and public purpose of the Corporation. Scrutiny of all expenses will be guided by judgement relating to the relevance of such costs and the benefits which may accrue from such activities.

# C. APPROPRIATE EXPENDITURE GUIDANCE

(i) Membership Dues – Membership dues paid for the Corporation to belong to a professional peer organization is a permissible use of Corporation funds. However, individual membership costs for board members, officers and employees to belong to a professional, social or fraternal organization whereby the membership is of and the primary benefit is to, the individual rather than the Corporation, should not be an Corporation expenditure.

(ii) Food & Beverages – With the exception of food and beverages purchased during business travel as provided herein, expenditures of food and beverages for the personal consumption of board members, officers and employees should not be considered an appropriate use of Corporation discretionary funds. Provided, however, expenditures for food and beverages purchased for or during the conduct of Corporation business with persons that do business with

the Corporation may be an appropriate expenditure of Corporation discretionary funds, provided that the expense is reasonable in light of the circumstances surrounding the Corporation activity and is pre-approved as set forth herein.

(iii) Professional Training, Certification and Licensing - Paying the costs to attend training to maintain certifications or licenses, or to attend professional conferences may be an appropriate expenditure of Corporation discretionary funds.

(iv) Marketing – Expenses incurred in the course of marketing the Corporation's area to prospects and relations with existing industries and businesses and supporting partners in the furtherance of the Corporation's mission and purpose may be an appropriate expenditure of Corporation discretionary funds.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

# EXHIBIT O

# WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY

# ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

## WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY AND PROCEDURES

#### I. Introduction

- a. Applicability: This Whistleblower Policy ("Policy") ErieNet Local Development Corporation (the "Corporation").
- b. Scope: In accordance with Title 12 of Article 9 of the Public Authorities Law, the Corporation is required to adopt a policy to afford certain protections to individuals who, in good faith, report violations of the Corporation's Code of Ethics or other instances of potential wrongdoing within the Corporation.
- c. Purpose: This Policy provides Corporation members, directors, committee members, officers, and employees with a confidential means to report credible allegations of misconduct, wrongdoing, or unethical behavior and to protect those individuals, when acting in good faith, from personal or professional retaliation.

# II. Definitions

- a. "Good Faith": Information concerning potential wrongdoing is disclosed in "good faith" when the individual making the disclosure reasonably believes such information to be true and reasonably believes that it constitutes potential wrongdoing.
- b. "Corporation Employee": All members, directors, committee members, officers, and staff employed at the Corporation whether employed full-time or part-time, employed pursuant to a contract, employed temporarily, or employees who are on probation.
- c. "Whistleblower": Any Corporation employee (as defined herein) who in good faith discloses information concerning wrongdoing by another Corporation employee, or concerning the business of the Corporation itself.
- d. "Wrongdoing": Any alleged corruption, fraud, criminal or unethical activity, misconduct, waste, conflict of interest, intentional reporting of false or misleading information, or abuse of authority engaged in by an Corporation employee (as defined herein) that relates to the Corporation.
- e. "Personnel action": Any action affecting compensation, appointment, promotion, transfer, assignment, reassignment, reinstatement or evaluation of performance.

#### III. Reporting Wrongdoing

All Corporation employees who discover or have knowledge of potential wrongdoing concerning board members, officers, or employees of the Corporation; or a person having

business dealings with the Corporation; or concerning the Corporation itself, shall report such activity in accordance with the following procedures:

- a. The Corporation Employee shall disclose any information concerning wrongdoing either orally or in a written report to his or her supervisor, or to the Corporation's ethics officer, general counsel, or human resources representative.
- b. All Corporation Employees who discover or have knowledge of wrongdoing shall report such wrongdoing in a prompt and timely manner.
- c. The identity of the whistleblower and the substance of his or her allegations will be kept confidential to the best extent possible.
- d. The individual to whom the potential wrongdoing is reported shall investigate and handle the claim in a timely and reasonable manner, which may include referring such information to the Authorities Budget Office or an appropriate law enforcement Corporation where applicable.
- e. Should an Corporation Employee believe in good faith that disclosing information within the Corporation pursuant to Section 3(a) above would likely subject him or her to adverse personnel action or be wholly ineffective, the Corporation Employee may instead disclose the information to the Authorities Budget Office or to an appropriate law enforcement Corporation, if applicable. The Authorities Budget Office's toll free number (1-800-560-1770) should be used in such circumstances.

# IV. No Retaliation or Interference

No Corporation Employee shall retaliate against any whistleblower for the disclosure of potential wrongdoing, whether through threat, coercion, or abuse of authority; and, no Corporation Employee shall interfere with the right of any other Corporation employee by any improper means aimed at deterring disclosure of potential wrongdoing. Any attempts at retaliation or interference are strictly prohibited and:

- a. No Corporation Employee who, in good faith, discloses potential violations of the Corporation's Code of Ethics or other instances of potential wrongdoing shall suffer harassment, retaliation or adverse personnel action.
- b. All allegations of retaliation against a Whistleblower or interference with an individual seeking to disclose potential wrongdoing will be thoroughly investigated by the Corporation.
- c. Any Corporation Employee who retaliates against or attempts to interfere with any individual for having in good faith disclosed potential violations of the Corporation's Code of Ethics or other instances of potential wrongdoing is subject to disciplinary action, which may include termination of employment.

d. Any allegation of retaliation or interference will be taken and treated seriously and irrespective of the outcome of the initial complaint, will be treated as a separate matter.

# V. Other Legal Rights Not Impaired

The Whistleblower Policy and Procedures set forth herein are not intended to limit, diminish or impair any other rights or remedies that an individual may have under the law with respect to disclosing potential wrongdoing free from retaliation or adverse personnel action.

- a. Specifically, these Whistleblower Policy and Procedures are not intended to limit any rights or remedies that an individual may have under the laws of the State of New York, including but not limited to the following provisions: Civil Service Law § 75-b, Labor Law § 740, State Finance Law § 191 (commonly known as the "False Claims Act"), and Executive Law § 55(1).
- b. With respect to any rights or remedies that an individual may have pursuant to Civil Service Law § 75-b or Labor Law § 740, any employee who wishes to preserve such rights shall, prior to disclosing information to a government body, have made a good faith effort to provide the appointing authority or his or her designee the information to be disclosed and shall provide the appointing authority or designee a reasonable time to take appropriate action unless there is imminent and serious danger to public health or safety. (See Civil Service Law § 75-b[2][b]; Labor Law § 740[3]).

# VI. Implementation

This Whistleblower Policy shall be provided to all members, directors, officers, and employees of the Corporation.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

# EXHIBIT P

# SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND PREVENTION POLICY

# ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

# SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION POLICY

#### **Introduction**

This Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy ("Policy") shall apply to the ErieNet Local Development Corporation (the "Corporation") upon approval by the respective Board of Directors or Members of the Corporation.

The Corporation is committed to maintaining a workplace free from sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is a form of workplace discrimination. All employees are required to work in a manner that prevents sexual harassment in the workplace. This Policy is one component of the Corporation commitment to a discrimination-free work environment. Sexual harassment is against the law<sup>1</sup> and all employees have a legal right to a workplace free from sexual harassment and employees are urged to report sexual harassment by filing a complaint internally with Corporation. Employees can also file a complaint with a government Corporation or in court under federal, state or local antidiscrimination laws.

# **Policy:**

- 1. Corporation's policy applies to all employees, applicants for employment, interns, whether paid or unpaid, contractors and persons conducting business, regardless of immigration status, with Corporation. In the remainder of this document, the term "employees" refers to this collective group.
- 2. Sexual harassment will not be tolerated. Any employee or individual covered by this policy who engages in sexual harassment or retaliation will be subject to remedial and/or disciplinary action (e.g., counseling, suspension, termination).
- 3. Retaliation Prohibition: No person covered by this Policy shall be subject to adverse action because the employee reports an incident of sexual harassment, provides information, or otherwise assists in any investigation of a sexual harassment complaint. Corporation will not tolerate such retaliation against anyone who, in good faith, reports or provides information about suspected sexual harassment. Any employee of Corporation who retaliates against anyone involved in a sexual harassment investigation will be subjected to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. All employees, paid or unpaid interns, or non-employees<sup>2</sup> working in the workplace who believe they have been subject to such retaliation should inform a supervisor, manager, or the Executive Director. All employees, paid or unpaid interns or non-employees who believe they have been a target of such

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> While this policy specifically addresses sexual harassment, harassment because of and discrimination against persons of all protected classes is prohibited. In New York State, such classes includeage, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, sex, disability, marital status, domestic violence victim status, gender identity and criminal history.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> A non-employee is someone who is (or is employed by) a contractor, subcontractor, vendor, consultant, or anyone providing services in the workplace. Protected non-employees include persons commonly referred to as independent contractors, "gig" workers and temporary workers. Also included are persons providing equipment repair, cleaning services or any other services provided pursuant to a contract with the employer.

Adoption of this policy does not constitute a conclusive defense to charges of unlawful sexual harassment. Each claim of sexual harassment will be determined in accordance with existing legal standards, with due consideration of the particular facts and circumstances of the claim, including but not limited to the existence of an effective anti-harassment policy and procedure.

retaliation may also seek relief in other available forums, as explained below in the section on Legal Protections.

- 4. Sexual harassment is offensive, is a violation of our policies, is unlawful, and may subject Corporation to liability for harm to targets of sexual harassment. Harassers may also be individually subject to liability. Employees of every level who engage in sexual harassment, including managers and supervisors who engage in sexual harassment or who allow such behavior to continue, will be penalized for such misconduct.
- 5. Corporation will conduct a prompt and thorough investigation that ensures due process for all parties, whenever management receives a complaint about sexual harassment, or otherwise knows of possible sexual harassment occurring. Corporation will keep the investigation confidential to the extent possible. Effective corrective action will be taken whenever sexual harassment is found to have occurred. All employees, including managers and supervisors, are required to cooperate with any internal investigation of sexual harassment.
- 6. All employees are encouraged to report any harassment or behaviors that violate this policy. Corporation will provide all employees a complaint form for employees to report harassment and file complaints.
- 7. Managers and supervisors are **required** to report any complaint that they receive, or any harassment that they observe or become aware of, to the Executive Director.
- 8. This policy applies to all employees, paid or unpaid interns, and non-employees and all must follow and uphold this policy. This policy must be provided to all employees and should be posted prominently in all work locations to the extent practicable (for example, in a main office, not an offsite work location) and be provided to employees upon hiring.

# What Is "Sexual Harassment"?

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination and is unlawful under federal, state, and (where applicable) local law. Sexual harassment includes harassment on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, self-identified or perceived sex, gender expression, gender identity and the status of being transgender.

Sexual harassment includes unwelcome conduct which is either of a sexual nature, or which is directed at an individual because of that individual's sex when:

- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment, even if the reporting individual is not the intended target of the sexual harassment;
- Such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment; or

• Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting an individual's employment.

A sexually harassing hostile work environment includes, but is not limited to, words, signs, jokes, pranks, intimidation or physical violence which are of a sexual nature, or which are directed at an individual because of that individual's sex. Sexual harassment also consists of any unwanted verbal or physical advances, sexually explicit derogatory statements or sexually discriminatory remarks made by someone which are offensive or objectionable to the recipient, which cause the recipient discomfort or humiliation, which interfere with the recipient's job performance.

Sexual harassment also occurs when a person in authority tries to trade job benefits for sexual favors. This can include hiring, promotion, continued employment or any other terms, conditions or privileges of employment. This is also called "quid pro quo" harassment.

Any employee who feels harassed should report so that any violation of this policy can be corrected promptly. Any harassing conduct, even a single incident, can be addressed under this policy.

# **Examples of sexual harassment**

The following describes some of the types of acts that may be unlawful sexual harassment and that are strictly prohibited:

- Physical acts of a sexual nature, such as:
  - Touching, pinching, patting, kissing, hugging, grabbing, brushing against another employee's body or poking another employee's body;
  - Rape, sexual battery, molestation or attempts to commit these assaults.
- Unwanted sexual advances or propositions, such as:
  - Requests for sexual favors accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning the target's job performance evaluation, a promotion or other job benefits or detriments;
  - Subtle or obvious pressure for unwelcome sexual activities.
- Sexually oriented gestures, noises, remarks or jokes, or comments about a person's sexuality or sexual experience, which create a hostile work environment.
- Sex stereotyping occurs when conduct or personality traits are considered inappropriate simply because they may not conform to other people's ideas or perceptions about how individuals of a particular sex should act or look.
- Sexual or discriminatory displays or publications anywhere in the workplace, such as:
  - Displaying pictures, posters, calendars, graffiti, objects, promotional material, reading materials or other materials that are sexually demeaning or pornographic. This includes such sexual displays on workplace computers or cell phones and sharing such displays while in the workplace.

- Hostile actions taken against an individual because of that individual's sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and the status of being transgender, such as:
  - Interfering with, destroying or damaging a person's workstation, tools or equipment, or otherwise interfering with the individual's ability to perform the job;
  - Sabotaging an individual's work;
  - Bullying, yelling, name-calling.

#### Who can be a target of sexual harassment?

Sexual harassment can occur between any individuals, regardless of their sex or gender. New York Law protects employees, paid or unpaid interns, and non-employees, including independent contractors, and those employed by companies contracting to provide services in the workplace. Harassers can be a superior, a subordinate, a coworker or anyone in the workplace including an independent contractor, contract worker, vendor, client, customer or visitor.

#### Where can sexual harassment occur?

Unlawful sexual harassment is not limited to the physical workplace itself. It can occur while employees are traveling for business or at employer sponsored events or parties. Calls, texts, emails, and social media usage by employees can constitute unlawful workplace harassment, even if they occur away from the workplace premises, on personal devices or during non-work hours.

#### **Retaliation**

Unlawful retaliation can be any action that could discourage a worker from coming forward to make or support a sexual harassment claim. Adverse action need not be job-related or occur in the workplace to constitute unlawful retaliation (e.g., threats of physical violence outside of work hours).

Such retaliation is unlawful under federal, state, and (where applicable) local law. The New York State Human Rights Law protects any individual who has engaged in "protected activity." Protected activity occurs when a person has:

- made a complaint of sexual harassment, either internally or with any anti-discrimination Corporation;
- testified or assisted in a proceeding involving sexual harassment under the Human Rights Law or other anti-discrimination law;
- opposed sexual harassment by making a verbal or informal complaint to management, or by simply informing a supervisor or manager of harassment;
- reported that another employee has been sexually harassed; or
- encouraged a fellow employee to report harassment.

Even if the alleged harassment does not turn out to rise to the level of a violation of law, the individual is protected from retaliation if the person had a good faith belief that the practices were unlawful. However, the retaliation provision is not intended to protect persons making intentionally false charges of harassment.

## **Reporting Sexual Harassment**

**Preventing sexual harassment is everyone's responsibility.** The Corporation cannot prevent or remedy sexual harassment unless it knows about it. Any employee, paid or unpaid intern or non-employee who has been subjected to behavior that may constitute sexual harassment is encouraged to report such behavior to a supervisor, manager or the Executive Director. Anyone who witnesses or becomes aware of potential instances of sexual harassment should report such behavior to a supervisor, manager or the Executive Director.

Reports of sexual harassment may be made verbally or in writing. A form for submission of a written complaint is attached to this Policy, and all employees are encouraged to use this complaint form. Employees who are reporting sexual harassment on behalf of other employees should use the complaint form and note that it is on another employee's behalf.

Employees, paid or unpaid interns or non-employees who believe they have been a target of sexual harassment may also seek assistance in other available forums, as explained below in the section on Legal Protections.

#### **Supervisory Responsibilities**

All supervisors and managers who receive a complaint or information about suspected sexual harassment, observe what may be sexually harassing behavior or for any reason suspect that sexual harassment is occurring, **are required** to report such suspected sexual harassment to the Executive Director.

In addition to being subject to discipline if they engaged in sexually harassing conduct themselves, supervisors and managers will be subject to discipline for failing to report suspected sexual harassment or otherwise knowingly allowing sexual harassment to continue.

Supervisors and managers will also be subject to discipline for engaging in any retaliation. **Complaint and Investigation of Sexual Harassment** 

*All* complaints or information about sexual harassment will be investigated, whether that information was reported in verbal or written form. Investigations will be conducted in a timely manner, and will be confidential to the extent possible.

An investigation of any complaint, information or knowledge of suspected sexual harassment will be prompt and thorough, commenced immediately and completed as soon as possible. The investigation will be kept confidential to the extent possible. All persons involved, including complainants, witnesses and alleged harassers will be accorded due process, as outlined below, to protect their rights to a fair and impartial investigation. Any employee may be required to cooperate as needed in an investigation of suspected sexual harassment. The Corporation will not tolerate retaliation against employees who file complaints, support another's complaint or participate in an investigation regarding a violation of this policy.

While the process may vary from case to case, investigations should be done in accordance with the following steps:

- Upon receipt of complaint, the Executive Director will conduct an immediate review of the allegations, and take any interim actions (e.g., instructing the respondent to refrain from communications with the complainant), as appropriate. If complaint is verbal, encourage the individual to complete the "Complaint Form" in writing. If he or she refuses, prepare a Complaint Form based on the verbal reporting.
- If documents, emails or phone records are relevant to the investigation, take steps to obtain and preserve them.
- Request and review all relevant documents, including all electronic communications.
- Interview all parties involved, including any relevant witnesses;
- Create a written documentation of the investigation (such as a letter, memo or email), which contains the following:
  - A list of all documents reviewed, along with a detailed summary of relevant documents;
  - A list of names of those interviewed, along with a detailed summary of their statements;
  - A timeline of events;
  - A summary of prior relevant incidents, reported or unreported; and
  - The basis for the decision and final resolution of the complaint, together with any corrective action(s).
- Keep the written documentation and associated documents in a secure and confidential location.
- Promptly notify the individual who reported and the individual(s) about whom the complaint was made of the final determination and implement any corrective actions identified in the written document.
- Inform the individual who reported of the right to file a complaint or charge externally as outlined in the next section.

# Legal Protections And External Remedies

Sexual harassment is not only prohibited by the Corporation but is also prohibited by state, federal, and, where applicable, local law.

Aside from the internal process at the Corporation, employees may also choose to pursue legal remedies with the following governmental entities. While a private attorney is not required to file a complaint with a governmental Corporation, you may seek the legal advice of an attorney.

In addition to those outlined below, employees in certain industries may have additional legal protections.

# State Human Rights Law (HRL)

The Human Rights Law (HRL), codified as N.Y. Executive Law, art. 15, § 290 et seq., applies to all employers in New York State with regard to sexual harassment, and protects employees, paid or unpaid interns and non-employees, regardless of immigration status. A complaint alleging violation of the Human Rights Law may be filed either with the Division of Human Rights (DHR) or in New York State Supreme Court.

Complaints with DHR may be filed any time **within one year** of the harassment. If an individual did not file at DHR, they can sue directly in state court under the HRL, **within three years** of the alleged sexual harassment. An individual may not file with DHR if they have already filed a HRL complaint in state court.

Complaining internally to the Corporation does not extend your time to file with DHR or in court. The one year or three years is counted from date of the most recent incident of harassment.

You do not need an attorney to file a complaint with DHR, and there is no cost to file with DHR.

DHR will investigate your complaint and determine whether there is probable cause to believe that sexual harassment has occurred. Probable cause cases are forwarded to a public hearing before an administrative law judge. If sexual harassment is found after a hearing, DHR has the power to award relief, which varies but may include requiring your employer to take action to stop the harassment, or redress the damage caused, including paying of monetary damages, attorney's fees and civil fines.

DHR's main office contact information is: NYS Division of Human Rights, One Fordham Plaza, Fourth Floor, Bronx, New York 10458. You may call (718) 741-8400 or visit: <u>www.dhr.ny.gov</u>.

Contact DHR at (888) 392-3644 or visit <u>dhr.ny.gov/complaint</u> for more information about filing a complaint. The website has a complaint form that can be downloaded, filled out, notarized and mailed to DHR. The website also contains contact information for DHR's regional offices across New York State.

# **Civil Rights Act of 1964**

The United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) enforces federal antidiscrimination laws, including Title VII of the 1964 federal Civil Rights Act (codified as 42 U.S.C. § 2000e et seq.). An individual can file a complaint with the EEOC anytime within 300 days from the harassment. There is no cost to file a complaint with the EEOC. The EEOC will investigate the complaint, and determine whether there is reasonable cause to believe that discrimination has occurred, at which point the EEOC will issue a Right to Sue letter permitting the individual to file a complaint in federal court.

The EEOC does not hold hearings or award relief, but may take other action including pursuing cases in federal court on behalf of complaining parties. Federal courts may award remedies if discrimination is found to have occurred. In general, private employers must have at least 15 employees to come within the jurisdiction of the EEOC.

An employee alleging discrimination at work can file a "Charge of Discrimination." The EEOC has district, area, and field offices where complaints can be filed. Contact the EEOC by calling 1-800-669-4000 (TTY: 1-800-669-6820), visiting their website at <u>www.eeoc.gov</u> or via email at <u>info@eeoc.gov</u>.

If an individual filed an administrative complaint with DHR, DHR will file the complaint with the EEOC to preserve the right to proceed in federal court.

#### **Local Protections**

Many localities enforce laws protecting individuals from sexual harassment and discrimination. An individual should contact the county, city or town in which they live to find out if such a law exists. For example, employees who work in New York City may file complaints of sexual harassment with the New York City Commission on Human Rights. Contact their main office at Law Enforcement Bureau of the NYC Commission on Human Rights, 40 Rector Street, 10th Floor, New 306-7450; York. New York: call (212)or visit 311 or www.nyc.gov/html/cchr/html/home/home.shtml.

#### **Contact the Local Police Department**

If the harassment involves unwanted physical touching, coerced physical confinement or coerced sex acts, the conduct may constitute a crime. Contact the local police department.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

# EXHIBIT Q

# CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLAN

#### ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

# CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLAN FOR A STATE DISASTER EMERGENCY INVOLVING A COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

#### **Purpose**

Pursuant to Chapter 168 of the Laws of 2020, and to ensure the continuation of services provided by the State of New York and the health and safety of the public sector workforce, the ErieNet Local Development Corporation (the "Corporation") must prepare a plan for the continuation of operations in the event that the Governor declares a state disaster emergency involving a communicable disease.

This plan must be posted in (1) a clear and conspicuous location (e.g., bulletin boards or other similar location where employees normally view information posted by the employer), (2) in the Corporation's employee handbook if it has one, and (3) on either their intranet or internet website.

### Individual(s) Responsible for Maintaining this Plan: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Executive Director ErieNet Local Development Corporation

#### A. Essential Personnel

Essential shall refer to a designation made that a public employee is or may be required to be physically present at a worksite to perform his or her job. Such designation may be changed at any time at the sole discretion of the employer. The Corporation's Executive Director is designated as essential.

#### **B.** Telecommuting

All employees will receive guidance from their supervisors on if/when they must transition to a telecommute status. The Executive Director will develop and implement remote work schedules as needed.

#### C. Work Shifts/Schedules

The Executive Director will ensure that essential employees can continue to fulfill their work responsibilities within the confines of what is advisable by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and/or required by New York State (NYS) or its Department of Health (DOH). In a future communicable disease event, current procedures and guidelines for workplace safety protocols will be adjusted to fit the specific threat and be distributed to all involved employees.

# **D.** Personal Protective Equipment

The Corporation follows Infection Control Procedures in accordance with the Center for Disease Control and the New York State Department of Health in the development of all internal protocols and guidance relative to responding to communicable disease. During a response to a communicable disease outbreak, procuring, distributing and inventory control of PPE will be centralized and prioritized. Protocols for the cleaning, disposal, training and signage related to PPE will follow the guidance established by the CDC and NYS Health Department.

# E. Exposure Protocol

**Minimal Controls During an Outbreak:** During an airborne infectious disease outbreak, the following minimum controls will be used:

1. **General Awareness:** Individuals may not be aware that they have the infectious disease and can spread it to others. Employees will:

- Maintain physical distancing
- Exercise coughing/sneezing etiquette
- Wear face coverings and utilize PPE as appropriate
- Individuals limit what they touch
- Stop social etiquette behaviors such as hugging and hand shaking, and
- Wash hands properly and often

2. **"Stay at Home Policy":** If an employee develops symptoms of the infectious disease, the employee should not be in the workplace. The employee should inform their supervisor of their health status and follow New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance regarding obtaining medical care and isolating.

3. **Health Screening:** Employees will be screened for symptoms of the infectious disease at the beginning of their shift. Employees are to self-monitor throughout their shift and report any new or emerging signs or symptoms of the infectious disease to the designated contact. An employee showing signs or symptoms of the infectious disease should leave the workplace immediately and should contact a healthcare professional for instructions. The health screening elements will follow NYSDOH and CDC guidance, if available.

4. **Face Coverings:** Consistent with New York State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention applicable guidance, appropriate face coverings may be required.

5. **Physical Distancing:** Consistent with New York State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention applicable guidance, physical distancing may be required. In situations where prolonged close contact with other individuals is likely, the Corporation will use the following control methods as applicable:

- restricting or limiting customer or visitor entry to any building
- limiting occupancy within the building
- allowing only one person at a time inside small, enclosed spaces
- reconfiguring workspaces
- physical barriers
- signage in public areas to inform employees and visitors
- floor markings
- recommend telecommuting and remote meetings
- preventing gatherings of employees
- restricting travel
- creating new work shifts and/or staggering work hours
- adjusting break times and lunch periods
- delivering services remotely for Corporation board members and clients

6. **Hand Hygiene:** To prevent the spread of infection, employees should wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol to clean hands BEFORE and AFTER:

- Touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
- Touching your mask
- Entering and leaving a public place including the Corporation's facility
- Touching an item or surface that may be frequently touched by other people

7. **Cleaning and Disinfection:** Objects that are touched repeatedly by multiple individuals, such as door handles, light switches, control buttons/levers, water faucet handles, computers, phones, or handrails will be cleaned frequently with an appropriate disinfectant. Surfaces that are handled less often, or by fewer individuals, may require less frequent disinfection.

8. **Events/Meetings:** Corporation leadership will review scheduled events and meetings which may be temporarily suspended or cancelled or otherwise held remotely. A log of every person, including employees and visitors, who may have close contact with other individuals at the worksite or area, excluding deliveries that are performed with appropriate PPE or through contactless means, shall be maintained.

9. **Contact Tracing:** The Corporation will deploy contact tracers who interview any person who may have had a suspected exposure. They will determine if there were other individuals that may have been exposed and what areas may have been contaminated. Identified exposed individuals will also be interviewed. Working within the New York State Department of Health guidelines, determinations will be made regarding isolation, quarantine, or other notifications. Maintenance will be notified of areas that require disinfection and cleaning.

# F. Other

The Corporation will comply with all executive orders and emergency regulations related to the state disaster emergency.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

# EXHIBIT R

# PUBLIC ACCESS TO RECORDS POLICY

# ERIENET LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

# PUBLIC ACCESS TO RECORDS POLICY

#### **Introduction**

This Public Access to Records Policy ("Policy") shall apply to the ErieNet Local Development Corporation (the "Corporation"). Purpose:

- 1. Designation of records access officer
- 2. Requests for public access to records
- 3. Denial of access to records
- 4. Fees

#### Section 1. Purpose

(a) This policy provides information concerning the procedures by which records may be obtained from the Corporation in accordance with the Freedom of Information Law ("FOIL").

#### Section 2. Designation of records access officer

(a) The following person is designated as the records access officer; however, the Executive Director may from time to time designate another person as the records access person as he/she may deem necessary or desirable:

|                  | <u>, Executive Director</u> |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Address:         |                             |
| Telephone: (716) |                             |
| Email Address:   |                             |

(b) The records access officer is responsible for insuring appropriate Corporation response to public requests for access to records.

The records access officer shall insure that Corporation personnel:

(1) Maintain an up-to-date subject matter list reasonably detailing all records in the possession of the Corporation, whether or not available under FOIL.

(2) Maintain a record setting forth the name, public office address, title, and salary of every officer or employee of the Corporation.

#### Section 3. Requests for public access to records

(a) A written request for a record shall be made to the Record Access Officer. In addition, a written request for a record may be submitted in the form of electronic mail and the Authority shall respond to such requests by electronic mail, using forms, to the extent practicable, consistent with the form(s) developed by the Committee on Open Government.

(b) A response shall be given within five business days of receipt of a request by:

(1) informing a person requesting records that the request or portion of the request does not reasonably describe the records sought, including direction, to the extent possible, that would enable that person to request records reasonably described;

(2) granting or denying access to records in whole or in part;

(3) acknowledging the receipt of a request in writing, including an approximate date when the request will be granted or denied in whole or in part, which shall be reasonable under the circumstances of the request and shall not be more than twenty business days after the date of the acknowledgment, or if it is known that circumstances prevent disclosure within twenty business days from the date of such acknowledgment, providing a statement in writing indicating the reason for inability to grant the request within that time and a date certain, within a reasonable period under the circumstances of the request, when the request will be granted in whole or in part; or

(4) if the receipt of request was acknowledged in writing and included an approximate date when the request would be granted in whole or in part within twenty business days of such acknowledgment, but circumstances prevent disclosure within that time, providing a statement in writing within twenty business days of such acknowledgment specifying the reason for the inability to do so and a date certain, within a reasonable period under the circumstances of the request, when the request will be granted in whole or in part.

(c) In determining a reasonable time for granting or denying a request under the circumstances of a request, personnel shall consider the volume of a request, the ease or difficulty in locating, retrieving or generating records, the complexity of the request, the need to review records to determine the extent to which they must be disclosed, the number of requests received by the Corporation, and similar factors that bear on the ability to grant access to records promptly and within a reasonable time.

# Section 4 Denial of access to records.

(a) Denial of access to records shall be in writing stating the reason therefor and advising the requester of the right to appeal to the individual established to determine appeals, who shall be identified by name, title, business address and business phone number.

(b) The following person shall determine appeals regarding denial of access to records under the Freedom of Information Law:

\_\_\_\_\_, Chair Address: Email Address:

(c) Any person denied access to records may appeal within thirty days of a denial.

(d) The time for deciding an appeal by the individual to determine appeals shall commence upon receipt of a written appeal identifying:

- (1) the date and location of requests for records;
- (2) a description, to the extent possible, of the records that were denied; and
- (3) the name and return address of the person denied access.

(e) A failure to determine an appeal within ten business days of its receipt by granting access to the records sought or fully explaining the reasons for further denial in writing shall constitute a denial of the appeal.

(f) The person designated to determine appeals shall transmit to the Committee on Open Government copies of all appeals upon receipt of appeals. Such copies shall be addressed to:

Committee on Open Government Department of State 41 State Street Albany, NY 12231

(g) The person designated to determine appeals shall inform the appellant and the Committee on Open Government of its determination in writing within ten business days of receipt of an appeal. The determination shall be transmitted to the Committee on Open Government in the same manner as set forth subdivision (f) of this section.

# Section 5 Fees.

(a) Fees for reproduction may be charged as follows:

(1) 25 cents per page for photocopies not exceeding 9 by 14 inches. If the paper copies requested are larger than  $9^{\circ}x14^{\circ}$  the Authority can charge the actual cost of making the copies; or

(2) The actual cost of reproducing a record, which may include:

(a) An amount equal to the hourly salary attributed to the lowest paid Corporation employee who has the necessary skill required to prepare a copy of the requested record if more than 2 hours of time is required; (b) The actual cost of the storage devices

(c) The actual cost to the Corporation of engaging an outside professional service to prepare a copy of a record in the event the Corporation's information technology equipment is inadequate to prepare a copy.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022