



**Agenda Item:** Discuss and Consider Approval of Fiscal Year 2022 External Audit Engagement Agreement

**Background:** As a governmental entity, the Park Board is subject to an annual external audit. The audit is an independent review of the Park Board’s financial statements. The auditors will test the records associated with governmental activities, business-type activities, and each major fund.

The objectives of the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes an opinion.

The Park Board has used Ham, Langston, & Brezia, LLP (HLB) in the past and staff is recommending contracting with HLB on a one-year agreement to perform the fiscal year 2022 external audit. The most recent three-year agreement with HLB expired after the fiscal year 2021 audit was completed.

The estimated cost of the audit will range from \$72,000 and \$75,000 depending on the amount of work and time that goes into completing the audit. If a federal award single audit is triggered, the estimated cost is \$10,500. A governmental entity with federal expenditures in excess of \$750,000 is required by law to have a single audit performed, which includes an audit of the federal awards. The single audit reviews how an entity managed the grant and ensures the entity followed the rules for dollars associated with the grant or award.

**Funding Source:** FY2023 Budget:

Fund	Dept	Acct	Acct Description	Cost Range per Agreement		Single Audit
BC	70	5200	Audit Fees	12,200	12,700	-
BP	70	5200	Audit Fees	10,700	11,100	-
EEL	70	5200	Audit Fees	100	100	-
GF	50	5200	Audit Fees	800	800	-
GF	60	5200	Audit Fees	300	300	-
NB	70	5200	Audit Fees	6,100	6,400	10,500
TD	70	5200	Audit Fees	20,300	21,200	-
DP	52	5200	Audit Fees	3,500	3,600	-
RA	51	5200	Audit Fees	3,700	4,000	-
SB	51	5200	Audit Fees	5,600	5,800	-
SW	70	5200	Audit Fees	5,100	5,300	-
UP	51	5200	Audit Fees	3,600	3,700	-
				<b>\$ 72,000</b>	<b>\$ 75,000</b>	<b>\$ 10,500</b>

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends the approval of the fiscal year 2022 external audit engagement agreement.

September 9, 2022

Board of Trustees  
c/o Kelly de Schaun, Chief Executive Officer  
Park Board of Trustees of the City of Galveston, Texas  
601 Tremont Street  
Galveston, Texas 77550

Attention: Trustees,

We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and our understanding of this audit engagement by means of this letter ("Arrangement Letter").

### **The Objective and Scope of the Audit of the Financial Statements**

You have requested that Ham, Langston & Brezina, L.L.P. ("HL&B", "we", "us", or "our"), audit the Park Board of Trustees of the City of Galveston, Texas' (the "Park Board"), a component unit of the City of Galveston, Texas, governmental activities, business-type activities, aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, the aggregate remaining fund information and the budgetary comparison as of and for the year ending September 30, 2022, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements.

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAS") and *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States ("GAS") will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of controls.

You have also requested that HL&B perform the audit of the Park Board as of September 30, 2022 to satisfy the audit requirements imposed by the Single Audit Act and Subpart F of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations ("CFR") Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (the "Uniform Guidance").

### **The Responsibilities of the Auditor**

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS, GAS, the Uniform Guidance, and the U.S. Office of Management and Budget's ("OMB") Compliance Supplement. Those standards, regulations, supplements or guides require that we comply with applicable ethical requirements. As part of an audit in accordance with GAAS, GAS, and the Uniform Guidance, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, based on an understanding of the entity and its environment, the applicable financial reporting framework, and the entity's system of internal control, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

- Consider the entity's system of internal control in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Park Board's internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we have identified during the audit.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Park Board's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of controls, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected exists, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS and GAS. Because the determination of waste or abuse is subjective, GAS does not require auditors to perform specific procedures to detect waste or abuse in financial statement audits.

We will communicate to the Board of Trustees (a) any fraud involving senior management and fraud (whether caused by senior management or other employees) that causes a material misstatement of the financial statements that becomes known to us during the audit, and (b) any instances of noncompliance with laws and regulations that we become aware of during the audit (unless they are clearly inconsequential).

We are responsible for the compliance audit of major programs under the Uniform Guidance, including the determination of major programs, the consideration of internal control over compliance, and reporting responsibilities.

Our report(s) on internal control over financial reporting and over compliance for major programs will include any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting and over compliance for major programs of which we become aware as a result of obtaining an understanding of internal control and performing tests of internal control over financial reporting and over compliance for major programs consistent with requirements of the standards and regulations identified above. Our report(s) on compliance matters will address material errors, fraud, violations of compliance obligations, and other responsibilities imposed by state and federal statutes and regulations or assumed by contracts; and any state or federal grant, entitlement or loan program questioned costs of which we become aware, consistent with requirements of the standards and regulations identified above.

We will maintain our independence in accordance with the standards of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("AICPA") and GAS.

### **The Responsibilities of Management and Identification of the Applicable Financial Reporting Framework**

Management is responsible for:

1. Identifying and ensuring that the Park Board complies with the laws and regulations applicable to its activities, and for informing us about all known violations of such laws or regulations, other than those that are clearly inconsequential;

2. The design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the Park Board involving management, employees who have significant roles in internal control, and others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements; and
3. Informing us of its knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Park Board received in communications from employees, former employees, analysts, regulators, vendors, customers or others.

Management is responsible for the preparation of the required supplementary information ("RSI") which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP") require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements.

Management is also responsible for the preparation of the supplementary information presented in relation to the financial statements as a whole in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Management agrees to include the auditor's report on the supplementary information in any document that contains the supplementary information and indicates that the auditor has reported on such supplementary information. Management also agrees to present the supplementary information with the audited financial statements or, if the supplementary information will not be presented with audited financial statements, to make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date of issuance of the supplementary information and the auditor's report thereon.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for informing us of its views about the risks of fraud within the Park Board, and its knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Park Board.

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance acknowledge and understand that they have responsibility:

1. For the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP");
2. To evaluate subsequent events through the date the financial statements are issued. Management also agrees that it will not conclude on subsequent events earlier than the date of the management representation letter referred to below;
3. For the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
4. For report distribution; and
5. To provide us with:
  - a. Access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements including information relevant to disclosures;
  - b. Draft financial statements, including information relevant to their preparation and fair presentation, when needed, to allow for the completion of the audit in accordance with the proposed timeline;
  - c. Additional information that we may request from management for the purpose of the audit; and
  - d. Unrestricted access to persons within the Park Board from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statements, or whether the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report. At the conclusion of our audit, we will request that management provide a written representation that the final version of any such documents will be provided to the auditor when available, and prior to the document's issuance, such that the auditor can complete the procedures required.

As part of our audit process, we will request from management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance written confirmation concerning representations made to us in connection with the audit, including among other items:

1. That management has fulfilled its responsibilities as set out in the terms of this Arrangement Letter; and
2. That it believes the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Because the audit will be performed in accordance with the Single Audit Act and the Uniform Guidance, management is responsible for (a) identifying all federal awards received and expended; (b) preparing and the fair presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (including notes and noncash assistance received) in accordance with Uniform Guidance requirements; (c) internal control over compliance; (d) compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards; (e) making us aware of significant vendor relationships where the vendor is responsible for program compliance; (f) following up and taking corrective action on audit findings, including the preparation of a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a corrective action plan; (g) timely and accurate completion of the data collection form and (h) submitting the reporting package and data collection form.

### **Reporting**

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the Park Board's financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the Board of Trustees of the Park Board. Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinion, or add an emphasis-of-matter paragraph or other-matter paragraph to our auditor's report.

If circumstances arise relating to the condition of the Park Board's records, the availability of appropriate audit evidence or indications of a significant risk of material misstatement of the financial statements because of error, fraudulent financial reporting or misappropriation of assets which, in our professional judgment, prevent us from completing the audit or forming an opinion, we retain the unilateral right to take any course of action permitted by professional standards, including, but not limited to, declining to express an opinion or issue a report, or withdrawing from the engagement.

In addition to our report on the Park Board's basic financial statements, we will also issue the following reports:

1. A report on the fairness of the presentation of the Park Board's schedule of expenditures of federal awards for the year ending September 30, 2022;
2. Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with GAS;
3. Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program and Report on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance; and

4. An accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

### **Records and Assistance**

During the course of our engagement, we may accumulate records containing data that should be reflected in the Park Board's books and records. The Park Board will determine that all such data, if necessary, will be so reflected. Accordingly, the Park Board will not expect us to maintain copies of such records in our possession.

The assistance to be supplied by Park Board personnel, including the preparation of schedules and analyses of accounts, has been discussed and coordinated with Bryson Frazier, Chief Financial Officer. The timely and accurate completion of this work is an essential condition to our completion of the audit and issuance of our audit report.

### **Other Relevant Information**

In accordance with GAS, a copy of our most recent peer review report has been provided to you for your information.

### **Fees and Costs**

Our fees for the services described above are based upon the value of the services performed and the time required by the individuals assigned to the engagement plus directly billed expenses, including report processing, travel, meals, and fees for services from other professionals, as well as a charge of 3% of fees for all other expenses, including indirect administrative expenses such as technology, research and library databases, communications, photocopying, postage and clerical assistance. Our fees for these services are estimated as follows:

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Audit of the basic financial statements of the Park Board<br>as of and for the year ended September 30, 2022: | \$72,000 to \$75,000 |
| 2. Single Audit of the Park Boards major program(s):   | \$10,500             |

Our fee estimate and completion of our work are based upon the following criteria:

1. Anticipated cooperation from Park Board personnel
2. Timely responses to our inquiries
3. Timely completion and delivery of client assistance requests
4. Timely communication of all significant accounting and financial reporting matters
5. The assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the engagement

If any of the aforementioned criteria are not met, then fees may increase. Interim billings will be submitted as work progresses and as expenses are incurred. Billings are due upon submission.

### **Use of Third-Party Products**

We may provide services to you using certain third-party hardware, software, software services, managed services (including, but not limited to, web hosting, data security, data back-up, email security, or similar services subject to direct end-user or subscription agreements), applications, and equipment (collectively, "Third-Party Products"). You acknowledge that your or our use of a Third-Party Product may involve the processing, input, disclosure, movement, transfer, and storage of information provided by you to us, including Personal Information and Confidential Information, within the Third-Party Product's infrastructure and not ours, and that the terms of use and service set forth in the end-user license, subscription, or other agreement with the licensor of such Third-Party Product, including, but not limited to, applicable laws, will

govern all obligations of such licensor relating to data privacy, storage, recovery, security, and processing within such Third-Party Product's infrastructure, as well as, the service levels associated with such Third-Party Product. You hereby consent to the disclosure of your information, including your Confidential Information and Personal Information, to the licensors of such Third-Party Products for the purpose described herein.

You acknowledge that your or our use of Third-Party Products may be subject to limitations, delays, interruptions, errors, and other problems which are beyond our control, including, without limitation, internet outage or lack of availability related to updates, upgrades, patches, fixes, maintenance, or other issues. We will not be liable for any delays, delivery failures, or other losses or damages resulting from such issues. Nor will we be held responsible or liable for any loss, or unauthorized use or disclosure, of any information or data provided by you, including, without limitation, Personal Information provided by you, resulting from your or our use of a Third-Party Product.

#### **Use and Ownership; Access to Audit Documentation**

The Audit Documentation for this engagement is the property of HL&B. For the purposes of this Arrangement Letter, the term "Audit Documentation" shall mean the confidential and proprietary records of HL&B's audit procedures performed, relevant audit evidence obtained, other audit-related workpapers, and conclusions reached. Audit Documentation shall not include custom-developed documents, data, reports, analyses, recommendations, and deliverables authored or prepared by HL&B for the Park Board under this Arrangement Letter, or any documents belonging to the Park Board or furnished to HL&B by the Park Board.

Since the Park Board is a component of a group in accordance with AU-C Section 600, *Special Considerations – Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)*, we may receive requests to provide our Audit Documentation to the group auditor and to respond to its inquiries regarding certain matters. The Park Board agrees that HL&B may provide the Audit Documentation to the group auditor and respond to its inquiries within HL&B's professional judgment.

Review of Audit Documentation by a successor auditor or as part of due diligence is subject to applicable HL&B policies, and will be agreed to, accounted for and billed separately. Any such access to our Audit Documentation is subject to a successor auditor signing an Access & Release Letter substantially in HL&B's form. HL&B reserves the right to decline a successor auditor's request to review our workpapers.

In the event we are required by government regulation, subpoena or other legal process to produce our documents or our personnel as witnesses with respect to our engagement for the Park Board, the Park Board will, so long as we are not a party to the proceeding in which the information is sought, reimburse us for our professional time and expenses, as well as the fees and expenses of our counsel, incurred in responding to such requests.

You acknowledge and grant your assent that representatives of the cognizant or oversight agency or their designee, other government audit staffs, and the U.S. Government Accountability Office shall have access to the Audit Documentation upon their request and that we shall maintain the Audit Documentation for a period of at least three years after the date of the report, or for a longer period if we are requested to do so by the cognizant or oversight agency. Access to the requested Audit Documentation will be provided under the supervision of HL&B audit personnel and at a location designated by our firm.

#### **Indemnification, Limitation of Liability, and Claim Resolution**

Because HL&B will rely on the Park Board and its management and Board of Trustees to discharge the foregoing responsibilities, the Park Board agrees to indemnify, hold harmless and release HL&B and its partners, principals, officers, directors, employees, affiliates, subsidiaries, contractors, agents, representatives, successors, or assigns from all claims, liabilities, losses and costs arising in circumstances where there has been a knowing misrepresentation by a member of the Park Board's management.

**THE PARK BOARD AND HL&B AGREE THAT NO CLAIM ARISING OUT, FROM, OR RELATING TO THE SERVICES RENDERED PURSUANT TO THIS ARRANGEMENT LETTER SHALL BE FILED MORE THAN TWO YEARS AFTER THE DATE OF THE AUDIT REPORT ISSUED BY HL&B OR THE DATE OF THIS ARRANGEMENT LETTER IF NO REPORT HAS BEEN ISSUED. IN NO EVENT SHALL HL&B OR THE PARK BOARD, OR ANY OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PARTNERS, PRINCIPALS, OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES, AFFILIATES, SUBSIDIARIES, CONTRACTORS, SUBCONTRACTORS, AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, SUCCESSORS, OR ASSIGNS (COLLECTIVELY, THE "COVERED PARTIES" AND EACH INDIVIDUALLY, A "COVERED PARTY"), BE LIABLE FOR THE INTERRUPTION OR LOSS OF BUSINESS, ANY LOST PROFITS, SAVINGS, REVENUE, GOODWILL, SOFTWARE, HARDWARE, OR DATA, OR THE LOSS OF USE THEREOF (REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH LOSSES ARE DEEMED DIRECT DAMAGES), OR INCIDENTAL, INDIRECT, PUNITIVE, CONSEQUENTIAL, SPECIAL, EXEMPLARY, OR SIMILAR SUCH DAMAGES, EVEN IF ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, THE TOTAL AGGREGATE LIABILITY OF THE COVERED PARTIES ARISING OUT OF, FROM, OR RELATING TO THIS ARRANGEMENT LETTER, OR THE REPORT ISSUED OR SERVICES PROVIDED HEREUNDER, REGARDLESS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OR NATURE OR TYPE OF CLAIM, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, CLAIMS ARISING FROM A COVERED PARTY'S NEGLIGENCE OR BREACH OF CONTRACT OR WARRANTY, OR RELATING TO OR ARISING FROM A GOVERNMENT, REGULATORY OR ENFORCEMENT ACTION, INVESTIGATION, PROCEEDING, OR FINE, WILL NOT EXCEED THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE FEES PAID BY THE PARK BOARD TO HL&B UNDER THIS ARRANGEMENT LETTER. NOTWITHSTANDING THE FOREGOING, NOTHING IN THIS LIMITATION OF LIABILITY PROVISION SHALL, OR SHALL BE INTERPRETED OR CONSTRUED TO, RELIEVE THE PARK BOARD OF ITS PAYMENT OBLIGATIONS TO HL&B UNDER THIS ARRANGEMENT LETTER.**

#### **Confidentiality**

HL&B and the Park Board may, from time to time, disclose Confidential Information (as defined below) to one another. Accordingly, HL&B and the Park Board agree as the recipient of such Confidential Information (the "Receiving Party") to keep strictly confidential all Confidential Information provided to it by the disclosing party (the "Disclosing Party") and use, modify, store, and copy such Confidential Information only as necessary to perform its obligations and exercise its rights under this Arrangement Letter. Except as otherwise set forth herein, the Receiving Party may only disclose the Confidential Information of the Disclosing Party to its personnel, agents, and representatives who are subject to obligations of confidentiality at least as restrictive as those set forth herein and only for the purpose of exercising its rights and fulfilling its obligations hereunder. To avoid any doubt, HL&B is permitted to disclose the Park Board's Confidential Information to HL&B's personnel, agents, and representatives to provide the services or exercise its rights under this Arrangement Letter or for the purpose of maintaining compliance with applicable laws and professional, regulatory, and/or ethical standards.

As used herein, "Confidential Information" means, information in any form, oral, graphic, written, electronic, machine-readable or hard copy consisting of: (i) any nonpublic information provided by the Disclosing Party, including, but not limited to, all of its inventions, designs, data, source and object code, programs, program interfaces, know-how, trade secrets, techniques, ideas, discoveries, marketing and business plans, pricing, profit margins and/or similar information; (ii) any information that the Disclosing Party identifies as confidential; or (iii) any information that, by its very nature, a person in the same or similar circumstances would understand should be treated as confidential, including, but not limited to, this Arrangement Letter.

As used herein, the term "Confidential Information" will not include information that: (i) is publicly available at the time of disclosure by the Disclosing Party; (ii) becomes publicly available by publication or otherwise after disclosure by the Disclosing Party, other than by breach of the confidentiality obligations set forth herein by the Receiving Party; (iii) was lawfully in the Receiving Party's possession, without restriction as to confidentiality or use, at the time of disclosure by the Disclosing Party; (iv) is provided to the Receiving Party without restriction as to confidentiality or use by a third party without violation of any obligation to the



Disclosing Party; or (v) is independently developed by employees or agents of the Receiving Party who did not access or use the Confidential Information.

The Receiving Party will treat the Disclosing Party's Confidential Information with the same degree of care as the Receiving Party treats its own confidential and proprietary information, but in no event will such standard of care be less than a reasonable standard of care. The Receiving Party will promptly notify the Disclosing Party if it becomes aware that any of the Confidential Information of the Disclosing Party has been used or disclosed in violation of this Arrangement Letter.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that the Receiving Party becomes legally compelled to disclose any of the Confidential Information of the Disclosing Party, or as may be required by applicable regulations or professional standards, the Receiving Party will use commercially reasonable efforts to provide the Disclosing Party with notice prior to disclosure, to the extent permitted by law.

#### **Preexisting Nondisclosure Agreements**

In the event that the parties have executed a separate nondisclosure agreement and such agreement does not automatically terminate or expire upon execution of this Arrangement Letter, such agreement shall be terminated as of the effective date of this Arrangement Letter.

#### **Information Security – Miscellaneous Terms**

HL&B is committed to the safe and confidential treatment of the Park Board's proprietary information. HL&B is required to maintain the confidential treatment of client information in accordance with relevant industry professional standards which govern the provision of services described herein.

#### **Personal Information**

As used herein, the term "Personal Information" means any personal information that directly or indirectly identifies a natural person as may be defined by applicable privacy, data protection or cybersecurity laws, and includes, but is not limited to, nonpublic, personally identifiable information such as Social Security numbers, Social Insurance numbers, driver's license numbers or state- or province-issued identification card numbers, credit or debit card numbers with or without any required security code, number or passwords, health information, and other personal information as defined by applicable laws, whether of the Park Board or the Park Board's customers or other third parties.

Each party agrees to transmit Personal Information consistent with applicable laws and any other obligations the respective party may have. In the event you transmit to us Personal Information in an unencrypted format or via unencrypted means, you agree that we have no obligation to notify you of the foregoing.

You represent and warrant that you have provided all notices and obtained all consents required under applicable data protection laws prior to your collection, use and disclosure to us or our Subcontractors of such Personal Information and shall take reasonable steps to ensure that such Personal Information does not include irrelevant or unnecessary information about individuals.

Where we are acting as a service provider under the California Consumer Privacy Act, including as amended or replaced ("CCPA"), we (i) will not sell any Personal Information received from the Park Board; (ii) will not disclose Personal Information to another business, person, or third party, except for the purpose of maintaining or providing the services or exercising our rights as specified in this Arrangement Letter, including to provide Personal Information to advisers or sub-contractors, or to the extent such disclosure is required by law. We certify that we understand and will comply with the requirements enumerated in (i) and (ii). For the avoidance of doubt, all permitted uses of Personal Information by service providers that are enumerated in the CCPA are understood to apply to the Personal Information processed by us.

We are permitted to use all Personal Information to perform our obligations and exercise our rights under this Arrangement Letter. The parties agree that as part of the performance of the services as described in this Arrangement Letter, and as part of the direct business relationship between the parties, we may use the Personal Information to improve and develop services and for other similar internal and business purposes. We agree to maintain appropriate security measures to protect such Personal Information in accordance with applicable laws.

If we become aware of an unauthorized acquisition or use of Park Board-provided Personal Information, we will promptly inform you of such unauthorized acquisition or use as required by applicable laws and, upon your written request, reasonably cooperate with you at your sole cost in support of any breach notification requirements as imposed upon you by applicable laws.

### **Retention of Records**

We will return to you all original records you provide to us in connection with this engagement. Further, in addition to providing you with those deliverables set forth in this Arrangement Letter, we will provide to you a copy of any records we prepare or accumulate in connection with such deliverables which are not otherwise reflected in your books and records without which your books and records would be incomplete. You have the sole responsibility for retaining and maintaining in your possession or custody all of your financial and nonfinancial records related to this engagement. We will not host, and will not accept responsibility to host, any of your records. We, however, may maintain a copy of any records of yours necessary for us to comply with applicable law and/or professional standards or to exercise our rights under this Arrangement Letter. Any such records retained by us will be subject to the confidentiality obligations set forth herein and destroyed in accordance with our record retention policies.

### **Termination**

Your failure to make full payment of any and all undisputed amounts invoiced in a timely manner constitutes a material breach for which we may refuse to provide deliverables and/or, upon written notice, suspend or terminate our services under this Arrangement Letter. We will not be liable to you for any resulting loss, damage or expense connected with the suspension or termination of our services due to your failure to make full payment of undisputed amounts invoiced in a timely manner.

In the event you terminate this engagement, you will pay us for all services rendered (including deliverables and products delivered), expenses incurred, and noncancelable commitments made by us on your behalf through the effective date of termination.

We will not be responsible for any delay or failure in our performance resulting from acts beyond our reasonable control or unforeseen or unexpected circumstances, such as, but not limited to, acts of God, government or war, riots or strikes, disasters, fires, floods, epidemics, pandemics or outbreaks of communicable disease, cyberattacks, and internet or other system or network outages. At your option, you may terminate this Arrangement Letter where our services are delayed more than 120 days; however, you are not excused from paying us for all amounts owed for services rendered and deliverables provided prior to the termination of this Arrangement Letter.

When an engagement has been suspended at the request of management or those charged with governance and work on that engagement has not recommenced within 120 days of the request to suspend our work, we may, at our sole discretion, terminate this Arrangement Letter without further obligation to you. Resumption of our work following termination may be subject to our client acceptance procedures and, if resumed, will require additional procedures not contemplated in this Arrangement Letter. Accordingly, the scope, timing and fee arrangement discussed in this Arrangement Letter will no longer apply. In order for us to recommence work, the execution of a new Arrangement Letter will be required.

We may terminate this Arrangement Letter upon written notice if we determine that our continued performance would result in a violation of law, regulatory requirements, applicable professional or ethical standards, or our client acceptance or retention standards.

The parties agree that those provisions of this Arrangement Letter which, by their context, are intended to survive, including, but not limited to, payment, limitations on liability, claim resolution, use and ownership, and confidentiality obligations, shall survive the termination of this Arrangement Letter.

### **Miscellaneous**

We may mention your name and provide a general description of the engagement in our client lists and marketing materials. Notwithstanding anything stated to the contrary in this Arrangement Letter, the Park Board acknowledges and consents that we also may utilize Confidential Information and Personal Information that you have provided to us in connection with this engagement to develop, enhance, modify and improve technologies, tools, methodologies, services and offerings and/or for development or performance of data analysis, business analytics or insights, or other insight generation. Information developed in connection with these purposes may be used or disclosed to you or current or prospective clients to provide them services or offerings. We will not use or disclose such Confidential Information or Personal Information in a way that would permit the Park Board or an individual to be identified by third parties without your prior written consent.

The Park Board agrees that it will not associate us with any public or private securities offering without first obtaining our consent. Therefore, the Park Board agrees to contact us before it includes our reports, or otherwise makes reference to us, in any public or private securities offering. Our association with an official statement is a matter for which separate arrangements may be necessary. The Park Board agrees to provide us with printer's proofs or masters of such offering documents for our review and approval before printing, and with a copy of the final reproduced material for our approval before it is distributed.

Our professional standards require that we perform certain additional procedures, on current and previous years' engagements, whenever a partner or professional employee leaves the firm and is subsequently employed by or associated with a client in a key position. Accordingly, you agree to compensate us for any additional costs incurred as a result of you employment of one of our partners, principals or employees.

### **Notices**

Unless otherwise expressly agreed upon by the parties in this Arrangement Letter, all notices required to be given hereunder will be in writing and addressed to the party at the business address provided in this Arrangement Letter, or such other address as such party may indicate by a notice delivered to the other party. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Arrangement Letter, notices hereunder will be deemed given and effective: (i) if personally delivered, upon delivery; (ii) if sent by registered or certified mail or by overnight courier service with tracking capabilities, upon receipt; and, (iii) if sent by electronic mail (without indication of delivery failure), at such time as the party that sent the notice receives confirmation of receipt, whether by read-receipt confirmation or otherwise.

### **Governing Law**

This Arrangement Letter, including, without limitation, its validity, interpretation, construction, and enforceability, and any dispute, litigation, suit, action, claim, or other legal proceeding arising out of, from, or relating in any way to this Arrangement Letter, any provisions herein, a report issued or the services provided hereunder, will be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, without regard to its conflict of law principles, and applicable U.S. federal law.

### **Entire Agreement**

This Arrangement Letter constitutes the complete and exclusive statement of agreement between HL&B and the Park Board, and supersedes all prior agreements, understandings, and proposals, whether oral or written, relating to the subject matter of this Arrangement Letter.

If any term or provision of this Arrangement Letter is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, such term or provision will be deemed stricken, and all other terms and provisions will remain in full force and effect.

This Arrangement Letter may be amended or modified only by a written instrument executed by both parties.

**Electronic Signatures and Counterparts**

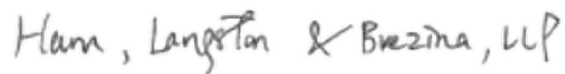
Each party hereto agrees that any electronic signature of a party to this Arrangement Letter or any electronic signature to a document contemplated hereby (including any representation letter) is intended to authenticate such writing and shall be as valid, and have the same force and effect, as a manual signature. Any such electronically signed document shall be deemed (a) to be "written" or "in writing," (b) to have been signed and (c) to constitute a record established and maintained in the ordinary course of business and an original written record when printed from electronic files. Each party hereto also agrees that electronic delivery of a signature to any such document (via email or otherwise) shall be as effective as manual delivery of a manual signature. For purposes hereof, "electronic signature" includes, but is not limited to, (a) a scanned copy (as a "pdf" (portable document format) or other replicating image) of a manual ink signature, (b) an electronic copy of a traditional signature affixed to a document, (c) a signature incorporated into a document utilizing touchscreen capabilities or (d) a digital signature. This Arrangement Letter may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be considered an original instrument, but all of which shall be considered one and the same agreement. Paper copies or "printouts," of such documents if introduced as evidence in any judicial, arbitral, mediation or administrative proceeding, will be admissible as between the parties to the same extent and under the same conditions as other original business records created and maintained in documentary form. Neither party shall contest the admissibility of true and accurate copies of electronically signed documents on the basis of the best evidence rule or as not satisfying the business records exception to the hearsay rule.

Please sign and return a copy of this Arrangement Letter to indicate your acknowledgment of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audit of the financial statements, including our respective responsibilities.

**Acknowledgement and Acceptance**

Each party acknowledges that it has read and agrees to all of the terms and conditions contained herein. Each party and its signatory below represents that said signatory is a duly authorized representative of such party and has the requisite power and authority to bind such party to the undertakings and obligations contained herein.

**AGREED TO AND ACKNOWLEDGED BY:**



Ham, Langston & Brezina, L.L.P.  
Winky Tsang, Partner

Confirmed on behalf of the Park Board of Trustees of the City of Galveston, Texas:

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Kelly de Schaun, Chief Executive Officer

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Date