

CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

This Confidentiality Agreement (the "Agreement") is made and entered into as of this ____ day of _____, 2025 (the "Effective Date"), by and between the City of Charlotte, a North Carolina municipal corporation (the "City"), and _____, a _____ corporation (the "Company").

WHEREAS, the City and Company are contemplating or have entered into certain business relationships and have exchanged and/or may need to exchange confidential information in connection with discussions of such relationships; and

WHEREAS, the City and Company desire to stipulate and agree that any disclosure of confidential information in connection with such relationships has occurred or will occur under circumstances and conditions that will protect and preserve the confidentiality of the information.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the pursuit of current discussions, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, and in further consideration of the covenants and representations contained herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. **CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.** "Confidential Information" means any information, in any medium (whether written, oral or electronic), obtained from the City or the Company or any of their respective suppliers, contractors or licensors which falls within any of the following general categories:
 - 1.1. *Trade secrets.* For purposes of this Agreement, trade secrets consist of information of the City or the Company or any of their respective suppliers, contractors or licensors: (a) that derives value from being secret; and (b) that the owner has taken reasonable steps to keep confidential. Examples of trade secrets include information relating to proprietary software, new technology, new products or services, flow charts or diagrams that show how things work, manuals that tell how things work and business processes and procedures.
 - 1.2. *Information marked "Confidential" or "Proprietary."*
 - 1.3. *Information relating to criminal investigations conducted by the City, and records of criminal intelligence information compiled by the City.*
 - 1.4. *Any attorney / client privileged information disclosed by either party.*
 - 1.5. *Information contained in the City's personnel files, as defined by N.C. Gen. Stat. 160A-168. This consists of all information gathered by the City about employees, except for that information which is a matter of public record under North Carolina law.*
 - 1.6. *Personal identifying information about individuals that the City is prohibited from disclosing by law, including:*
 - (a) Social security or employer taxpayer identification numbers.
 - (b) Drivers license (drivers license numbers are not included if the number appears on law enforcement records), State identification card, or passport numbers.
 - (c) Checking account numbers.
 - (d) Savings account numbers.
 - (e) Credit card numbers.
 - (f) Debit card numbers.
 - (g) Personal Identification (PIN) Code as defined in G.S. 14-113.8(6).
 - (h) Digital signatures.
 - (i) Any other numbers or information that can be used to access a person's financial resources.
 - (j) Biometric data.
 - (k) Fingerprints.
 - (l) Passwords.

- 1.7. *The security features of the City's electronic data processing systems, information technology systems, telecommunications networks, and electronic security systems, including passwords, security standards, security logs, procedures, processes, configurations, software and codes.*
- 1.8. *Local tax records of the City that contain information about a taxpayer's income or receipts.*
- 1.9. *Any data collected from a person applying for financial or other types of assistance, including but not limited to their income, bank accounts, savings accounts, etc.*
- 1.10. *Building plans of City-owned buildings or structures, as well as specific details of public security plans.*
- 1.11. *Billing information of customers compiled and maintained in connection with the City providing utility services.*
- 1.12. *Plans to prevent or respond to terrorist activity, including vulnerability and risk assessments, potential targets, specific tactics or specific security or emergency procedures, the disclosure of which would jeopardize the safety of government personnel or the general public or the security of any governmental facility, structure or information storage system(s).*
- 1.13. *Other information that is exempt from disclosure under the North Carolina public records laws.*

The information described in Sections 1.5 through 1.13 is a subcategory of Confidential Information called "Highly Restricted Information." Highly Restricted Information is subject to all requirements applicable to Confidential Information, but is also subject to additional restrictions as set forth in this Agreement.

The parties acknowledge that Confidential Information includes information disclosed prior to execution of this Agreement as well as information disclosed after execution.

Notwithstanding the above, contracts between the Company and the City are not Confidential Information and will be considered public records, except for attached exhibits that: (a) meet the legal requirements for trade secrets; and (b) are clearly identified as such.

2. RESTRICTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS. Each party shall comply with the following restrictions and requirements regarding Confidential Information:

- 2.1. Neither party shall copy, modify, enhance, compile or assemble (or reverse compile or disassemble), or reverse engineer Confidential Information, except as authorized by written agreement of the parties or by the written consent of the other party.
- 2.2. Neither party shall, directly or indirectly, disclose, divulge, reveal, report or transfer Confidential Information of the other to any third party, other than an agent, subcontractor or vendor of the City or the Company who: (a) has a need to know such Confidential Information for purposes contemplated by this Agreement, and (b) has executed a confidentiality agreement incorporating substantially the form of this Agreement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Company shall not directly or indirectly, disclose, divulge, reveal, report or transfer Highly Restricted of the other to any third party without the City's prior written consent.
- 2.3. Neither party shall use any Confidential Information of the other for its own benefit or for the benefit of a third party, except to the extent such use is authorized by this Agreement or other written agreements between the parties hereto, or is for the purpose for which such Confidential Information is being disclosed.
- 2.4. Neither party shall remove any proprietary legends or notices, including copyright notices, appearing on or in the Confidential Information of the other.
- 2.5. Each party shall use reasonable efforts to prohibit its employees, vendors, agents and subcontractors from using or disclosing the Confidential Information in a manner not permitted by this Agreement.

- 2.6. In the event that any demand is made in litigation, arbitration or any other proceeding for disclosure of Confidential Information, the party upon which the demand is made shall notify the other party of the demand, and shall cooperate with and reasonably assist the other party in seeking a protective order or other appropriate relief to prevent or restrict and protect any disclosure of Confidential Information.
- 2.7. All materials which constitute, reveal or derive from Confidential Information shall be kept confidential to the extent disclosure of such materials would reveal Confidential Information.
- 2.8. Each party shall restrict employee access to the Confidential Information of the other party to those employees having a need to know for purposes of carrying out the business relationships contemplated by this Agreement.
- 2.9. The Company shall comply with the City's Restricted Data Policy, a copy of which is posted on the City's website, and with any instructions or procedures issued by City key business units from time to time with respect to protecting specific types of Confidential Information.
- 2.10. Each party shall take reasonable measures to prevent the use or disclosure of Confidential Information by its employees in a manner not permitted by this Agreement. The Company shall have each of its employees who will have access to the Confidential Information sign a confidentiality agreement which provides the City and its vendors, licensors, subcontractors, employees and taxpayers the same level of protection as provided by this Agreement, including compliance with the City's Restricted Data Policy.
- 2.11. The Company shall further ensure that each person who obtains access to Confidential Information through the Company (including but not limited to Company's employees and subcontractors) has undergone training sufficient to understand his or her responsibilities with respect to this Agreement and the City's Restricted Data Policy.
3. **EXCEPTIONS.** The disclosing party to this Agreement agrees that the receiving party ("Recipient") shall have no obligation with respect to any Confidential Information that the Recipient can establish:
 - 3.1. was already known to Recipient prior to being disclosed by the disclosing party;
 - 3.2. was or becomes publicly known through no wrongful act of Recipient;
 - 3.3. was rightfully obtained by Recipient from a third party without similar restriction and without breach hereof;
 - 3.4. was used or disclosed by Recipient with the prior written authorization of the other party;
 - 3.5. was disclosed pursuant to the requirement or request of a governmental agency, which disclosure cannot be made in confidence, provided that, in such instance, Recipient shall first give to the other party notice of such requirement or request;
 - 3.6. was disclosed pursuant to the order of a court of competent jurisdiction or a lawfully issued subpoena, provided that the Recipient shall take reasonable steps to obtain an agreement or protective order providing that this Agreement will be applicable to all disclosures under the court order or subpoena.
4. **DATA.** The Company will treat as Confidential Information all data provided by the City or processed for the City or for citizens under this Agreement (including metadata). Such data shall remain the exclusive property of the City. The Company will not reproduce, copy, duplicate, disclose, or in any way treat the data supplied by the City in any manner except that contemplated by this Contract.
5. **PUBLIC RECORDS.** Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, the parties recognize and acknowledge that the City is a subdivision of the State of North Carolina and is, therefore, subject to the North Carolina Public Records Act (the "Act") at N.C. Gen. Stat. 132-1 et seq. The parties further acknowledge that any Confidential Information that is a public record under North Carolina law may be released and disclosed by

the City pursuant to the Act, and that any such release or disclosure shall not in any way constitute a breach of this Agreement, nor shall the City be liable to the Company for such release or disclosure.

In the event the City receives a request for disclosure of Confidential Information which the Company has specifically marked "Confidential" or "Proprietary" the City shall give the Company written notice of such request (the "Notice of Request for Disclosure"). In the event the Company has a reasonable basis for contending that the disclosure of such Confidential Information is not required by the Act, the Company shall within ten days after receipt of the Notice of Request for Disclosure notify the City in writing of its objection to disclosure and the basis therefor. The Company shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the City from and against all losses, damages, liabilities, costs, obligations and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) incurred by the City in connection with any refusal by the City to disclose Confidential Information after receiving an objection to disclosure from the Company. If the City receives no written objection from the Company within ten days after the Company's receipt of a Notice of Request for Disclosure, the City shall disclose the Confidential Information referenced in the Notice of Request for Disclosure.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the parties agree that the computer database information that the City is required to disclose under N.C. Gen. Stat. §132-6.1 shall not be deemed Confidential Information, and that the City shall be entitled to disclose such information without notice to the Company.

6. **REMEDIES.** Each party acknowledges that the unauthorized disclosure of the Confidential Information of the other will diminish the value of the proprietary interests therein. Accordingly, it is agreed that if a party breaches its obligations hereunder, the other party shall be entitled to equitable relief to protect its interests, including but not limited to injunctive relief, as well as monetary damages.
7. **NOTICES.** Any notice, consent or other communication required or contemplated by this Agreement shall be in writing, and shall be delivered in person, by U.S. mail, by overnight courier, by electronic mail or by telefax to the intended recipient at the address set forth below:

For Company:

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

For the City of Charlotte:

Shelia Anderson
Procurement Division Manager
City of Charlotte
600 East Fourth Street, 12th Floor
Charlotte, NC 28203
PHONE: 980-390-7444
E-MAIL: shelia.anderson@charlottenc.gov

Notice shall be effective upon the date of receipt by the intended recipient; provided that any notice of breach or default which is sent by telefax or electronic mail shall also be simultaneously sent by mail deposited with the U.S. Postal Service or by overnight courier. Each party may change its address for notification purposes by giving the other party written notice of the new address and the date upon which it shall become effective.

Any notice of a breach or default under this Agreement shall also be sent to:

For Company:

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

For the City of Charlotte:

Alicia Young Hall
Office of the City Attorney
600 East Fourth Street, 7th Floor
Charlotte, NC 28202
PHONE: 704-995-2766
E-MAIL: alicia.younghall@charlottenc.gov

8. MISCELLANEOUS

- 8.1. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT.** This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties with respect to protection and disclosure of the Confidential Information. There are no other representations, understandings of agreements between the parties with respect to such subject matter. On the subject

matter of this Agreement, it .supersedes all prior agreements, negotiations, representations and proposals, written or oral.

- 8.2. **AMENDMENT.** No amendment or change to this Agreement shall be valid unless in writing and signed by both Parties to this Agreement.
- 8.3. **GOVERNING LAW AND JURISDICTION.** North Carolina law shall govern the interpretation and enforcement of this Agreement, and all other matters relating to this Agreement (all without regard North Carolina conflicts of laws principles). Any and all legal actions or proceedings relating to this Agreement shall be brought in a state or federal court sitting in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. By execution of this Agreement, the parties submit to the jurisdiction of said courts and hereby irrevocably waive any and all objections which they may have with respect to venue in any of the above courts.
- 8.4. **BINDING NATURE AND ASSIGNMENT.** This Agreement shall bind the parties and their successors and permitted assigns. Neither party may assign this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other. Any assignment attempted without the written consent of the other party shall be void.
- 8.5. **SEVERABILITY.** The invalidity of one or more phrases, sentences, clauses or sections contained in this Agreement shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of the Agreement so long as the material purposes of the Agreement can be determined and effectuated. If any provision of this Agreement is held to be unenforceable, then both parties shall be relieved of all obligations arising under such provision, but only to the extent that such provision is unenforceable, and this Agreement shall be deemed amended by modifying such provision to the extent necessary to make it enforceable while preserving its intent.
- 8.6. **WAIVER.** No delay or omission by either party to exercise any right or power it has under this Agreement shall impair or be construed as a waiver of such right or power. A waiver by either party of any covenant or breach of this Agreement shall not constitute or operate as a waiver of any succeeding breach of that covenant or of any other covenant. No waiver of any provision of this Agreement shall be effective unless in writing and signed by the party waiving the rights.
- 8.7. **COUNTERPARTS.** This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, all of which taken together shall constitute one single agreement between the parties.
- 8.8. **TITLES OF SECTIONS.** The section headings inserted herein are for convenience only and are not intended to be used as aids to interpretation and are not binding on the parties.

Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to eliminate or lessen any obligation either party may have at law with respect to protecting the confidentiality of Confidential Information, except as the provisions of this Agreement expressly authorize the release of Confidential Information.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, and in acknowledgment that the parties hereto have read and understood each and every provision hereof, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed on the date first written above.

COMPANY NAME: _____

CITY OF CHARLOTTE

BY: _____

BY: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

TITLE: _____

DATE: _____

DATE: _____