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November 29, 2021

Mr. F. Michael Tucker  
President and CEO  
and  
Mr. Carmine Pierro  
Chairman of the Audit Committee

Columbia County Industrial Development Agency  
1 Hudson City Centre, Suite 301  
Hudson, NY 12534

Dear Mr. Tucker and Mr. Pierro:

The following represents our understanding of the services we will provide Columbia County Industrial Development Agency (a component unit of the County of Columbia, New York).

You have requested that we audit the financial statements of Columbia County Industrial Development Agency, comprised of the statement of net position as of December 31, 2021, and the statements of revenue, expenses, and changes in net position and cash flows for the year then ending and the related notes, which collectively comprise Columbia County Industrial Development Agency's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and our understanding of this audit engagement by means of this letter.

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 in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements, including omissions, 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.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, (U.S. GAAP,) as promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) require that management's discussion and analysis be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the GASB, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in

an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information (RSI) in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, (U.S. GAAS). These limited procedures will consist primarily of inquiries of management regarding their methods of measurement and presentation, and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries. We will not express an opinion or provide any form of assurance on the RSI. The following RSI is required by U.S. GAAP. This RSI will be subjected to certain limited procedures but will not be audited:

- Management's discussion and analysis

Supplementary information other than RSI will accompany Columbia County Industrial Development Agency's basic financial statements. We will subject the following supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the basic financial statements and perform certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling the supplementary information to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and additional procedures in accordance with U.S. GAAS. We intend to provide an opinion on the following supplementary information in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole:

- Schedule of conduit debt obligations
- Schedule of projects and exemptions
- Schedule of PILOTS

Also, the document we submit to you will include the following other additional information that will not be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the basic financial statements:

- Schedule of Employment Data

### **Auditor Responsibilities**

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS and *Governmental Auditing Standards*. As part of an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Governmental Auditing Standards*, 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, 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. 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 internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 entity'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 Columbia County Industrial Development Agency'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 internal control, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements (whether caused by errors, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws or governmental regulations) may not be detected exists, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. GAAS and *Governmental Auditing Standards*.

Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any other periods.

We have identified the following significant risks of material misstatement as part of our audit planning:

- Management override of controls, and
- Improper revenue recognition.

### **Compliance with Laws and Regulations**

As previously discussed, as part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of Columbia County Industrial Development Agency's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion.

### **Management Responsibilities**

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

- a. For the preparation and fair presentation of the basic financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America;
- b. For the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of basic financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to error, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws, governmental regulations, grant agreements, or contractual agreements; and
- c. To provide us with:
  - i. Access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the basic financial statements such as records, documentation, and other matters;

- ii. Additional information that we may request from management for the purpose of the audit; and
- iii. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- d. For including the auditor's report in any document containing basic financial statements that indicates that such basic financial statements have been audited by the entity's auditor;
- e. For identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with the laws and regulations applicable to its activities;
- f. For adjusting the basic financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the current year period(s) under audit are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the basic financial statements as a whole;
- g. For acceptance of non-attest services, including identifying the proper party to oversee non-attest work;
- h. For maintaining adequate records, selecting and applying accounting principles, and safeguarding assets;
- i. For informing us of any known or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving management, employees with significant role in internal control and others where fraud could have a material effect on the financials; and
- j. For the accuracy and completeness of all information provided.

With regard to the supplementary information referred to above, you acknowledge and understand your responsibility: (a) for the preparation of the supplementary information in accordance with the applicable criteria; (b) to provide us with the appropriate written representations regarding supplementary information; (c) to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains the supplementary information and that indicates that we have reported on such supplementary information; and (d) to present the supplementary information with the audited basic financial statements, or if the supplementary information will not be presented with the audited basic financial statements, to make the audited basic financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date of issuance by you of the supplementary information and our report thereon.

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.

*Government Auditing Standards* require that we document an assessment of the skills, knowledge, and experience of management, should we participate in any form of preparation of the basic financial statements and related schedules or disclosures as these actions are deemed a non-audit service.

#### **Non-attest Services**

With respect to any non-attest services we perform, including the preparation of the Agency's financial statements, we will not assume management responsibilities on behalf of Columbia County

Industrial Development Agency. However, we will provide advice and recommendations to assist management of Columbia County Industrial Development Agency in performing its responsibilities.

You agree to assume all management responsibilities for the financial statement preparation services, and any other non-attest services we provide; oversee the services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skills, knowledge, and/or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of the services; and accept responsibility for them. It is your responsibility to maintain original data and records as well as information produced by information systems. We cannot accept and have no responsibility to maintain any of your data, records, or information. Erin McNary and F. Michael Tucker will be the responsible management employees for overseeing our non-attest services.

Our responsibilities and limitations of the engagement are as follows:

- This engagement is limited to the financial statement preparation services previously outlined. Our firm, in its sole professional judgment, reserves the right to refuse to do any procedure or take any action that could be construed as making management decisions or assuming management responsibilities, including determining account coding and approving journal entries.

## Reporting

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of Columbia County Industrial Development Agency's basic financial statements. Our report will be addressed to Columbia County Industrial Development Agency. 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, add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph(s) to our auditor's report, or if necessary, withdraw from the engagement. If our opinion on the basic financial statements is other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed an opinion, we may decline to express an opinion or to issue a report as a result of this engagement.

In accordance with the requirements of *Government Auditing Standards*, we will also issue a written report describing the scope of our testing over internal control over financial reporting and over compliance with laws, regulations, and provisions of grants and contracts, including the results of that testing. However, providing an opinion on internal control and compliance will not be an objective of the audit and, therefore, no opinion will be expressed.

## Other

We understand that your employees will prepare all confirmations we request and will locate any documents or support for any other transactions we select for testing.

If you intend to publish or otherwise reproduce the basic financial statements and make reference to our firm, you agree to provide us with printers' proofs or masters for our review and approval before printing. You also agree to provide us with a copy of the final reproduced material for our approval before it is distributed.

Regarding the electronic dissemination of audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on your Internet website, you understand that electronic sites are a means to distribute information and, therefore, we are not required to read the information contained in these sites or to consider the consistency of other information in the electronic site with the original document.

Professional standards prohibit us from being the sole host and/or the sole storage for your financial and non-financial data. As such, it is your responsibility to maintain your original data and records and we cannot be responsible to maintain such original information. By signing this engagement letter, you affirm that you have all the data and records required to make your books and records complete.

**Provisions of Engagement Administration, Timing and Fees**

During the course of the engagement, we may communicate with you or your personnel via fax or e-mail, and you should be aware that communication in those mediums contains a risk of misdirected or intercepted communications.

The timing of our audit will be scheduled for performance and completion as follows:

	<i>Begin</i>	<i>Complete</i>
Document internal control and preliminary tests	January 11, 2022	January 15, 2022
Mail confirmations	N/A	January 2022
Perform year-end audit procedures	January 11, 2022	February 15, 2022
Audit committee meeting	N/A	March 2022
Board meeting	N/A	March 2022
Issue audit report	N/A	March 31, 2022

Matthew VanDerbeck is the engagement partner for the audit services specified in this letter. His responsibilities include supervising UHY LLP's services performed as part of this engagement and signing or authorizing another qualified firm representative to sign the audit report.

From time to time, both during and after the conclusion of our engagement, we may be required to respond to subpoenas or other requests for documents, testimony or court appearances, or to otherwise take actions under compulsion of law or legal process, relating to you and/or the work we have undertaken for you as identified and described herein. In any such instance, you will be and

remain responsible to compensate us for our time expended, and to reimburse us for our costs and disbursements (including attorney's fees) incurred, in complying with any such legal requirements, all in the manner described in the following paragraph that addresses billing and payment.

Our fees are based on the amount of time required at various levels of responsibility, plus actual out-of-pocket expenses. Invoices will be rendered every as work progresses and are payable upon presentation. We estimate that our fee for the audit will be \$8,750. We will notify you immediately of any circumstances we encounter that could significantly affect this initial fee estimate. Whenever possible, we will attempt to use Columbia County Industrial Development Agency's personnel to assist in the preparation of schedules and analyses of accounts. This effort could substantially reduce our time requirements and facilitate the timely conclusion of the audit. Further, we will be available during the year to consult with you on financial management and accounting matters of a routine nature.

During the course of the audit we may observe opportunities for economy in, or improved controls over, your operations. We will bring such matters to the attention of the appropriate level of management, either orally or in writing.

You agree to inform us of facts that may affect the basic financial statements of which you may become aware during the period from the date of the auditor's report to the date the financial statements are issued.

We agree to retain our audit documentation or work papers for a period of at least seven years from the date of our report.

At the conclusion of our audit engagement, we will communicate to Columbia County Industrial Development Agency's Board of Directors the following significant findings from the audit:

- Our view about the qualitative aspects of the entity's significant accounting practices;
- Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit;
- Uncorrected misstatements, other than those we believe are trivial, if any;
- Disagreements with management, if any;
- Other findings or issues, if any, arising from the audit that are, in our professional judgment, significant and relevant to those charged with governance regarding their oversight of the financial reporting process;
- Material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures;
- Representations we requested from management;
- Management's consultations with other accountants, if any; and
- Significant issues, if any, arising from the audit that were discussed, or the subject of correspondence, with management.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of UHY LLP and constitutes confidential information. However, we may be requested to make certain audit documentation available to Columbia County and/or New York State pursuant to authority given to it by law or regulation, or to peer reviewers. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided

under the supervision of UHY LLP's personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to New York State. The New York State Comptroller may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies of information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

UHY LLP has a contractual arrangement with UHY Advisors, Inc. and its various wholly owned subsidiaries ("UHY Advisors") pursuant to which UHY Advisors provides UHY LLP with services for which licensure as a CPA is not required. In order to avoid duplication of efforts arising out of this arrangement, we request that you consent to our sharing with UHY Advisors and UHY Advisors sharing with UHY LLP the information that may be obtained from you during the course of our engagement. Unless you indicate otherwise, your acceptance of the terms of this engagement shall be understood by us as your consent to make disclosures to UHY Advisors of confidential information that we may obtain in the course of our engagement.

UHY Advisors, Inc. and UHY LLP are U.S. members of Urbach Hacker Young International Limited, a UK company, and form part of the international UHY network of legally independent accounting and consulting firms. "UHY" is the brand name for the UHY international network. Any services described herein are provided by UHY Advisors and/or UHY LLP (as the case may be) and not by UHY or any other member firm of UHY. Neither UHY nor any member of UHY has any liability for services provided by other members.

This engagement letter and all services rendered hereunder shall be governed, construed, and enforced by the laws of the State of New York, without the need to resort to principles of conflicts of laws. New York law shall apply to any legal or equitable proceeding that shall be instituted in any way arising out of this engagement letter, any obligations contained or allegedly contained herein, and all services rendered touching or relating in any way to the obligations of this engagement letter. All parties to this engagement consent to the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal and state courts located in New York and, more particularly, the state court located in Albany County, New York and the federal court located in the Northern District of New York.

In accordance with the requirements of *Government Auditing Standards*, we have attached a copy of our latest external peer review report of our firm for your consideration and files.

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

For the purposes of this engagement letter (and other letters of correspondence), transmitted copies (reproduced documents transmitted via photocopy, facsimile, or process that accurately transmits the original) are considered documents equivalent to original documents. Signatures transmitted and received via facsimile, pdf format, e-mail, or an electronic signature platform will be treated for all purposes of this engagement letter (and other letters of correspondence) as original signatures and will be deemed valid, binding, and enforceable by and against all parties.

We appreciate the opportunity to be your financial statement auditors and look forward to working with you and your staff.



**DRAFT**

Respectfully,

*UHY LLP*

Matthew VanDerbeck, CPA  
Partner  
One Hudson City Centre, Suite #204  
Hudson, NY 12534

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RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth our understanding.

**Columbia County Industrial Development Agency**

Acknowledged and agreed on behalf of Columbia County Industrial Development Agency by:

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Title: President and CEO

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Title: Chairman of the Audit Committee

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE LOCATIONS**

**California**  
Orange County

**Connecticut**  
Farmington

**Florida**  
Miami

**Georgia**  
Atlanta

**Maryland**  
Columbia

**Michigan**  
Ann Arbor  
Detroit  
Farmington Hills  
Port Huron  
Sterling Heights

**Missouri**  
Kansas City  
St. Louis

**New York**  
Albany  
Catskill  
Hudson  
Kingston  
Long Island  
New York  
Rye Brook  
Saratoga Springs

**Texas**  
Houston

## **Report On Peer Review**

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We are pleased to provide a copy of UHY LLP's most recent peer review report dated January 31, 2021 as well as the related letter from the Chair of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' National Peer Review Committee notifying us that the Committee accepted our peer review report on April 21, 2021. Firms can receive a rating of pass, pass with deficiency(ies), or fail. UHY LLP received a peer review report rating of pass – the best possible outcome.

Peer reviews are conducted on a triennial basis and are performed on the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice applicable to non-SEC issuers. Our next peer review will be due on January 31, 2024.

A peer review is conducted by qualified CPA inspectors from an outside CPA firm. These peer reviewers select engagements that are representative of the reviewed firm's non-SEC practice. Their selection considers the various industries served by the firm, the partners serving those industries and must include all levels of attest service – audits, reviews, compilations, agreed-upon procedures engagements, SOC 1 and SOC 2 engagements, and other attestation services.

In addition to the numerous engagement files reviewed in detail, the peer reviewers inspect other areas of our non-SEC practice including client acceptance and retention, independence, integrity and objectivity, licensing and professional membership, and our staff and partner resources related to recruiting, hiring, assignments, education and training, and continuing professional education.

We are proud of our record of commitment to quality and pledge to continue in our dedication to the highest level of service.

**UHY** **LLP**



National Peer  
Review Committee

April 22, 2021

Cynthia Scheuer  
UHY LLP  
4 Tower Place, Executive Park, 7th Floor  
ALBANY, NY 12203

Dear Cynthia Scheuer:

It is my pleasure to notify you that on April 21, 2021, the National Peer Review Committee accepted the report on the most recent System Review of your firm. The due date for your next review is January 31, 2024. This is the date by which all review documents should be completed and submitted to the administering entity. Since your due date falls between January and April, you can arrange to have your review a few months earlier to avoid having a review during tax season.

As you know, the report had a peer review rating of pass. The Committee asked me to convey its congratulations to the firm.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Fawley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Fawley  
Chair, National PRC  
+1.919.402.4502

cc: Candace Wright, Betina Dufault

Firm Number: 900003882951

Review Number: 579417



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*A Professional Accounting Corporation*

## Report on the Firm's System of Quality Control

To the Partners of UHY LLP  
and the National Peer Review Committee

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of UHY LLP (the firm) applicable to engagements not subject to PCAOB permanent inspection in effect for the year ended July 31, 2020. Our peer review was conducted in accordance with the Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Standards).

A summary of the nature, objectives, scope, limitations of, and the procedures performed in a System Review as described in the Standards may be found at [www.aicpa.org/prsummary](http://www.aicpa.org/prsummary). The summary also includes an explanation of how engagements identified as not performed or reported in conformity with applicable professional standards, if any, are evaluated by a peer reviewer to determine a peer review rating.

### **Firm's Responsibility**

The firm is responsible for designing a system of quality control and complying with it to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. The firm is also responsible for evaluating actions to promptly remediate engagements deemed as not performed or reported in conformity with professional standards, when appropriate, and for remediating weaknesses in its system of quality control, if any.

### **Peer Reviewer's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design of the system of quality control and the firm's compliance therewith based on our review.

### **Required Selections and Considerations**

Engagements selected for review included engagements performed under *Government Auditing Standards*, including compliance audits under the Single Audit Act; audits of employee benefit plans, an audit performed under FDICIA, an audit of a broker-dealer, and examinations of service organizations [SOC 1 and SOC 2 engagements].

As part of our peer review, we considered reviews by regulatory entities as communicated to the firm, if applicable, in determining the nature and extent of our procedures.

### **Opinion**

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of UHY LLP applicable to engagements not subject to PCAOB permanent inspection in effect for the year ended July 30, 2020, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. Firms can receive a rating of *pass*, *pass with deficiency(ies)* or *fail*. UHY LLP has received a peer review rating of *pass*.

*Postlethwaite & Netterville*

Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
January 11, 2021



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