



July 22, 2022

To the Board Chair and Members of the Board
North Miami Beach Community Redevelopment Agency
(a component unit of the City of North Miami Beach, Florida)
17011 NE 19 Avenue
North Miami Beach, FL 33162

Re: Engagement letter with Caballero Fierman Llerena & Garcia, LLP (“We”, “our” or “us”)

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide for the North Miami Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (a component unit of the City of North Miami Beach, Florida) (the NMBCRA) for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022 (one year extension).

Audit Scope and Objectives

We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund, including the disclosures, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of the NMBCRA as of and for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2022. Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management’s discussion and analysis (MD&A), to supplement the NMBCRA’s basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board 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 NMBCRA’s RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). These limited procedures will consist of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management’s responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. The following RSI is required by GAAP and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

- 1) Management’s Discussion and Analysis.
- 2) Budgetary Comparison Schedule

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 issue an auditors’ report that includes our opinions about whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with GAAP, and report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as whole. 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 GAAS and *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 of a reasonable user made based on the financial statements.

The objectives also include reporting on internal control over financial reporting and compliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and award agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

Auditors’ Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and will include tests of your accounting records of the NMBCRA and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. As part of an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We will evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management. We will also evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and determine whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the government or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the government. Because the determination of waste and abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to perform specific procedures to detect waste or abuse in financial audits nor do they expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting waste or abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements or noncompliance may not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements or on major programs. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, any fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

We will also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the government's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We will also request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement.

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

- Management override of controls

We may, from time to time and depending on the circumstances, use third-party service providers in serving your account. We may share confidential information about you with these service providers but remain committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information. Accordingly, we maintain internal policies, procedures, and safeguards to protect the confidentiality of your personal information. In addition, we will secure confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information and we will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of your confidential information to others. In the event that we are unable to secure an appropriate confidentiality agreement, you will be asked to provide your consent prior to the sharing of your confidential information with the third-party service provider. Furthermore, we will remain responsible for the work provided by any such third-party service providers.

Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you of your responsibilities.

Audit Procedures—Internal Control

We will obtain an understanding of the NMB CRA and its environment, including internal control relevant to the audit, sufficient to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks and obtain evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions. 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, misrepresentation, or the override of internal control. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*. 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, misrepresentation, or the override of internal control. An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Accordingly, we will express no such opinion. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal

control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards and *Government Auditing Standards*.

Audit Procedures—Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the NMBBCRA's compliance with provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements, including grant agreements. However, the objective of those procedures will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance, and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

Other Services

We will also assist in preparing the financial statements and related notes of the NMBBCRA in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America based on information provided by you. These nonaudit services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. The other services are limited to the financial statements and related notes services previously defined. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming management responsibilities.

You agree to assume all management responsibilities for the financial statements, related notes, and any other nonaudit services we provide. You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements and related notes and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, you agree to oversee the nonaudit services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of those services; and accept responsibility for them.

Employment Eligibility

Effective January 1, 2021, Section 448.095, Florida Statutes, requires all contractors entering into a contract with the Plan to register with the E-Verify system operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security to verify the employment eligibility of all of its newly hired employees. Accountant/auditor meets the definition of "Contractor" as defined in Section 448.095, Florida Statutes. Accountant/auditor verifies that it has registered with and uses the E-Verify system.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that you acknowledge and understand your responsibility for designing, implementing, establishing, and maintaining effective internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; following laws and regulations; and ensuring that management and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and all accompanying information in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements.

Management is responsible for making drafts of financial statements, all financial records, and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information (including information from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers). You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, identification of all related parties and all related-party relationships and transactions, and other matters; (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit; and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about your responsibilities for the financial statements; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and other responsibilities required by GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the 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 latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements of each opinion unit taken as a whole.

You are responsible for 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 government involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the government received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the government complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants and for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, or contracts or grant agreements that we report.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Scope and Objectives section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information (if any).

Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other

We understand that your employees will prepare all cash, accounts receivable, or other confirmations we request and will locate any documents selected by us for testing.

We will provide copies of our reports to the NMBCRA; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Caballero Fierman Llerena & Garcia, LLP and constitutes confidential information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to the applicable oversight agency or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Caballero Fierman Llerena & Garcia, LLP personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of five years after the report release date or for any additional period requested by the applicable oversight agency. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency, pass-through entity, or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party(ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

Andrew S. Fierman, CPA is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the reports or authorizing another individual to them.

Our fee for these services will be \$5,250.

This fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the engagement. If significant additional time is necessary, we will keep you informed of any problems we encounter and our fees will be adjusted accordingly. Our standard hourly rates vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the experience level of the personnel assigned to your audit. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered as work progresses and are payable on presentation. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed our report(s). You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket costs through the date of termination.

You may request that we perform additional services not addressed in this engagement letter. If this occurs, we will communicate with you regarding the scope of the additional services and the estimated fees. We also may issue a separate engagement letter covering the additional services. In the absence of any other written communication from us documenting such additional services, our services will continue to be governed by the terms of this engagement letter.

Our audit engagement ends on delivery of our audit report. Any follow-up services that might be required will be a separate, new engagement. The terms and conditions of that new engagement will be governed by a new, specific engagement letter for that service.

In the absence of any other written communication from us documenting such additional services, our services will continue to be governed by the terms of this engagement letter.

As a result of the services we provide to you pursuant to this engagement letter, and/or as a result of our prior or future services to the City, we may be required or requested to provide information or documents to you or a third-party in connection with a legal, arbitration or administrative proceeding (including a grand jury investigation) in which we are not a party. If this occurs, our efforts in complying with such requests or demands will be deemed part of this engagement and we shall be entitled to compensation for our time and reimbursement for our reasonable out-of-pocket expenditures (including legal fees of counsel of our own choosing) in complying with such request or demand. This is not intended, however, to relieve us of our duty to observe the confidentiality requirements of our profession.

The NMBCRA hereby indemnifies Caballero Fierman Llerena & Garcia, LLP and its partners, principals, and employees, and holds them harmless from all claims, liabilities, losses, and costs arising in circumstances where there has been a known misrepresentation by a member of the NMBCRA's management, regardless of whether such person was acting in the NMBCRA's interest. This indemnification will survive termination of this letter of engagement.

The parties to this engagement agree that any dispute that may arise regarding the meaning, performance, or enforcement of this engagement will be submitted to mediation, either prior to the filing of any legal action, or upon service of any lawsuit, upon written request of any party to the engagement. The party requesting mediation shall select the mediation provider from the list of mediation training providers approved by the Florida Supreme Court. The mediation shall be conducted in accordance with the Commercial Mediation Rules of the American Arbitration Association or such other rules as may be agreed upon by the parties. The results of this mediation shall not be binding upon either party. Costs of any mediation proceeding shall be shared equally by both parties. The parties shall be responsible for their own legal fees incurred during the mediation. The venue of the mediation shall be in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

If mediation is unsuccessful, and/or if any legal proceedings are filed, by entering into this engagement, the NMBCRA and we each expressly agree and acknowledge that Circuit Court for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida in and for Miami-Dade County, in Miami, Florida, and the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, in Miami, Florida, shall each have exclusive and sole jurisdiction for any action arising from, from relating to or in connection with this engagement letter, or any course of conduct, course of dealing, statement or actions by us or the NMBCRA and their respective employees, representatives, or agents. You expressly acknowledge that you voluntarily submit to personal jurisdiction in the State of Florida for any such legal action.

WE AND THE NMBCRA EACH HEREBY KNOWINGLY, VOLUNTARILY AND INTENTIONALLY WAIVE ANY RIGHT EITHER MAY HAVE TO A TRIAL BY JURY IN RESPECT TO ANY LITIGATION OR LEGAL PROCEEDINGS BASED HEREON, OR ARISING OUT OF, UNDER OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS ENGAGEMENT LETTER OR ANY COURSE OF CONDUCT, COURSE OF DEALING, STATEMENT (WHETHER VERBAL OR WRITTEN) OR ACTIONS OF EITHER US OR THE NMBCRA.

The provisions of the immediately preceding last two paragraphs of this engagement letter are each a material inducement for us to accept this engagement in accordance with the provisions of this engagement letter. The terms and provisions of this engagement letter, any course of conduct, course of dealing and/or action on our part and/or by the NMBCRA and our relationship with the NMBCRA shall be governed by the laws of the State of Florida. In any litigation brought either by us or the NMBCRA, the prevailing party shall be entitled to an award of its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred, including through all appeals.

Our audit is intended for the benefit of the NMBCRA. The audit will not be planned or conducted in contemplation of reliance by any third party or with respect to any specific transaction. Therefore, items of possible interest to a third party will not be specifically addressed and matters may exist that would be assessed differently by a third party, possibly in connection with a specific transaction.

If you intend to publish or otherwise reproduce the financial statements together with our report (or otherwise make reference to our Firm) in a document that contains other information, you agree to provide us with a draft of the document to read and comment on before it is printed and distributed. Furthermore, you agree that the terms of this engagement do not encompass an undertaking by us (1) to consent, by means of separate letter or otherwise, to the inclusion of our auditor's report on the financial statements referred to above in a filing with a Federal or state regulatory agency or otherwise reissue our report for purposes of a securities offering or other financing transaction, or (2) to acknowledge reliance on our report by others.

With regard to the electronic dissemination of the audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on a 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. Further, you hereby authorize Caballero Fierman Llerena & Garcia, LLP to electronically submit to your employees or to others as you may request or as may be necessary to perform our engagement, any financial statements, workpapers, and other information related to our services under this agreement. By your signature below, you acknowledge and agree to hold Caballero Fierman Llerena & Garcia, LLP harmless from any damages, claims, liabilities, losses, and costs (including legal fees of counsel of our own choosing) whatsoever that might be caused by the electronic transmission or submission of this data.

We acknowledge your right to terminate our services at any time, and you acknowledge our right to resign at any time (including instances where in our judgment, our independence has been impaired or we can no longer rely on the integrity of management), subject in either case to our right to payment for all direct or indirect charges incurred through the date of termination or resignation or thereafter as circumstances and this engagement agreement may require.

This engagement letter reflects the entire agreement between us relating to the services covered by this letter. It replaces and supersedes any previous proposals, correspondence and understandings, whether written or oral. If any portion of this agreement is held to be void, invalid or otherwise unenforceable, in whole or in part, the remaining portions of this agreement shall remain in effect. The agreements of the NMBCRA and Caballero Fierman Llerena & Garcia, LLP contained in this engagement letter shall survive the completion or termination of this engagement.

Reporting

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of NMBCRA's financial statements. Our report will be addressed to Board Chair and Members of the Board of the NMBCRA. 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 opinions, add a separate section, or add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph to our auditor's report, or if necessary, withdraw from this engagement. If our opinions are 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 opinions, we may decline to express opinions or issue reports, or we may withdraw from this engagement.

We will also provide a report (that does not include an opinion) on internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements as required by *Government Auditing Standards*. The report on internal control and on compliance and other matters will state (1) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the NMBCRA's internal control on compliance, and (2) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the NMBCRA's internal control and compliance. The report will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose. If during our audit we become aware that the NMBCRA is subject to an audit requirement that is not encompassed in the terms of this engagement, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance that an audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* may not satisfy the relevant legal, regulatory, or contractual requirements.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of continued service to the NMBBCRA and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the attached copy and return it to us.

This engagement letter is renewable at the option of the NMBBCRA.

Very truly yours,



Andrew S. Fierman, CPA
Partner
Caballero Fierman Llerena & Garcia, LLP

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of the North Miami Beach Community Redevelopment Agency.

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____