

**AGREEMENT FOR LEGAL SERVICES
OF THE ASSISTANT TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY**

THIS AGREEMENT made and entered into on this 21st day of March, 2023, by and between the **TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE**, a municipal corporation of the State of New Jersey, located at Town Hall, 66 Main Street, West Orange, County of Essex and State of New Jersey, hereinafter called the “TOWNSHIP,” and Kenneth W. Kayser, Esq., an Attorney at Law of the State of New Jersey, with a principal place of business at 120 Eagle Rock Avenue, E. Hanover, New Jersey 07936, and a business mailing address of P.O. Box 2087, Livingston, New Jersey 07039, hereinafter referred to as “COUNSEL,” and for the term of one year, to commence on January 1, 2023 and expire on December 31, 2023.

WITNESSETH THAT:

WHEREAS, The Township of West Orange is a Faulkner Act Mayor-Council Form of government with a Law Department established by Ordinance, the Director of which is the Township Attorney; and

WHEREAS, the Township Attorney, with the Mayor’s approval, has requested the appointment of COUNSEL to the position of Assistant Township Attorney subject to the approval of the Township Council, which has approved of COUNSEL’s appointment; and

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40A:9-139*, requires that the appointment of municipal attorneys be limited to a term of one year, and *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-15*, provides that professional services contracts shall not exceed twelve months; and

WHEREAS, the TOWNSHIP provides for payment of the Assistant Township Attorney at the rate of \$ 31,500.00 per year, as set currently by the Township’s salary ordinance, which includes payment for COUNSEL’s representation of the TOWNSHIP in its general legal matters, but not for litigation, arbitrated or mediated matters, in which the Township has an adversary,

and which are to be billed separately and by the hour at the rate provided in the TOWNSHIP's Attorney Billing Guidelines;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises, terms and conditions hereinafter set forth, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. **Scope of Services.** The TOWNSHIP hereby retains the services of Kenneth W. Kayser, Esq., as Assistant Township Attorney for the TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE, to assist the Township Attorney by providing the same general legal services on behalf of the TOWNSHIP as provided by State statutes, regulations and the Revised General Ordinances of the TOWNSHIP, including, but not limited to: (i) providing legal advice to the Mayor, Council, and Department Directors, in their day to day operation of the TOWNSHIP's government, including, but not limited to, compliance with the Local Public Contracts Law, the Open Public Meetings Act, the Open Public Records Act, the Local Finance Law, Local Budget Law, Civil Service Law, etc.; (ii) legal research and drafting of legal opinions, contracts, agreements, resolutions and ordinances required for the effective and efficient operation of the TOWNSHIP's government; (iii) providing legal advice regarding policy initiatives and changes; (iv) representing the TOWNSHIP's interests in the purchase and sale of real property, and other property; (v) enforcement of licensing and regulatory ordinances of the TOWNSHIP, etc.; (vi) representation of the Township in any and all judicial and administrative proceedings, whether before a Judge, Arbitrator, or Mediator, in which the Township, or any of its officers in their official capacity, may have an interest; and (vii) related matters, all as specifically delegated by and at the direction and under the supervision of the Township Attorney so that there shall be no duplication of services and to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the operation of the Law Department.

The Scope of Services shall include matters of litigation, arbitration or mediation in which the TOWNSHIP has an adversary, but in all such matters, COUNSEL shall be paid at an hourly rate separate and apart from, and in addition to, the salary paid for representation of the TOWNSHIP in its general legal matters. The Assistant Township Attorney shall have the responsibility for reviewing and approving legal service invoices submitted by Special Counsel when requested to do so by the Township Attorney to avoid any conflict of interest.

2. **Salary and Hourly Rate.** For representation of the Township in its general legal matters, COUNSEL shall be paid an annual retainer in the amount as set forth in the current salary ordinance for the TOWNSHIP, currently \$31,500.00 per year, to be paid in twelve equal monthly installments, each in the amount of \$2,625.00, each installment due on the 1st day of the month. For matters of litigation, arbitration or mediation in which COUNSEL performs legal services for the TOWNSHIP in an adversarial setting, COUNSEL shall be paid at the hourly rate provided in the TOWNSHIP's Attorney Billing Guidelines for those legal services reasonably necessary to provide competent and adequate representation of the TOWNSHIP's interests, payment for all such services to be subject to governing body approval.

3. **Submission and Content of Invoices.** COUNSEL shall be entitled to payment for services rendered in adversarial matters upon submission of invoices to the TOWNSHIP on a monthly basis. The invoices shall set forth in detail the time expended each day and description of the services rendered. All invoices shall, at a minimum, set forth: (i) the name of the matter; (ii) date(s) of services rendered; (iii) the attorney's name, initials, or other such identification; (iv) the attorney's hourly rate; (v) total charge for the task or billing entry; (vi) detailed description of the service rendered; and (vii) the amount of time spent on the particular task. COUNSEL shall not block bill for any services rendered. For purposes of this Agreement,

“block billing” shall refer to the practice of grouping together multiple activities or tasks under one (1) time entry.

4. **Reimbursement for Expenses.** COUNSEL may seek reimbursement for actual expenses reasonably incurred, such as postage, copying, mileage, meals, parking, court reporters or delivery of documents in accordance with the TOWNSHIP’s Billing Guidelines. The amounts for such expenses shall be itemized on the monthly invoices provided to the TOWNSHIP.

5. **Administrative Work, Secretarial Services and Multiple Attorney Billing.** COUNSEL shall not bill the TOWNSHIP for office overhead expenses such as secretarial or administrative support staff and billing for multiple attorneys for internal conferences or attendance at outside meetings and events should be discouraged and minimized.

6. **Billing for Travel Time.** COUNSEL may bill the TOWNSHIP for travel time to and from any destinations in connection with matters of litigation, arbitration or mediation which COUNSEL is handling for the TOWNSHIP at one-half of the normal hourly rate for such matters.

7. **Coordination of Representation.** COUNSEL shall coordinate and regularly communicate with the appropriate TOWNSHIP officials, department heads, TOWNSHIP employees and any others involved, regarding the status of various legal matters and the need for information and cooperation on their part.

8. **Professional Liability Coverage Required.** At all times during COUNSEL’s retention by the TOWNSHIP, COUNSEL shall comply with the applicable New Jersey Court Rules requirements for professional liability coverage. COUNSEL shall maintain in good standing one or more policies of lawyers' professional liability insurance which shall insure COUNSEL’s firm against liability imposed upon it by law for damages resulting from any claim

made against it by its clients arising out of the performance of professional services by attorneys employed by the firm in their capacities as attorneys.

9. **Township Representations.** COUNSEL is hereby placed on notice that **no** Department Head, individual member of the Governing Body, or any agent, servant or employee of the TOWNSHIP possesses any lawful authority to: (a) engage on behalf of the Township the provision of legal services; (b) authorize the continuation of services or work beyond the amount specifically approved in the Resolution and Certificate of Funds; or (c) represent that future funds will be available as compensation for current services. Any such acts shall be deemed ultra vires and beyond the scope of any authority that individual may possess.

10. **Applicability of Laws.** The provisions of this agreement are subject to the limitations of provisions of the New Jersey Tort Claim Act, N.J.S.A. 59:2-1 et seq., and the New Jersey Contractual Liability Act, N.J.S.A. 59:13-1 et seq.

11. **Choice of Law.** This agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of New Jersey without regard to principles of conflict of laws. All contract claims under this agreement shall be subject to and governed by the provisions of the New Jersey Contractual Liability Act (N.J.S.A. 59:13-1 et seq.).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE

ATTEST:

KAREN J. CARNEVALE, R.M.C

By:_____
SUSAN McCARTNEY, MAYOR

WITNESS:

KENNETH W. KAYSER

By:_____
KENNETH W. KAYSER