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| APPEARANCE: | 2 |

TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY 350 Front Street
Hempstead, New York 11550
BY: FREDERICK E. PAROLA

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MR. PAROLA: Good morning. It is 9:58. My name is Fred Parola, I'm the Executive Director of the Town of Hempstead Industrial Development Agency.

We are here for this public hearing on Gateway Holdings, LLC, a New York limited liability company that is seeking certain benefits from the Town of Hempstead Industrial Development Agency.

I will submit to you, Ms. Reporter, the notice of public hearing for inclusion in the official minutes signed by me and submitted by me to that purpose.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing pursuant to Title 1 of Article 18-A of the New York State General Municipal Law will be held by the Town of Hempstead Industrial

Development Agency ("the Agency") on the 11th day of May 2016, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at Garden City

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Village Hall, 351 Stewart Avenue,
Garden City, New York in connection with the following matters:

Gateway Holdings, LLC, a New York limited liability company, on behalf of itself and/or the principals of Gateway Holdings, LLC and/or an entity formed or to be formed on behalf of the foregoing (the "Company"), has applied to the Town of Hempstead Industrial Development Agency (the "Agency") to enter into a transaction in which the Agency will assist in the acquisition of an approximately 0.5 acre parcel of land (Section 34, Block 5, Lots 43 and 44) located at 390 Old Country Road, Garden City, Town of Hempstead, Nassau

County, New York (the "Land"), the
renovation of an existing
5,800-square-foot, two-story office building located thereon, including but not limited to the construction of an entrance, the installation of an elevator and faade work (the

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"Improvements"), and the acquisition and installation therein of certain equipment and personal property (the "Equipment"; and, together with the Land, and the Improvements, the "Facility"), which Facility is to be subleased and leased to the Company and sub-subleased by the Company to various tenants not yet determined for use as a multi-tenant office building. The Facility will be initially owned, operated and/or managed by the Company.

The Agency contemplates that it will provide financial assistance to the Company in the form of exemptions from mortgage recording taxes in connection with the financing or any subsequent refinancing of the Facility, exemptions from sales and use taxes and abatement of real property taxes, consistent with the policies of the Agency.

A representative of the Agency will, at the above-stated time and

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Anyone wishing to be heard, please come forward.

MS. HEINMAN: Angela Heinman. I
am a resident of Garden City, 107
Fourth Street, and I am here on behalf of the Board of Education, Garden City Public School; I'm the Board President.

I just, again we have some -- we

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have an interest in knowing, are you
entering into an agreement with this
company for a -- with this Gateway
Holdings, is it a PILOT, a reduction in taxes?

MR. PAROLA: No reduction in
taxes. We take the existing taxes and we begin at that level.

So you're welcomed to look at the PILOT schedule and it's shared --

MS. HEINMAN: That's essentially
what we're asking --
MR. PAROLA: It's shared by the three entities, the general tax, the school tax and the Village tax, so if you know the percentage, it's 47,089
total and goes out over a ten-year period.

MS. DICATUA: That was the other
question, what is the term?
MS. HEINMAN: So does the agreement break down the percentage because we're --

MR. PAROLA: It's impossible to do

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that because it changes each year.
MS. DICATUA: Okay. As far as because of the tax rate --

MR. PAROLA: Sure. General tax may go up one year, go down, the school tax may go up or down. It will be relatively the same breakdown through the ten-year period, I would think; although, the school would probably go up a little bit more than the general.

MS. DICATUA: So in other words, this is all they're going to pay for those three, all they're going to pay for --

MR. PAROLA: Correct. That's their bottom line --

MS. DICATUA: And then --

MR. PAROLA: We break it out each year.

MS. DICATUA: Each year, as to who gets a portion to each district?

MR. PAROLA: Yes.
MS. HEINMAN: Are they required to demonstrate increase in business that

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they, you know, I guess they're
petitioning this based on the fact that they would bring additional business into the --

MR. PAROLA: Well, business is a difficult, obviously, category to qualitatively establish. What they must do before they file with us is to tell us how many jobs are going to be created, and they have to stick to that or they can lose their benefits; and, obviously, improvement to the building or they would not be getting a property tax break.

MS. DICATUA: Okay.
And I see that you held them flat for years one through three.

MR. PAROLA: That is our standard practice, and that is because there is work to be done on the building, so we give them a period of time in the formidable period to get up to spur so they can be fully functional.

MS. DICATUA: And year one of --

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this is on a fiscal year, is this on a fiscal year?

MR. PAROLA: No.

It's the same as whatever
jurisdiction is impacted.
So this will not take effect, it's going to close probably within, I would think we're closing this in later May. I think this is closing in May, at least anticipated closing in May so because of the Nassau County Roll, the Village tax and the school tax would kick in probably first half 2017 and the general tax would kick in 2018, so before that, they will pay their full taxes, before that kicks in.

MS. DICATUA: And the percentage increase from year to year is based off of what?

MR. PAROLA: In the PILOT?

MS. DICATUA: Yes.

MR. PAROLA: We usually freeze
three years and then go up in small
percentages, so it's probably the

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increase between year four and year ten is less than two percent, it's in the one-and-change range.

MS. DICATUA: Okay.
MR. PAROLA: Just for the record, we try not to impact local jurisdiction, especially villages that feel it most dearly and certainly school districts. The Town, obviously can more easily absorb a break.

Certain jurisdictions though, or certain IDAs I should say, will cut the tax in half. We don't do that. We never will do that. In fact, we have turned deals down. For example, the Marriott in Uniondale, we would not do the PILOT because they were looking for too much. They went to the County IDA, but we wouldn't do it.

So we're very sensitive to how difficult it is to reach those budgets, especially in an area where nothing goes down; so, consequently, we will either, and I'm reiterating what I said

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earlier, that we will look to the
existing tax. If it's a land-only, which it isn't here, but if it's a land-only, we give a little break and then we'll pop it up after that, maybe a year or two realizing the reality they now have a building on there and so it should be higher, land-only is very, obviously, very cheap.

MS. DICATUA: That's what I was going to say.

MR. PAROLA: But this is not land-only here.

MS. DICATUA: Right, but the improvements are not to the land, it's to the building itself.

MR. PAROLA: Correct.

MS. DICATUA: And at that point, we would anticipate that they would have new jobs and therefore have additional income.

MR. PAROLA: Correct.
But on an existing building, we don't pop up, as they say, or increase

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greatly the PILOT; and the reason
really is because of the County.
As you're probably aware, because the County sets the roll, the County, when there are suits is responsible going backwards to the school district and to the Township and to the Village for certiorari proceedings and judgments against them, so they have, as you're probably aware, have lowered dramatically the assessment which consequently means they have lowered the taxes as it impacts so we have -- I used to go up -- I do the PILOT, so I used to increase PILOTs two or three percent a year. We found halfway through the PILOT that they would have been doing better without the PILOT, and we had to go back and set it downward.

So we're finding through use each
year is that less than two percent a
year, even though it doesn't seem like
much, works for all the parties

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involved and the freeze the first three years in the formidable period.

MS. DICATUA: So they're accepting their current assessment and the taxes based on the --

MR. PAROLA: They literally come off the rolls -- sorry to interrupt.

They literally come off the rolls, and we have an agreement with the Town of Hempstead, we're separate from the Town of Hempstead, so we have an agreement with them that they help us build them, and we collect it and then we give it to the various jurisdictions; so the Village will get its share each year, the school district will get its share each year when it commences and, of course, the Town will get its share.

MS. HEINMAN: Do you know at which point the school district will know what percentage of the PILOT they would be getting?

MR. PAROLA: Yes, because -- well,

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I don't know if they'll know the percentage, they will know the hard number.

MS. HEINMAN: Okay.
MR. PAROLA: Along the lines of the normal tax. This billing occurs under the PILOT the same as it does, you know, April, October for schools and January, June for the general, the Village I'm not sure.

You might note that the former mayor of Garden City is here with us.

MR. BEE: And current Village counsel.

MR. PAROLA: Excuse me, counsel.
MR. BEE: How are you, sir?
MR. PAROLA: I am well, sir.
Would you state your name for the young lady.

MR. BEE: Peter Bee, B-E-E. The law firm of Bee Ready Fishbein Hatter and Donovan, 170 Old Country Road, Mineola, New York, general counsel for the Village of Garden City.

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> Mr. Parola, were you just
explaining that there is actually no
loss of revenue to the school district?

MR. PAROLA: We've been through
it, yes.
MR. BEE: And similarly no loss of
revenue to the Village of Garden City?
MR. PAROLA: Correct.

MR. BEE: Because the Village's
position is that it would oppose any
grant of a tax exemption that resulted
in a loss of revenue to the Village.
MR. PAROLA: Third time I'll
reiterate that we're very sensitive to those impacts as we have been discussing here, and I used the example of Babylon Township that will cut taxes in half and the County of Nassau IDA has maybe not in half, but has lowered taxes a third, forty percent. Town of Hempstead IDA has not, and I trust while I'm here a few more years, perhaps, will not do that because most of our people come from a local

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government experience, or as I did from the State experience, I was the State Legislator, and we know how difficult it is for you to make -- so we want to give, you know, we're here, we have two balls in the air. We want to provide the incentives because it's so difficult for businesses to remain here with the competition in the states around us and the south is worse, and at the same time we don't want to pull the rug out from local jurisdictions, especially villages and school districts that feel the impact so readily.

MR. BEE: So this would potentially involve a partial or full exemption over some period of time for County taxes and/or for Town taxes but not for Village or school?

MR. PAROLA: No, it impacts those also.

MR. BEE: I'm sorry.
MR. PAROLA: It impacts all the

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jurisdictions this PILOT, but we're beginning at a point of the existing taxes, and it goes up in small
percentages for ten years.
MR. BEE: So there is no loss of the current tax payment?

MR. PAROLA: Correct. I don't think --

MR. BEE: But it would prevent tax increases?

MR. PAROLA: No.

Three years are frozen under this plan, and that's our normal standard practice to give them --

MR. BEE: I'm sorry, when you say three years are frozen, you mean the current tax --

MR. PAROLA: At the current tax.
MR. BEE: Current tax rate or current tax bill?

MR. PAROLA: Hard number.

MR. BEE: Hard dollar number.
MR. PAROLA: Yes.
And that's to give them a chance,

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obviously, to do their work, get in there, et cetera; and then we'll go up, maybe we start at a quarter, $I$ don't know what this one is, but it will go up maybe the fourth year, one-and-a-quarter percent, then one-and-a-half by the end maybe it's two percent, one-and-three-quarter percent increase.

MR. BEE: So there is a loss of revenue to the Village and the school district in the sense that whereas everyone else's tax dollars may be going up, this applicant's tax dollars would not be?

MR. PAROLA: For three years.
MR. BEE: However, after which it is graduated in some fashion to get back into full tax?

MR. PAROLA: Correct.

MR. BEE: So the loss of revenue
is significantly moderated because you're freezing them at the current dollar amounts for three years and then

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bringing them back up to full taxes
thereafter in some kind of graduated basis, but there is no cut of the existing tax dollars.

MR. PAROLA: Correct.
MR. BEE: Only the loss of
potential future revenue.
MR. PAROLA: Correct.
The only time, and I don't believe it happened here. The only time that we will reduce the existing hard tax is if we get an opinion from, there are about six law firms that, we don't steer, but there are six law firms that have the credibility that my board will accept if there is a pending certiorari and they give us a lawyer's opinion letter from one of their experts stating that based upon our expertise and experience, we have an existing certiorari on this property, it has not been completed; however, we believe based upon that expertise and experience that the taxes which are now

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$\$ 50,000$ will be $\$ 35,000$.
We will go with the $\$ 35,000$ number because it's got to get off the tax rolls, so we will, and I don't know if you, Mr. Bee, I don't know if you were here, but I'll repeat it, what we have found are our increases were much greater ten years ago, but what we found is the County, as you're probably aware keeping the tax rate low has been lowering dramatically to protect itself against the certiorari proceedings and judgments has been lowering the, in essence, the taxes but based upon the rate --

MS. HEINMAN: But the tax rate itself has not been decreasing because
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MR. PAROLA: No, but the bottom line does.

MS. HEINMAN: But that's driven off of the assessments, which has been decreasing.

MR. PAROLA: Correct.


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MS. HEINMAN: So in essence, you
know, leaving the assessment flat for this entity, we would see a higher rate increase.

MR. PAROLA: You might, unless
they brought a tertiary and you never know, but as I was saying, and what we found with experience is -- we have 83 projects right now, maybe ten years ago, we had 70, but what we were experiencing is that halfway through the PILOT, their benefits, their taxes would have been less because the County does mark that, on the market than it was with the PILOT, and we had to revisit the PILOT and lower it and sometimes even lower it more to make up the fact that in two previous years, same thing happened, they were paying more for our PILOT than they were if they were in the full market and not having a PILOT, so that's why we have kept it down to like, you know, less than two percent now.

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MR. BEE: Nevertheless, Mr.
Parola, I am instructed to advise that the Village opposes any grant of a tax exemption that would result in any loss of tax revenue to the Village.

MR. PAROLA: Of course.
And for the record, hopefully we'll more than make up for it with the economic activity, sales tax, et cetera.

MS. HEINMAN: And I'm going to reiterate on behalf of the Garden City Public Schools the same thing.

MR. PAROLA: Of course.
MS. HEINMAN: We would not be in
favor, we would oppose anything that
limits our revenue.

MS. DICATUA: Do you take into consideration the fact that once they make these investments, the value of
that building and once they get
tenants, the value of that building is certainly going to increase and yet for
a ten-year period, their taxes may be

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substantially --
MR. PAROLA: Of course, but in that eleventh year, but for the IDA, you wouldn't have had this project perhaps, the increased market of improvement to the building and the increased ratables at that eleventh year are going to dramatically assist the Village in increased taxes.

So, you know, it's an incentive and it can work a short-term, hopefully not terrible impact but in the long run, we think it benefits everyone.

MS. HEINMAN: Is there any
mechanism before the ten-year period? I'm mean obviously not on behalf of Gateway, but is there any mechanism to revisit this within the ten-year period and say, you know what, you're really getting off on the cheap here, and we want the property back on the tax roll sooner?

MR. PAROLA: No. I mean, the -as long as they are living within the

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promise. If they promised to add whatever, ten jobs, twenty jobs, so long as they keep to that commitment through the period -- they have to report each year -- so long as they keep to that commitment, then we will not, what we call clawback, go back and reduce their benefits or eliminate them, which we have done on occasion.

MS. HEINMAN: So you can confirm that that is monitored each year?

MR. PAROLA: We are monitored by three State agencies. I would say that forty percent of my staff time is committed to complying with the State of New York's regulations. We are heavily regulated because many, hopefully more Upstate than here, they have given away the ranch, and I would say the County of Nassau has too many occasions, to my liking anyway, given away the ranch and that, you know, that gets on everybody's skirts or pants in terms of negative reaction; so there
have been, they have tightened up regulations. The have restricted, we cannot do retail but for a number of limited exceptions to the law, and we were able to do that, so there is a lot of negativity to the involvement of IDAs in the local community, but if you turn on your TV and you listen to the New York commercials that are into the hundred of millions of dollars, they're doing the same thing at the State level and, in fact, giving away much more of the ranch than do we.

MR. BEE: Ultimately, we
appreciate that it is a judgment call as to whether or not the project will eventually contribute more to the economy and the tax rolls than is justified by the tax cut, but the position of the Village and, I think, I hear the same from the school district is that this does not, that the local elected are more focused right now on the tax revenue in the foreseeable

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future rather than the more speculative benefits of the long-term project.

MR. PAROLA: Well, where there is no vision, the people perish. That's a biblical quote.

But I understand, we try to balance and I understand your position.

MS. HEINMAN: Given the
constraints we're under with tax cap, we, you know, we're here to advocate that, you know, we want to keep the tax rolls as broad as possible.

MS. DICATUA: PILOTs coming on and
off the tax rolls is confusing to the
average taxpayer because it does impact the total assessment for the taxing entity and therefore affects the taxes.

MS. HEINMAN: And it affects our
tax cap calculation itself.
MR. PAROLA: Right.

MR. BEE: Thank you.
MS. HEINMAN: Thank you so much.
(Whereupon, a recess was taken at this time.)



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