

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF AMHERST INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY AUTHORIZING THE RENOVATION AND EQUIPPING OF APPROXIMATELY 20,000 +/- SQUARE FEET OF OFFICE SPACE BY STRATEGIC FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS, LLC LOCATED AT 115 LAWRENCE BELL DRIVE, AMHERST, NEW YORK FOR SALE OR LEASE TO THE AGENCY AND SUBSEQUENT RECONVEYANCE OR LEASE PURSUANT TO AN INSTALLMENT SALE CONTRACT OR LEASE TO STRATEGIC FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS, LLC, THE EXECUTION OF AN INSTALLMENT SALE CONTRACT AND/OR LEASE AGREEMENTS, AND THE TAKING OF OTHER ACTIONS.**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Amherst Industrial Development Agency (the “Agency”) is authorized under the laws of the State of New York, and in particular the New York State Industrial Development Agency Act, constituting Title 1 of Article 18-A of the General Municipal Law, Chapter 24 of the Consolidated Laws of New York, as amended, and Section 914-a of the General Municipal Law, as amended (collectively, the “Act”), to promote, develop, encourage and assist in the acquiring, constructing, reconstructing, improving, maintaining, equipping and furnishing of industrial, manufacturing, warehousing, commercial and research facilities and thereby advance the job opportunities, general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of the State of New York and to improve their prosperity and standard of living; and

**WHEREAS**, Strategic Financial Solutions, LLC, for itself or for related individuals or entities (the “Company”), has entered into negotiations with officials of the Agency with respect to the renovation and equipping by the Agency without the proceeds of a bond issue of approximately 20,000 +/- square feet of office space to be used for back-office operations and support (the “Project”) and conveyance of the Project pursuant to an Installment Sale Contract or the lease of the Project to the Company, such Project to be located at 115 Lawrence Bell Drive, Amherst, New York (the “Premises”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Company has submitted an application and other materials and information (collectively, the “Application”) to the Agency to initiate the accomplishment of the above; and

**WHEREAS**, the Application sets forth certain information with respect to the Company and the Project, including the following: that the Company desires Agency financing for the renovation and equipping of approximately 20,000 +/- square feet of office space located at 115 Lawrence Bell Drive, Amherst, New York, for back-office operations and support purposes, all at a cost of approximately \$750,000.00; that the Project will allow the Company to expand its operations into the Western New York area, and expand its back-office support system, all to expand its growing consumer debt resolution business which services customers across the country; that due to the nature of the proposed facility and the Company’s proposed future expansion plans, the Company will eventually have 50% of its workforce employed in the Town of Amherst; that the Company anticipates that three hundred (300) new full-time jobs will be created as a result of the Project at the end of two (2) years of operation thereof; that (i) there will be no substantial adverse disruption

of existing employment of facilities of a similar nature in the Town of Amherst; (ii) the Project will provide substantial employment and substantial capital investment; and (iii) Agency financing will help to encourage the Company to proceed with the Project in the Town of Amherst; and

**WHEREAS**, the financial assistance to be provided by the Agency in connection with the Project, in the form of exemptions from sales and use taxes will not exceed \$100,000.00, therefore no public hearing with respect to the Project is required pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 859-a; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency has reviewed the Application and a cost-benefit analysis with respect to the Project, including the extent to which the Project will create and retain permanent, private-sector jobs, the value of tax exemptions to be provided, the amount of private sector investment generated or likely to be generated by the Project, the likelihood of accomplishing the proposed Project in a timely fashion, the extent to which the proposed Project will provide additional sources of revenue for the municipalities and school district and other public benefits that might occur as a result of the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency desires to encourage the Company with respect to the consummation of the Project, if by doing so it is able to induce the Company to proceed with the Project in the Town of Amherst; and

**WHEREAS**, the Company has completed and submitted to the Agency Part 1 of an Environmental Assessment Form (“EAF”) in accordance with the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act and regulations adopted pursuant thereto (collectively, “SEQRA”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency has completed Part 2 of the EAF and has considered the proposed Project and reviewed the EAF and the criteria set forth in SEQRA in order to determine whether the Project will have a significant effect on the environment and wishes to make the findings required of an agency under SEQRA.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE TOWN OF AMHERST INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** The Agency hereby resolves that the proposed Project will not have a significant impact on the environment for the reasons more particularly set forth in the negative declaration prepared by the Agency and, in accordance with SEQRA, hereby adopts such negative declaration with regard to the Project.

**Section 2.** The Project is described in the recitals to this Resolution. The financial assistance to be provided in connection therewith include: an exemption from sales and use taxes for building materials and machinery, equipment, fixtures and furnishings purchased for incorporation into or use at the Project location having a total cost not to exceed \$750,000.00 (the “Financial Assistance”). In addition to any other covenants, obligations and agreements which may be contained in the Project Documents (as hereinafter defined), the provision by the Agency of the Financial Assistance is made subject to the agreement by the Company throughout the Compliance

Period (as defined below) to comply with the following covenants and agreements, each of which shall constitute a “Material Factor”:

- (a) compliance with the Agency’s Local Labor Policy in connection with the construction of the Project;
- (b) creation within two (2) years of Project completion of two hundred fifty-five (255) new full time jobs and retention of such jobs throughout the Compliance Period; and
- (c) investment of not less than 85% of the total Project cost of \$750,000.00 in the renovation and equipping of the Project prior to Project completion.

The “Compliance Period” shall mean the three (3) calendar years following the Company initially achieving compliance with the Material Factors.

**Section 3.** The Agency hereby determines that the Project and the financing thereof by the Agency pursuant to the New York State Industrial Development Agency Act will promote and is authorized by and will be in furtherance of the policy of the State as set forth in said Act.

**Section 4.** The Agency hereby authorizes the Company, as agent for the Agency, to proceed with the Project as herein authorized. The Agency is hereby authorized to acquire an interest in the Project site and to make renovations thereto. The Company is authorized to proceed with the acquisition and construction of the Project as set forth in any Project Agreement, the Agency Lease Agreement or Installment Sale Contract (as hereinafter defined).

**Section 5.** The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Executive Director, Secretary, Treasurer, and any Assistant Secretary of the Agency, and other appropriate officials of the Agency and its agents and employees, are hereby authorized and directed to do and cause to be done any and all acts and things necessary or proper for carrying out this Resolution and to complete the Project in cooperation with the Company.

**Section 6.** The Company is authorized, as agent of the Agency, to initiate the construction of building renovations constituting the Project, and the acquisition of machinery, equipment, fixtures and furnishings which will be a part thereof or will be used in connection therewith, and to advance such funds as may be necessary to accomplish such purposes. The designation of the Company as agent hereunder is limited to purchases of sales-taxable tangible personal property and services in connection with the Project which do not exceed a total cost of \$750,000.00 and shall not apply to any other purchase by the Company or any operating expenses of the Company. The Company shall report to the Agency, at such times as the Agency shall require, or as may otherwise be prescribed by the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance (the “Commissioner”), the value of all sales and use tax exemptions claimed by the Company or agents of the Company or any operators of the Project, including, but not limited to, consultants or subcontractors of such agents or Project operators under the authority granted pursuant to this Resolution. A failure to report may result in the revocation of the designation of the Company as agent and repayment of any sales and use tax exemptions claimed.

**Section 7.** The Agency is hereby authorized to enter into a Project Agreement with respect to the provision of the Financial Assistance authorized herein (the “Project Agreement”) and to acquire an interest in the Project and the execution and delivery of an Installment Sale Contract (the “Installment Contract”) between the Agency and the Company and such other documents as may be necessary to fulfill the intent of the parties to the transaction (collectively, the “Project Documents”), in form satisfactory to Agency counsel, are hereby authorized. The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Executive Director, Secretary, Treasurer, or any Assistant Secretary are each authorized to execute such documents and to make or approve such amendments or modifications to the Project Agreement, Installment Contract and such other documents executed and delivered in connection therewith as they deem necessary under the circumstances provided, however, that such modifications do not materially alter the risk to the Agency.

**Section 8.** Any such action heretofore taken by the Company initiating the acquisition, installation and construction of the Project is hereby ratified, confirmed and approved.

**Section 9.** Any expenses incurred by the Agency with respect to the Project and the financing thereof shall be paid by the Company. By acceptance hereof, the Company agrees to pay such expenses and further agrees to indemnify the Agency, its members, employees and agents and hold the Agency and such persons harmless against claims for losses, damage or injury or any expenses or damages incurred as a result of action taken by or on behalf of the Agency with respect to the Project and the financing thereof.

**Section 10.** In the event an Installment Contract is not executed between the Company and the Agency by the expiration date of this Resolution (as such date may be extended as provided herein) or the termination of this Resolution, the Company shall then be required to pay all sales taxes which would have been levied in connection with the acquisition, construction and installation of all improvements of the real property and the machinery and equipment which constitute the Project, as if the Agency did not have an interest in the Project from the date the Company commenced its acquisition, construction and installation. In addition, in the event, because of the involvement of the Agency, the Company claims an exemption from state sales or use tax in connection with the Project, and such exemption is claimed with respect to property or services not authorized hereunder, or which exemption is in excess of the amounts authorized hereunder, or is otherwise not permitted under this Resolution, or if the Company shall fail to comply with a material term or condition regarding the use of property or services acquired by the Company as agent for the Agency as set forth in this Resolution or in any document authorized hereunder, then the Company shall each be required to remit to the Agency an amount equal to the amount of state sales and use taxes for which such exemption was improperly claimed. A failure to remit such amounts may result in an assessment against the Company by the Commissioner of state sales and use taxes, together with any relevant penalties and interest. In addition to the foregoing, in the event the Agency determines that Company is in violation of a Material Factor, or in the event that the Company closes the Project or relocates its operations to a location outside of the Town of Amherst within the Compliance Period or in the event the Agency determines, in its judgment, that the Company knowingly and intentionally submitted false or intentionally misleading information in its application to the Agency or in any report or certification submitted to the Agency for the purpose of obtaining or maintaining any Financial Assistance from the Agency (each referred to herein as a “Recapture Event”), the Agency may, in accordance with its policies

and procedures then in effect, (i) revoke the designation of the Company and any agents of the Company (including, but not limited to, consultants, sub-contractors or equipment lessors of the Company) as agents for the Agency in connection with the Project and terminate the exemption from New York State and local sales and use taxes conferred with respect to the Project and/or (ii) require that the Company pay to the Agency an amount equal to all or a portion (as determined by the Agency in its discretion) of the total value of all sales tax exemptions claimed by the Company and any agents of the Company, including, but not limited to, consultants, sub-contractors, or any equipment lessors of the Company under the authority granted under this Resolution and the Project Agreement. If the Agency makes any of the foregoing determinations and requires a repayment of all or a portion of the Financial Assistance received by the Company, the Company shall (i) cooperate with the Agency in its efforts to recover or recapture any or all Financial Assistance obtained by the Company and (ii) promptly pay over any or all such amounts to the Agency that the Agency demands in connection therewith. Upon receipt of such amounts, the Agency shall then redistribute such amounts to the appropriate affected tax jurisdiction(s) unless otherwise agreed to by any affected tax jurisdiction.

**Section 11.** The Agency has made and makes no representation or warranty whatsoever, either express or implied, with respect to the merchantability, condition, environmental status, fitness, design, operation or workmanship of any part of the Project, its fitness for any particular purpose, the quality or capacity of the materials in the Project, or the suitability of the Project for the Company's purposes or needs. The Company is satisfied that the Project is suitable and fit for its purposes. The Agency shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever to anyone for any loss, damage or expense of any kind or nature caused, directly or indirectly, by the Project property or the use or maintenance thereof or the failure of operation thereof, or the repair, service or adjustment thereof, or by any delay or failure to provide any such maintenance, repairs, service or adjustment, or by any interruption of service or loss of use thereof or for any loss of business howsoever caused, and the Company each hereby indemnifies and holds the Agency harmless from any such loss, damage or expense.

**Section 12.** No covenant, stipulation, obligation or agreement herein contained or contained in the Project Agreement, Installment Contract or other documents, nor the breach thereof, shall constitute or give rise to or impose upon the Agency a pecuniary liability or a charge upon its general credit, nor shall be deemed to be a covenant, stipulation, obligation or agreement of any member, officer, agent or employee of the Agency in his or her individual capacity.

**Section 13.** Should the Agency's participation in the Project be challenged by any party, in the courts or otherwise, the Company shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Agency and its members, officers and employees from any and all losses arising from any such challenge including, but not limited to, the fees and disbursements of the Agency's counsel. Should any court of competent jurisdiction determine that the Agency is not authorized under Article 18-A of the General Municipal Law to participate in the Project, this Resolution shall automatically become null, void and of no further force and effect, and the Agency shall have no liability to the Company hereunder or otherwise.

**Section 14.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately and shall continue in full force and effect for one (1) year from the date hereof and on or after such one (1) year anniversary, the

Agency may, at its option (a) terminate the effectiveness of this Resolution (except with respect to the obligations of the Company pursuant to Sections 9 and 10 of this Resolution which shall survive any expiration or termination) or (b) allow the Company additional time in which to close the transactions contemplated by this Resolution based upon affirmative actions taken by the Company to complete such transactions. Upon any allowance of additional time to close, the Agency may charge the Company an extension fee in accordance with the Agency's fee schedule.

**Section 15.** This Resolution is subject to compliance with all local building and zoning requirements.

ADOPTED: July \_\_\_\_, 2017

ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO: \_\_\_\_\_, 2017

STRATEGIC FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS, LLC

By: \_\_\_\_\_