

## LOCAL REVENUE SERVICES AGREEMENT

**THIS AGREEMENT**, made and entered into this 16th day of May A.D., 2023, by and among the Municipal Association of South Carolina (the "Association") and all the parties who are now or may hereafter become participants ("Participants") in South Carolina Local Revenue Services, a division of the Association ("LRS"),

### WITNESSETH:

**WHEREAS**, certain governmental functions may be more efficiently and effectively provided in cooperation with other governments, particularly when the sharing of such functions may deliver economies of scale, avoid redundancies in staffing, facilitate intergovernmental communication and coordination, benefit the citizens and taxpayers of the State by offering single points of contact, and allow retention of highly trained and specialized staff or private contractors in situations in which it would not be cost effective for a single government to retain such professionals;

**WHEREAS**, Article VIII, sec. 13 of the South Carolina Constitution provides that any incorporated municipality "may agree with . . . any other political subdivision for the joint administration of any function and exercise of powers and the sharing of the costs thereof," and that "[n]othing in this Constitution may be construed to prohibit the State or any of its counties, incorporated municipalities, or other political subdivisions from agreeing to share the lawful cost, responsibility, and administration of functions with any one or more governments, whether within or without this State;"

**WHEREAS**, S.C. Code § 4-9-41(A) provides that any "incorporated municipality ... may provide for the joint administration of any function and exercise of powers as authorized by Section 13 of Article VIII of the South Carolina Constitution;"

**WHEREAS**, certain municipalities in the State have determined that it would be effective and efficient to jointly perform certain functions, including without limitation the business license functions more fully described below;

**WHEREAS**, LRS is a division of the Association and a committee of the board of directors of the Association and will establish or continue one or more Revenue Service Programs (as hereinafter defined); and

**WHEREAS**, the Participants, through action of their respective governing bodies, have elected to comply with the conditions of this Agreement and to authorize LRS to perform the functions and exercise the powers herein described;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, for and in consideration of the mutual covenants, promises, and obligations herein contained, which are given to and accepted by each signatory hereof to the other, the parties hereto agree as follows:

**Section 1. Definitions.** As used in this Agreement, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

applicable throughout the State in a manner or at a rate that has been established by State law.

**Section 2. Authorization of LRS.** The municipalities that are initial signatories hereto do hereby establish LRS and authorize it to perform the functions and exercise the powers described in this Agreement. The functions to be performed hereunder are more specifically described in Section 5 below and the powers to be exercised are more specifically described in Section 6 below. The Participants, regardless of their respective dates of admission to LRS, further agree as follows:

- (a) The functions and powers described in this Agreement would be more efficiently and effectively performed and exercised in cooperation with other governments through LRS;
- (b) The Participants shall comply with the conditions of this Agreement and, by joining LRS, shall jointly perform the functions and exercise the powers herein described by contract with LRS.

**Section 3. Participation.** The right to participate in LRS shall be limited to local governments within the State. A qualifying entity may become a Participant by applying to LRS for admission and, if approved, accepting the terms of participation in LRS by ordinance and signing this Agreement in counterpart. LRS shall be sole judge of whether an applicant shall be admitted as a Participant. A Participant may be suspended or expelled by the LRS Board of Directors from LRS, provided that such suspension or expulsion shall not be effective until 30 days after written notice of suspension or expulsion has been mailed to it.

**Section 4. LRS Board of Directors.** LRS shall be governed by a Board of Directors containing five Directors. The members of the Association's Executive Committee (comprising the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, and Immediate Past President of the Association) shall serve *ex officio* as Directors of LRS, with terms of office coterminous with their terms as officers of the Association. The President of the Association, or in his or her absence the First Vice President of the Association, shall serve as chair at meetings of the LRS Board of Directors. With respect to LRS's officers, the members of the LRS Board of Directors shall occupy the same offices as they do with respect to the Association.

**Section 5. Functions of LRS.** LRS may, and at the direction of and subject to the control of the LRS Board of Directors shall, establish or continue one or more Revenue Service Programs including, without limitation, for the administration, assessment, collection, and enforcement of Statewide Business License Taxes and other Impositions related to Statewide Business License Taxes. LRS's functions with respect to the Revenue Service Programs shall include, without limitation, training employees; developing resources to assist business license functions; making necessary investigations into entities or individuals subject to Impositions; developing databases for the application, calculation, allocation, and distribution of Impositions; establishing procedures for determining and calculating the amounts due as Impositions; communicating with entities or individuals subject to Impositions; collecting current and delinquent Impositions; initiating, defending, managing, resolving, and settling disputes or litigation matters that affect more than

**Section 7. Attorney-in-Fact Designation; Dispute Resolution and Conduct of Litigation.** Each Participant hereby appoints LRS and its designees as its agent and attorney-in-fact to act on its behalf with respect to Impositions. As agent and attorney-in-fact, LRS shall be fully empowered to initiate, defend, manage, resolve, and settle any disputes or litigation (whether in its own name or in the name of the Participants) relating to Impositions owing or payable to one or more Participants; to pay all expenses, costs, and judgments that might be incurred against LRS when acting on behalf of its Participants for communication, investigation, negotiation, enforcement, defense, or settlement with respect to Impositions; and to take all other actions as may be necessary to administer, collect, investigate, enforce, and implement the Revenue Service Programs. Each Participant, pursuant to Rule 17 of the S. C. Rules of Civil Procedure and Rule 17 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, specifically acknowledges the standing of LRS to prosecute a civil action for collection in its behalf and hereby ratifies any such action that LRS may commence.

The LRS Board of Directors may, by majority vote, authorize a third party (including without limitation the Association) to act as attorney-in-fact to the same extent as set forth in this section on behalf of the Participants.

LRS's authority to initiate, defend, manage, resolve, and settle disputes and litigation shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

- (a) If, with respect to any particular dispute, a proposed compromise or settlement would reduce the amount asserted by LRS to be payable to an individual Participant by more than ten percent (10%) of the total amount remitted by LRS to such Participant in the immediately preceding year for the relevant Revenue Service Program, then, notwithstanding subsections 7(b) and 7(c) below, LRS shall be required to secure the written consent of such Participant before compromising or settling such dispute with respect to such Participant. Otherwise, LRS shall be entitled to compromise or settle such dispute on behalf of each Participant without further authorization by such Participants beyond that contained herein.
- (b) Any proposed compromise or settlement that would result in a reduction of \$100,000 or less from the amount originally claimed to be due and owing by LRS may be approved or denied by LRS without separate approval by the LRS Board of Directors. The LRS Board of Directors shall, by appropriate action from time to time, designate one or more staff members or contractual counterparties who are authorized to compromise or settle such disputes.
- (c) Any proposed compromise or settlement that would result in a reduction of more than \$100,000 from the amount originally claimed to be due and owing by LRS must be approved or denied by the LRS Board of Directors.

in protest at least eighty percent of the business license tax based on the final assessment. The appeal must be heard and determined by the Appeals Board. The Appeals Board shall provide the taxpayer with written notice of the hearing and with any rules of evidence or procedure prescribed by the Appeals Board. The hearing must be held within thirty days after receipt of the appeal form unless continued to another date by agreement of the parties. A hearing by the Appeals Board must be held at a regular or specially called meeting of the Appeals Board. At the appeals hearing, the taxpayer and LRS have the right to be represented by counsel, to present testimony and evidence, and to cross-examine witnesses. The hearing must be recorded and must be transcribed at the expense of the party so requesting. The Appeals Board shall decide the assessment by majority vote. The Appeals Board shall issue a written decision explaining the basis for the decision with findings of fact and conclusions and shall inform the taxpayer of the right to request a contested case hearing before the Administrative Law Court. The written decision must be filed with the LRS Business License Official and served on the taxpayer by mail or personal service. The decision is the final decision of LRS on the assessment.

- (3) Within thirty days after the date of postmark or personal service of LRS's written decision on the assessment, a taxpayer may appeal the decision to the Administrative Law Court in accordance with the rules of the Administrative Law Court.

**Section 9. LRS May Be Separately Organized.** Hereafter, the LRS Board of Directors may determine, for corporate governance, recordkeeping, and operational purposes, that LRS should be established as a separate entity, either under the South Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act, currently codified at Title 33, Chapter 31 of the S.C. Code, or otherwise. If the LRS Board of Directors so determines, it may take all such actions as may be necessary to organize LRS as a separate entity without further approval by the Participants, provided that such organization shall not otherwise vary or modify the terms of this Agreement except to the extent necessary to reflect the new organizational structure of LRS.

**Section 10. Participation in a Revenue Service Program.** A Participant may elect to participate in a Revenue Service Program by signing and delivering a separate supplement to this Agreement with respect to such Revenue Service Program (each, a "Participant Program Supplement"). The Participant Program Supplements shall be substantially identical within each Revenue Service Program. The form of the Participant Program Supplement is attached hereto as Appendix A.

**Section 11. Collection of Impositions; Distributions; Payment for Services; Prohibition on Lobbying Activity.**

- (a) LRS shall collect, subject to the Participant Program Supplements, all Impositions subject to this Agreement.

**Section 15. Term; Dissolution.** LRS has been established with the bona fide intention that it shall be continued in operation indefinitely and that the contributions to LRS shall continue for an indefinite period. However, the LRS Board of Directors reserves the right at any time to terminate LRS by a written instrument to that effect executed by at least four-fifths (4/5) of the members of the LRS Board of Directors. Such written termination notice shall be delivered to each Participant no less than 120 days prior to the effective date of termination. In the event of such termination, Participant contributions shall cease as of the date of termination and the assets then remaining in the fund shall continue to be used and applied, to the extent available, for the (a) payment of claims arising prior to such termination and (b) payment of reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in such termination. Any monies or other assets thereafter remaining in LRS shall be distributed pro rata to the Participants in LRS as of the day of termination. In no event shall any such assets be returned or distributed to any individual. Upon such termination, the LRS Board of Directors shall continue to serve for such period of time and to the extent necessary to effectuate termination of LRS.

*[signatures appear on following page]*

**PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE PAGE**

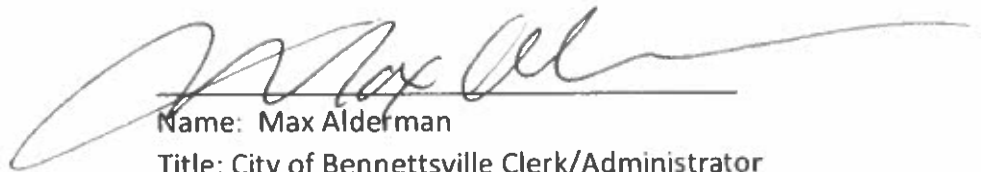
**CITY OF BENNETTSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**



Name: Dr. Carolyn A. Prince

Title: Mayor

**ATTEST:**



Name: Max Alderman

Title: City of Bennettsville Clerk/Administrator

First Reading: 04/18/2023

Second Reading: 05/16/2023

Association of South Carolina as the municipal agent to act on behalf of the municipality for the purposes of the Brokers Insurance Statute.

(b) The Brokers Insurance Statute governs the receipt from the South Carolina Department of Insurance ("DOI") and distribution to the Municipality of all municipal premium taxes from brokers for non-admitted surplus lines insurance. Upon receipt of the taxes from the DOI, LRS will deposit all funds received in an appropriate account for which accurate records will be maintained. Taxes will be disbursed to the Municipality, less the service charge herein agreed to, as collections permit.