

## **STEUBEN AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION CODE OF ETHICS**

The members of the board (the “Board”) of the Steuben Area Economic Development Corporation (the “Corporation”), a duly established public benefit corporation of the State of New York (the “State”), along with the officers and staff of the Corporation, shall comply with and adhere to the provisions of this Code of Ethics (“Code”) adopted pursuant to and in accordance Section 2824 of the Public Authorities Law and Article 18 of the General Municipal Law of the State.

### **ARTICLE I CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

A conflict of interest is a situation in which the financial, familial, or personal interests of a director, officer or employee come into “actual” or “perceived” conflict with their duties and responsibilities with the Corporation. “Perceived” conflicts of interest are situations where there is the appearance that a director, officer or employee can personally benefit from actions or decisions made in their official capacity, or where a director, officer or employee may be influenced to act in a manner that does not represent the best interests of the Corporation. The perception of a conflict may occur if circumstances would suggest to a reasonable person that a director, officer or employee may have a conflict. “Actual” conflicts of interest are situations where a director, officer or employee can personally benefit from actions or decisions made in their official capacity, or where a director, officer or employee is influenced to act in a manner that does not represent the best interests of the Corporation. Except for Prohibited Conflicts of Interest as set forth in Article V herein, Perceived and Actual conflicts of interest should be treated in the same manner for purposes of disclosure under Article IV herein.

### **ARTICLE II STANDARDS OF CONDUCT**

Each director, officer, and employee of the Corporation shall: (1) not accept other employment which will impair his or her independence of judgment in the exercise of his or her official duties; (2) not accept employment or engage in any business or professional activity which will require him or her to disclose confidential information which he or she has gained by reason of his or her official position of authority; (3) not disclose confidential information acquired by him or her in the course of his or her official duties nor use such information to further his or her personal interests; (4) not use or attempt to use his or her official position to secure unwarranted privileges or exemptions for himself, herself or others except that nothing herein shall prohibit any business or enterprise in which such director, officer or employee may have a financial interest from obtaining financial assistance provided that the Prohibited Conflicts of Interest provisions of Article V herein are not violated; (5) not engage in any transaction as a representative or agent of Agency with any business entity in which he or she has a direct or indirect financial interest that might reasonably tend to conflict with proper discharge of his or her official duties, except that nothing herein shall prohibit any business or enterprise in which such director, officer or employee may have a financial interest from obtaining financial assistance provided that the Prohibited Conflicts of Interest provisions of Article V herein are not violated; (6) not, by his or her conduct,

give reasonable basis for the impression that any person can improperly influence him or her or unduly enjoy his or her favor in the performance of his or her official duties, or that he or she is affected by the kinship, rank, position or influence of any party or person; (7) abstain from making personal investments in enterprises which he or she has reason to believe may be directly involved in decisions to be made by him or her or which will otherwise create substantial conflict between his or her duty in the public interest and his or her private interest, except that nothing herein shall prohibit any business or enterprise in which such director, officer or employee may have a financial interest from obtaining financial assistance provided that the Prohibited Conflicts of Interest provisions of Article V herein are not violated; and (8) endeavor to pursue a course of conduct which will not raise suspicion among the public that he or she is likely to be engaged in acts that are in violation of his or her trust. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, nothing shall prohibit any director, officer or employee of the Corporation from acquiring property adjacent to or otherwise proximate to the lands in which the Corporation has an ownership interest provided that such acquisition is not based upon the use of confidential information obtained by such director, officer or employee of the Corporation in his capacity with the Corporation as determined by such member after consultation with Chairman of the Corporation and Counsel to the Agency.

### **ARTICLE III GIFTS**

Pursuant to and in accordance with Section 805-a of the General Municipal Law, no director, officer or employee of the Corporation shall directly or indirectly, solicit any gift, or accept or receive any gift having a value of seventy-five dollars or more under circumstances in which it could reasonably be inferred that the gift was intended to influence such individual, or could reasonably be expected to influence such individual, in the performance of the individual's official duties or was intended as a reward for any official action on the individual's part. Inferences that gifts having a value of less than seventy-five dollars can influence or reward directors, officers or employees of the Corporation is deemed to be unreasonable.

### **ARTICLE IV PROCEDURES FOR DISCLOSURE**

Except for Prohibited Conflicts of Interest as set forth in Article V below, all directors, officers or employees of the Corporation shall adhere to the following procedures:

1. All Actual and Perceived conflicts of interest shall be disclosed in writing to the Ethics Officer as soon as practicable after learning of the Actual or Perceived conflict of interest. The written disclosure must (i) identify the matter before the Agency, (ii) identify the Standard of Conduct in question and (iii) contain sufficient facts and circumstances in order to accurately convey the extent of the director's, officer's or employee's interest in such matter. In addition, in the event a director on the board of the Corporation has a conflict, he or she shall verbally disclose the conflict during a public session of a board meeting at which the matter creating the conflict appears on the agenda. Such verbal disclosure shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and be made part of the public record.

2. The director, officer or employee with the conflict of interest shall refrain from participating in discussions or decisions on the matter creating the conflict. In addition, in the event a director on the board of the Corporation has a conflict, he or she shall recuse him or herself from any deliberations and abstain from voting on such matter creating the conflict.

3. The director, officer or employee with the conflict of interest shall refrain from directly or indirectly attempting to influence the discussions, decisions, deliberations or vote on the matter giving rise to such conflict.

## **ARTICLE V PROHIBITED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

General Municipal Law (“GML”) Article 18 regulates financial conflicts of interest of directors, officers and employees of the Corporation. Therefore, notwithstanding any other provision contained in this Policy, financial conflicts of interest shall be governed solely by this Article V.

**Prohibition:** No director, officer or employee shall have a direct or indirect financial interest in a contract with the Corporation where such director, officer or employee has some form of control over the contract (“Prohibited Interest”).

**No Cure:** Disclosure and recusal will not cure a Prohibited Interest. In order to avoid a violation of a “Prohibited Interest” the contract may not be acted upon or the director, officer or employee would have to resign.

**Violations:** Any director, officer or employee who is determined to have “willfully and knowingly” violated the Prohibited Interest provisions of Article 18 of the GML may be found guilty of a misdemeanor. In addition, the contract, if willfully entered into, may be determined “null, void and wholly unenforceable”

**Exceptions:** Article 18 of the GML provides fifteen exceptions to the Prohibited Interest provision. One of the more commonly claimed exceptions comes into play when the director, officer or employees (“officials”) interest in the contract is prohibited solely by reason of the official’s employment with the entity that has the contract with the Corporation. This exception applies provided: (a) the official’s compensation from the private employer is not contingent upon the contract between the employer and the Corporation and (b) the official’s duties for the private employer do not directly involve the procurement, preparation or performance of any part of the contract. [Note: This exception does not cover an Corporation official who is a director, partner, member, or shareholder of the private employer]. The second most commonly claimed exception is where the official has an interest in a contract that was entered into with the Corporation prior to the time the official was elected or appointed as such director, officer or employee of the Agency. Provided, however, this exception does not authorize the renewal of any such contract.

**Disclosure of Exception:** Disclosure of Interest that falls within one of the Exceptions: The official is required to publicly disclose the nature and extent of his or her prospective, existing or subsequently acquired interest in any actual or proposed contract. The disclosure must be made

in writing and must be placed, in its entirety, in the official record. The official must recuse him or herself from participating in any discussion or action on the contract.

Notification of Potential Conflict due to a Financial Interest: Every director, officer or employee shall immediately notify the Corporation's Ethics Officer of any potential conflict of interest due to a direct or indirect financial interest in any matter coming before the Corporation where such director, officer or employee has the power or duty to negotiate, prepare, authorize or approve the matter before the Corporation. The Ethics Officer shall review the potential financial conflict of interest pursuant to the provisions of Article 18 of the GML in consultation with Corporation counsel.

## **ARTICLE VI PENALTIES**

Any employee that fails to comply with this Policy may be subject to termination. In addition, any director, officer or employee that fails to comply with this Policy may be penalized in a manner provided for in law.

## **ARTICLE VII ETHICS OFFICER**

The Corporation's Board shall designate an officer, director or employee of the Corporation to serve as the Ethics Officer of the Corporation. In the event of a vacancy, the Corporation Board Chair shall serve as the Ethics Officer until such time as the Corporation Board appoints a successor.

The Ethics Officer shall report to the Governance Committee. The Ethics Officer shall have the powers and duties set forth below, and such other powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Board:

1. Advise in confidence each director, officer or employee of the Corporation who seeks guidance regarding ethical behavior.
2. Receive and record disclosures of conflicts of interest in the record of the Corporation.
3. Receive and investigate complaints about possible violations of this Code of Ethics. Dismiss complaints found to be without substance.
4. Prepare investigative reports of his or her findings to be submitted for action by the Board.
5. Seek consultation and guidance from Corporation Counsel and/or the Governance Committee.

## **ARTICLE VII WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY**

In accordance with Title 12 of Article 9 of the Public Authorities Law, the Corporation adopted a Whistleblower Policy to afford certain protections to individuals who, in good faith, report violations of the Corporation's Code of Ethics or other instances of potential wrongdoing within the Corporation. This Policy provides Corporation directors, officers, and employees with a confidential means to report credible allegations of misconduct, wrongdoing, or unethical behavior and to protect those individuals, when acting in good faith, from personal or professional retaliation. The Whistleblower Policy is available to all directors, officers, and employees of the Corporation.

Approved and Adopted on this 27th day of February, 2025.