

SALES TAX AGENT AUTHORIZATION LETTER

EXPIRATION DATE: June 30, 2026

ELIGIBLE LOCATION:
44-01 11th Street, Long Island City, New York

April 9, 2025

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Re: New York City Industrial Development Agency
(2024 VM 4401 LLC Project)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The New York City Industrial Development Agency (the "Agency"), by this notice, hereby advises you as follows:

1. Pursuant to a certain Agency and Lease Agreement, dated as of July 1, 2024 (the "Agreement"), between the Agency and VM 4401 LLC, a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York (the "Lessee"), the Agency has authorized the Lessee to act as its agent for the in connection with the Project described therein including the Facility Realty located at the Eligible Location described above. Certain capitalized terms used herein and not defined shall have the respective meanings given to such terms in the Agreement.

2. Upon the Lessee's request, the Agency has appointed **Sterling Floor Designs, Ltd.** (the "Agent"), pursuant to this Sales Tax Agent Authorization Letter (the "Sales Tax Agent Authorization Letter") to act as the Agency's agent for the purpose of effecting purchases exempt from sales or use tax in accordance with the terms, provisions of this Sales Tax Agent Authorization Letter and the Agreement. **The Agent should review the definitions of Eligible Items and Ineligible Items in Exhibit A hereto with respect to the scope of Sales Tax Exemption provided under the Agreement and hereunder.**

3. The effectiveness of the appointment of the Agent as an agent of the Agency is expressly conditioned upon the execution by the Agency of New York State Department of Taxation and Finance Form ST-60 "IDA Appointment of Project or Agent" ("Form ST-60") to evidence that the Agency has appointed the Agent as its agent (the form of which to be completed by Agent and the Lessee). Pursuant to the exemptions from sales and use taxes available to the Agent under this Sales Tax Agent Authorization Letter, the Agent shall avail itself of such exemptions when purchasing eligible materials and services in connection with the Project and shall not include such taxes in its contract price, bid or reimbursable costs, as the case may be.

4. The Agent acknowledges that the executed Form ST-60 shall not serve as a sales or use tax exemption certificate or document. No agent or project operator may tender a copy of the executed Form ST-60 to any person required to collect sales tax as a basis to make such purchases exempt from tax. No such person required to collect sales or use taxes may accept the

executed Form ST-60 in lieu of collecting any tax required to be collected. THE CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR MISUSE OF A COPY OF FORM ST-60 AS AN EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE OR DOCUMENT OR FOR FAILURE TO PAY OR COLLECT TAX SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE TAX LAW. IN ADDITION, THE USE BY AN AGENT, PROJECT OPERATOR, OR OTHER PERSON OR ENTITY OF SUCH FORM ST-60 AS AN EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE OR DOCUMENT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE, UNDER ARTICLES TWENTY EIGHT AND THIRTY SEVEN OF THE TAX LAW, THE ISSUANCE OF A FALSE OR FRAUDULENT EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE OR DOCUMENT WITH THE INTENT TO EVADE TAX.

5. As agent for the Agency, the Agent agrees that it will present to each seller or vendor a completed and signed **NYSDTF Form ST-123 "IDA Agent or Project Operator Exempt Purchase Certificate"** or such additional or substitute form as is adopted by NYSDTF for use in completing purchases that are exempt from Sales and Use Taxes ("Form ST-123") for each contract, agreement, invoice, bill or purchase order entered into by the Agent, as agent for the Agency, for the renovation, repair and equipping of the Project. Form ST-123 requires that each seller or vendor accepting Form ST-123 identify the Project on each bill and invoice and invoice for purchases and indicate on the bill or invoice that the Agency or Agent or Lessee, as Project operator of the Agency, was the purchaser. The Agent shall complete Form ST-123 as follows: (i) the "Project Information" section of Form ST-123 should be completed using the name and address of the Project as indicated on the Form ST-60 used to appoint the Agent; (ii) the date that the Agent was appointed as an agent should be completed using the date of the Agent's Sales Tax Agent Authorization Letter; and (iii) the "Exempt purchases" section of Form ST-123 should be completed by marking "X" in box "A" only.

6. The Agent agrees to comply with the terms and conditions of the Agreement. The Agent must retain for at least six (6) years from the date of expiration of its Contract copies of (a) its contract with the Lessee to provide services in connection with the Project, (b) all contracts, agreements, invoices, bills or purchases entered into or made by such Agent using the Letter of Authorization for Sales Tax Exemption, and (c) the executed Form ST-60 appointing the Agent as an agent of the Agency, and shall make such records available to the Agency upon reasonable notice. This provision shall survive the expiration or termination of this Sales Tax Agent Authorization Letter.

7. In order to assist the Lessee in complying with its obligation to file New York State Department of Taxation and Finance Form ST-340 "Annual Report of Sales and Use Tax Exemptions Claimed by Project Operator of Industrial Development Agency/Authority" ("Form ST-340"), the Agent covenants and agrees that it shall file semi-annually with the Lessee (no later than January 15th and July 15th of each calendar year in which it has claimed sales and use tax exemptions in connection with the Project) a written statement of all sales and use tax exemptions claimed by such Agent for the preceding six-month period (ending on June 30th or December 31st, as applicable) in connection with the Project and the Facility by completing and submitting to the Lessee the **Sales Tax Registry** attached hereto as **Exhibit B**. If the Agent fails to comply with the foregoing requirement, the Agent shall immediately cease to be the agent for the Agency in connection with the Project (such agency relationship being deemed to be immediately revoked) without any further action of the parties, the Agent shall be deemed to have automatically lost its authority to make purchases as agent for the Agency, and shall desist immediately from all such activity.

8. The Agent agrees that if it fails to comply with the requirements for sales and use tax exemptions, as described in this Sales Tax Agent Authorization Letter, it shall pay any and all applicable Sales Tax Savings and any interest and penalties thereon. This provision shall survive the expiration or termination of this Sales Tax Agent Authorization Letter.

9. **Special Provisions Relating to State Sales Tax Savings.**

(a) The Agent covenants and agrees to comply, and to cause each of its contractors, subcontractors, persons or entities to comply, with the requirements of General Municipal Law Sections 875(1) and (3) (the "Special Provisions"), as such provisions may be amended from time to time. In the event of a conflict between the other provisions of this Sales Tax Agent Authorization Letter or the Agreement and the Special Provisions, the Special Provisions shall control.

(b) The Agent acknowledges and agrees that pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 875(3) the Agency shall have the right to recover, recapture, receive, or otherwise obtain from the Agent State Sales Tax Savings taken or purported to be taken by the Agent or any other person or entity acting on behalf of the Agent to which Agent or the Lessee is not entitled or which are in excess of the Maximum Sales Tax Exemption Amount or which are for property or services not authorized or taken in cases where the Lessee, any Agent or any other person or entity acting on behalf of the Lessee or the Agent failed to comply with a material term or condition to use property or services in the manner required by this Sales Tax Agent Authorization Letter or the Agreement. The Lessee shall, and shall require each Agent and any other person or entity acting on behalf of the Lessee, to cooperate with the Agency in its efforts to recover, recapture, receive, or otherwise obtain such State Sales Tax Savings and shall promptly pay over any such amounts to the Agency that it requests. The failure to pay over such amounts to the Agency shall be grounds for the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance (the "Commissioner") to assess and determine State Sales and Use Taxes due from the Lessee under Article Twenty-Eight of the New York State Tax Law, together with any relevant penalties and interest due on such amounts.

(c) The Agent is hereby notified (provided that such notification is not a covenant or obligation and does not create a duty on the part of the Agency to the Lessee or any other party) that the Agency is subject to certain requirements under General Municipal Law, including the following:

(i) In accordance with General Municipal Law Section 875(3)(c), if the Agency recovers, recaptures, receives, or otherwise obtains, any amount of State Sales Tax Savings from the Agent, the Agency shall, within thirty days of coming into possession of such amount, remit it to the Commissioner, together with such information and report that the Commissioner deems necessary to administer payment over of such amount. The Agency shall join the Commissioner as a party in any action or proceeding that the Agency commences to recover, recapture, obtain, or otherwise seek the return of, State Sales Tax Savings from the Agent, the Lessee or other person or entity.

(ii) In accordance with General Municipal Law Section 875(3)(d), the Agency shall prepare an annual compliance report detailing its terms and conditions described in General Municipal Law Section 875(3)(a) and its activities and efforts to recover, recapture, receive, or otherwise obtain State Sales Tax Savings described in General Municipal Law Section 875(3)(b), together with such other information as the Commissioner and the New York State Commissioner of Economic Development may

require. The report shall be filed with the Commissioner, the Director of the Division of the Budget of The State of New York, the New York State Commissioner of Economic Development, the New York State Comptroller, the Council of the City of New York, and may be included with the Annual financial statement required by General Municipal Law Section 859(1)(b). Such report required by this subdivision shall be filed regardless of whether the Agency is required to file such financial statement described by General Municipal Law Section 859(1)(b). The failure to file or substantially complete the report required by General Municipal Law Section 875(3)(b) shall be deemed to be the failure to file or substantially complete the statement required by such General Municipal Law Section 859(1)(b), and the consequences shall be the same as provided in General Municipal Law Section 859(1)(e).

(d) The foregoing requirements shall apply to any amounts of State Sales Tax Savings that the Agency recovers, recaptures, receives, or otherwise obtains, regardless of whether the Agency or the Lessee or other person or entity acting on behalf of the Lessee characterizes such benefits recovered, recaptured, received, or otherwise obtained, as a penalty or liquidated or contract damages or otherwise. The foregoing requirements shall also apply to any interest or penalty that the Agency imposes on any such amounts or that are imposed on such amounts by operation of law or by judicial order or otherwise. Any such amounts or payments that the Agency recovers, recaptures, receives, or otherwise obtains, together with any interest or penalties thereon, shall be deemed to be State Sales and Use Taxes and the Agency shall receive any such amounts or payments, whether as a result of court action or otherwise, as trustee for and on account of the State.

10. Subject to the provisions of Section 9 hereof, in the event that the Agent shall utilize the Sales Tax Exemption in violation of the provisions of the Agreement or this Sales Tax Agent Authorization Letter, the Agent shall promptly deliver notice of same to the Lessee and the Agency, and the Agent shall, upon demand by the Agency, pay to or at the direction of the Agency a return of sales or use tax exemptions in an amount equal to all such unauthorized sales or use tax exemptions together with interest at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum compounded daily from the date and with respect to the dollar amount for which each such unauthorized sales or use tax exemption was availed of by the Agent.

11. Upon request by the Agency with reasonable notice to the Agent, the Agent shall make available at reasonable times to the Agency all such books, records, contracts, agreements, invoices, bills or purchase orders of the Agent, and require all appropriate officers and employees of the Agent to respond to reasonable inquiries by the Agency as shall be necessary (y) to indicate in reasonable detail those costs for which the Agent shall have utilized the Sales Tax Exemption and the dates and amounts so utilized, and (z) to permit the Agency to determine any amounts owed by the Agent under Section 10.

12. The Agent represents and warrants that, except as otherwise disclosed to the Agency, none of the Agent, the Principals of the Agent, or any Person that directly or indirectly Controls, is Controlled by, or is under common Control with the Agent:

(a) is in default or in breach, beyond any applicable grace period, of its obligations under any written agreement with the Agency or the City, unless such default or breach has been waived in writing by the Agency or the City, as the case may be;

(b) has been convicted of a misdemeanor related to truthfulness and/or business conduct in the past five (5) years;

(c) has been convicted of a felony in the past ten (10) years;

(d) has received formal written notice from a federal, state or local governmental agency or body that such Person is currently under investigation for a felony criminal offense; or

(e) has received written notice of default in the payment to the City of any taxes, sewer rents or water charges, which have not been paid, unless such default is currently being contested with due diligence in proceedings in a court or other appropriate forum.

As used herein, the following capitalized terms shall have the respective meanings set forth below:

“City” shall mean The City of New York.

“Control” or “Controls” shall mean the power to direct the management and policies of a Person (x) through the ownership, directly or indirectly, of not less than a majority of its voting securities, (y) through the right to designate or elect not less than a majority of the members of its board of directors or trustees or other Governing Body, or (z) by contract or otherwise.

“Entity” shall mean any of a corporation, general partnership, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, joint stock company, trust, estate, unincorporated organization, business association, tribe, firm, joint venture, governmental authority or governmental instrumentality, but shall not include an individual.

“Governing Body” shall mean, when used with respect to any Person, its board of directors, board of trustees or individual or group of individuals by, or under the authority of which, the powers of such Person are exercised.

“Person” shall mean an individual or any Entity.

13. By execution of this Sales Tax Agent Authorization Letter, the Agent agrees to accept the terms hereof and represent and warrant to the Agency that the use of this Sales Tax Agent Authorization Letter by the Agent is strictly for the purposes stated herein.

14. The Agent acknowledges that this Sales Tax Agent Authorization Letter will terminate on the date (the “Termination Date”) that is the earlier of (i) the Expiration Date referred to above, and (ii) the expiration or termination of the Agreement. Upon the Termination Date, the agency relationship between the Agency and the Agent shall terminate.

The signature of a representative of the Agent where indicated below will indicate that the Agent accepted the terms hereof.

**NEW YORK CITY INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

By: 
Name: Noah Schumer
Title: Deputy Exec Director

ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO BY:

Sterling Floor Designs, Ltd.

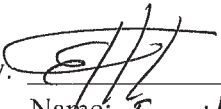
By: 
Name: Erik Horz
Title: CEO

Exhibit A

To

SALES TAX AGENT AUTHORIZATION LETTER

Set forth below is a description of items that are eligible for the Sales Tax Exemption

Eligible Items shall mean the following items of personal property and services, but excluding any Ineligible Items, with respect to which the Agent shall be entitled to claim a Sales Tax Exemption in connection with the Project:

- (i) purchases of materials, goods, personal property and fixtures and supplies that will be incorporated into and made an integral component part of the Facility Realty;
- (ii) purchases or leases of any item of materials, goods, machinery, equipment, furniture, furnishings, trade fixtures and other tangible personal property having a useful life of one year or more;
- (iii) with respect to the eligible items identified in (ii) above: purchases of freight, installation, maintenance and repair services required in connection with the shipping, installation, use, maintenance or repair of such items; provided that maintenance shall mean the replacement of parts or the making of repairs;
- (iv) purchases of materials, goods and supplies that are to be used and substantially consumed in the course of construction or renovation of the Facility Realty (but excluding fuel, materials or substances that are consumed in the course of operating machinery and equipment or parts containing fuel, materials or substances where such parts must be replaced whenever the substance is consumed); and
- (v) leases of machinery and equipment solely for temporary use in connection with the construction or renovation of the Facility Realty.

Ineligible Items shall mean the following items of personal property and services with respect to which the Agent shall not be entitled to claim a Sales Tax Exemption in connection with the Project:

- (i) vehicles of any sort, including watercraft and rolling stock;
- (ii) personalty having a useful life of one year or less;
- (iii) any cost of utilities, cleaning services or supplies or other ordinary operating costs;
- (iv) fine art and other similar decorative items;

- (v) plants, whether potted or landscaped;
- (vi) ordinary office supplies such as pencils, paper clips and paper;
- (vii) any materials or substances that are consumed in the operation of machinery;
- (viii) equipment or parts containing materials or substances where such parts must be replaced whenever the substance is consumed; and
- (ix) maintenance of the type as shall constitute janitorial services.