

EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION (E-VERIFY) CERTIFICATION

(Florida Statutes, Section 448.095)

PROJECT NAME: **Land Use Hearing Officer Services for Polk County** (the “**Project**”)

The undersigned, as an authorized officer of the contractor identified below (the “**Contractor**”), having full knowledge of the statements contained herein, hereby certifies the following to Polk County, a political subdivision of the State of Florida (the “**County**”), by and on behalf of the Contractor in accordance with the requirements of Section 448.095, Florida Statutes, as related to the contract (the “**Contract**”) entered into by and between the Contractor and the County governing the Project:

1. Unless otherwise defined herein, terms used in this Certification which are defined in Section 448.095, Florida Statutes, as may be amended from time to time, shall have the meaning ascribed in said statute.

2. Pursuant to Section 448.095(2)(a), Florida Statutes, effective January 1, 2021, public employers, contractors and subcontractors shall register with and use the E-verify system in order to verify the work authorization status of all newly hired employees. The Contractor acknowledges and agrees to utilize the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s E-Verify System to verify the employment eligibility of:

(a) All persons employed by the Contractor to perform employment duties during the term of the Contract; and

(b) All persons (including subvendors/subconsultants/subcontractors) assigned by the Contractor to perform work pursuant to the Contract.

3. The Contractor acknowledges and agrees that use of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s E-Verify System and compliance with all other terms of this Certification is an express condition of the Contract, and the County may treat a failure to comply as a material breach of the Contract. By entering into the Contract, the Contractor becomes obligated to comply with the provisions of Section 448.095, Fla. Stat., "Employment Eligibility," as amended from time to time. This includes but is not limited to utilization of the E-Verify System to verify the work authorization status of all newly hired employees, and requiring all subcontractors to provide an affidavit attesting that the subcontractor does not employ, contract with, or subcontract with, an unauthorized alien. The Contractor shall maintain a copy of such affidavit for the duration of the Contract. Failure to comply will lead to termination of the Contract, or if a subcontractor knowingly violates the statute, the subcontract must be terminated immediately. Any challenge to termination under this provision must be filed in the Tenth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida no later than 20 calendar days after the date of termination. If the Contract is terminated for a violation of the statute by the Contractor, the Contractor may not be awarded a public contract for a period of 1 year after the date of termination. The Contractor shall be liable for any additional costs incurred by the County as a result of the termination of the Contract. Nothing in this Certification shall be construed to allow intentional discrimination of any class protected by law.

Executed this 6th day of December, 2024.

CONTRACTOR:

Buenaventura Law, PLLC,

a Florida professional limited liability company

By: 

Barrie S. Buenaventura, Manager