

TO:

Dr. Kent Mutchler

FROM:

Dr. Adam Law

RE:

457(b) Plan

DATE:

August 26, 2019

As discussed with the Board at its August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, district administration is interested in adding a 457(b) plan in addition to its current 403(b) plans as a benefit to District 304 employees.

The 457(b) plan is a deferred-compensation retirement plan that is available for school districts and other municipal government agencies, such as police and fire departments. The governmental body provides the plan and its employees can contribute to the plan on a pretax and/or after-tax (Roth) basis.

For District 304 employees who have reached the contribution limit with their 403(b) plan, the addition of a 457(b) plan will provide them with another financial product which they can use to defer salary for their retirement.

I recommend that the Board approve the attached Matrix Trust Company 457(b) Custodial Account Agreement with Aspire, the vendor facilitating the 457(b) plan.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me.

# MATRIX TRUST COMPANY 457(b) CUSTODIAL ACCOUNT AGREEMENT

(With Governmental Employer)

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#### **MATRIX TRUST COMPANY**

## 457(b) CUSTODIAL ACCOUNT AGREEMENT (With Governmental Employer)

#### **PARTIES**

Customer (Employer/Plan Sponsor): Geneva Sc	chool District 304	
Address: 227 N Fourth Street		
City: Geneva	State: IL	Zip: <u>60134</u>
Phone Number: (630) 4633057	Tax ID #:	
Plan Name: Geneva Community Unit #304 457(b	) Plan	
Original Effective Date of Plan: 08/19/2019		
Plan Tax ID#:		
Designated Representative: Aspire Financial Se	rvices, LLC	
Address: 4010 Boy Scout Boulevard, Su	ite 450	
City: Tampa	State: FL	Zip: 33607
Phone Number: ( 813 ) 874-0671		•
E-Statement Election:  Provide monthly e-statements: yes   E-mail address(s) for e-statement notific  1)		
2)		
This Custodial Account Agreement ("A	ā i	
August 19th , 20 19 .		
	ARTICLE 1	Œ
	DEFINITIONS	
1.1 Account or Custodial Accoupursuant to Article 2.	ınt. "Account" or "Custodial Acc	count" means the account established
1.2 <u>Agreement</u> . "Agreement" m Customer, the Designated Representative(s), and		ccount Agreement by and among the

1.3

Code. "Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from time to time.

- 1.4 <u>Contributions</u>. "Contributions" means the sum of all Contributions hereunder made to a Participant's Account by or for the benefit of the Participant, including any "<u>Rollover Contributions</u>" (a Contribution of an eligible rollover distribution made by a Participant from another eligible deferred compensation plan under Code Section 457(b) sponsored by a governmental employer within the meaning of Code Section 457(e)(1)(a)) and "<u>Transfer Contributions</u>" (a transfer directly to the Plan from another governmental employer's 457(b) deferred compensation plan) permitted under the Plan.
  - 1.5 Custodian. "Custodian" means Matrix Trust.
  - 1.6 <u>Customer</u>. "Customer" means the sponsor of the Plan designated above.
- 1.7 <u>Designated Representative</u>. "Designated Representative" means the Person named above as Designated Representative who is authorized by the terms of this Agreement to give directions to the Custodian, or to vote or otherwise manage any asset of the Custodial Account.
- 1.8 ERISA. "ERISA" means the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended from time to time. The Plan is a Code Section 457(b) plan established and maintained by a governmental employer and, therefore, is exempt from ERISA.
- 1.9 <u>Force Majeure</u>. "Force Majeure" means a cause or event outside the reasonable control of the parties or that could not be avoided by the exercise of due care, such as an act of God or any mechanical, electronic or communications failure.
- 1.10 Fund. "Fund" means all of the money, securities, debt instruments and other property which that may be transferred, assigned and delivered to the Custodian from time to time to be held in custody hereunder in the Custodial Account, together with the investments made with them, the proceeds received from them, and the gains and accumulations on them, and the portion thereof from time to time remaining, to be held and disposed of by the Custodian (without distinction between principal and interest) in accordance with the terms and provisions of this Agreement and proper directions received by the Custodian.
- 1.11 <u>Instruction</u>. An "Instruction" to the Custodian is any oral, written or electronic direction given in a form and manner required or accepted by the Custodian. The Custodian may require that any Instruction be in writing or in an electronic format, and may recognize standing requests, directions, or requisitions as Instructions.
- 1.12 <u>Investment Manager</u>. "Investment Manager" means any Person defined as such under ERISA Section 3(38) who has been appointed consistent with Section 5.1.1 to manage the investment of all or any specified portion of the Custodial Account, whether or not the Plan is subject to ERISA.
- 1.13 <u>Person</u>. "Person" means an individual, committee of individuals, partnership, limited liability partnership, joint venture, corporation, Limited Liability Corporation, mutual company, joint-stock company, non-profit or not-for-profit organization, trust, estate, unincorporated organization, and association or employee organization.
- 1.14 Plan. "Plan" means the non-qualified deferred compensation plan named above that is maintained by the Customer, is subject to the requirements of Code Section 457(b) and the Treasury Regulations promulgated thereunder, and with respect to which, some or all of the assets are held by the Custodian pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF CUSTODIAL ACCOUNT

The Customer hereby requests that the Custodian establish a Custodial Account for and in the name of the Plan for the Customer, and represents that all necessary action has been taken for such appointment and that this Agreement constitutes a legal, valid, and binding obligation of the Customer. The Custodian shall not be obligated to provide detailed accounting for the Account or for any individual investment option, such as with respect to contributions, distributions, loan activity, and rollovers, and Customer agrees to look solely to the Designated Representative or other recordkeeper that Customer has retained for all such detailed information. It is the intent of the parties hereto that this Agreement shall, to the

extent required and permitted under Sections 457(g) and 401(f) of the Code, be treated as a trust for the exclusive benefit of Plan Participants and their beneficiaries.

#### **ARTICLE 3**

#### APPOINTMENT, ACCEPTANCE AND ROLE OF CUSTODIAN

- 3.1 Appointment: Acceptance. The Custodian, in consideration of the deposit by the Customer of funds into the Account, and other valuable consideration, hereby agrees to act as custodian of the Account on the terms and conditions of this Agreement. The Customer, in consideration of the agreement by the Custodian to perform the duties of a custodian under this Agreement, hereby designates and appoints the Custodian as the custodian of the Account.
- 3.2 Role. The Custodian, as agent of the Customer, but not as fiduciary, shall take, hold, invest, and distribute all of the assets of the Fund in accordance with the terms of this Agreement. The Custodian will serve as a non-discretionary, directed custodian of the Custodial Account. The Custodian is responsible for maintaining custody of the assets held in the Custodial Account, and for investing those assets as directed by the Designated Representative, or by the properly designated Investment Manager, on behalf of the Customer.

The Custodian (in its capacity as such) will not be an administrative or investment fiduciary of the Plan, and nothing in this Agreement is to be interpreted as causing the Custodian to be responsible for the administration or investment of the Fund other than as directed by the Customer, Designated Representative, or properly designated Investment Manager hereunder, or as performing other than ministerial duties. The Custodian may refuse to exercise any power that it believes, in its sole judgment, could cause it to become a "fiduciary" or "plan administrator" as defined under ERISA, to the extent applicable to the Plan, or cause it to be exercising trust powers in contravention of any state or federal law to which it may be subject.

The Custodian shall have no responsibility to draft or amend a plan document for the Plan, to administer the Plan, or to assist the Customer or any Designated Representative in such drafting, amendment, administration, or maintenance, or to ascertain or provide advice with respect to the legal requirements applicable thereto except to the extent of any responsibility imposed upon the Custodian pursuant to the terms of this Agreement. The Customer represents and warrants to the Custodian that the Customer shall maintain the Plan in writing and in compliance with Code Section 457(b) and the Treasury Regulations issued under Code Section 457(b).

- 3.3 Customer Direction to the Custodian. Except as provided herein, the Designated Representative shall provide direction to the Custodian on behalf of the Customer. The Custodian shall have no duty to take any action other than as specified in this Agreement unless the Designated Representative provides the Custodian with Instructions. However, each direction is contingent upon the determination by the Custodian that the Instruction can be administered by the Custodian. The Custodian may conclusively rely upon and be indemnified by the Customer when in acting in good faith upon any Instruction from the Designated Representative or the Customer, or any other notice, request, consent, certificate, or other instrument or paper believed by the Custodian to be genuine and properly executed, or any instrument or paper if the Custodian believes the signature thereon to be genuine.
- 3.4 <u>Designation of Representative and Investment Manager</u>. Customer hereby designates and authorizes its Designated Representative to provide Instructions to the Custodian on behalf of the Customer, including to placing orders for the purchase and sale of securities, and authorizes the Custodian to disburse funds on behalf of the Customer upon Instruction from such Designated Representative. If applicable, Customer also designates one or more Investment Managers in accordance with the provisions of Section 5.1.1 and on the basis acceptable to the Custodian. If an Investment Manager is designated and accepted by the Custodian, the Investment Manager is authorized, with respect to that portion of the Fund over which it has been delegated investment authority, to provide related Instructions to the Custodian on behalf of the Customer. Customer hereby also authorizes and directs the Custodian to pay for securities and receive payment from the sale of securities or other investment transactions arising out of Instructions of the Designated Representative or the Investment Manager. Designation of a Designated Representative and/or an Investment Manager is subject to the following provisions:
  - 3.4.1 Customer agrees that the Custodian may rely on Instructions from the Designated Representative or the Investment Manager, and Customer agrees that the Custodian shall be under no duty to make an

investigation with respect to any Instructions received from the Designated Representative or an Investment Manager;

- 3.4.2 Customer is solely responsible for managing the investment of the Account and for the direction and supervision of the Designated Representative and any Investment Manager. All Instructions, directions, and/or confirmations received by the Custodian from a Designated Representative or Investment Manager shall be deemed to have been authorized by the Customer;
- 3.4.3 Customer agrees that neither a Designated Representative nor an Investment Manager is an agent of the Custodian; and
- 3.4.4 Customer may remove a Designated Representative or any Investment Manager and designate a new Designated Representative or Investment Manager at any time by written notice to the Custodian in a form satisfactory to the Custodian. The Customer will give the Custodian prompt written notice of any change in the

identity or authority of any Designated Representative or Investment Manager. Removal of a Designated Representative or Investment Manager will not have the effect of canceling any Instruction that has been received by the Custodian from the Designated Representative or Investment Manager prior to the date that notice of removal is received by the Custodian. Until written notice of such change is received, the Custodian may conclusively rely upon and be protected in acting on the latest identification provided to it without further inquiry or verification.

3.5 <u>Participant Direction</u>. If the Custodian is advised by the Customer that the provisions of the Plan documents so permit, and the Customer so requests, the Custodian shall establish separate participant-directed sub-accounts and all references to the Customer under this Agreement shall be deemed to be references to the participant who is directing investment of such sub-account, except that the address of such participant shall be deemed to be the address of the Customer. The right to amend the Agreement shall remain that of the Customer.

#### **ARTICLE 4**

#### **CONTRIBUTIONS AND TRANSFERS**

- 4.1 Contributions. The Customer may make contributions to the Account consistent with the Plan, Code Section 457(b), and applicable state and/or local law, including contributions on behalf of a participant in accordance with a salary reduction agreement between such participant and his or her employer. Annual contributions to the Account for a participant may not exceed the maximum deferral limitations, including the percentage limitation and the dollar limit, as set forth in Code Section 457(b) and the Treasury Regulations issued thereunder. The determination that such limits are not exceeded shall be the responsibility of the Customer, Designated Representative or other recordkeeper engaged by the Customer.
- 4.2 Receipt of Assets. Subject to restrictions mutually acceptable to the Customer and the Custodian on the categories of assets, and subject to the restrictions stated in Section 5.4, the Custodian will receive and accept for the Custodial Account all money, securities and other property transferred, assigned and delivered to it from any source by or at the direction of the Customer or a Designated Representative or an Investment Manager. The Custodian has no duty to inquire into the source of any assets transferred to it or the right of the transferor of such assets to transfer them to the Custodian.
- 4.3 Role of Custodian with Respect to Assets. The Custodian will maintain safe custody of such money, securities and other property as it actually receives for the Custodial Account. The Custodian has no duty or authority to require any contributions or transfers to be made under the Plan to the Custodian, compute any amount to be contributed or transferred under the Plan to the Custodian, determine whether amounts received by the Custodian comply with the Plan, the Code, or any other applicable law, or enforce contribution amounts for sufficiency under any applicable law. The Custodian will not be responsible for any transferred asset until it receives such asset.
- 4.4 <u>Location of Evidence of Ownership</u>. The Custodian will not maintain the indicia of ownership of any assets of the Custodial Account outside the jurisdiction of the district courts of the United States.

- 4.5 <u>Unidentified Assets.</u> If the Custodian receives any money, securities or other property from a source other than the Customer and has not received appropriate notification that such assets are to be accepted for the Custodial Account, the Custodian is authorized to return such assets to the Person from whom they were received. The Custodian will not be liable for any assets returned in such circumstances.
- 4.6 Return of Amounts to the Customer. The Custodian will return contributions to the Customer if the Customer or a Designated Representative provides an Instruction to the Custodian to do so. The Customer is solely responsible for ensuring that any Instruction to return any amount to the Customer meets all applicable legal requirements. The Custodian has no duty or responsibility to question, and may conclusively rely upon, any such Instruction. Notwithstanding the foregoing, each Plan participant's right to benefits hereunder shall be fully vested and nonforfeitable in accordance with the terms of the Plan, Code Section 457(b), and the Treasury Regulations issued thereunder.

#### **INVESTMENTS**

#### 5.1 Investment Control.

- 5.1.1 <u>Customer's Duties</u>. The Customer will control and manage the investment of the Custodial Account except insofar as the Customer permits participants and beneficiaries to control the investment of Custodial Account assets attributable to their own accounts, delegates investment authority over part or all of the Custodial Account assets to one or more Investment Managers, or delegates investment authority over part or all of the Custodial Account assets to one or more other Designated Representatives. Customer grants to the Custodian all powers reasonably necessary to carry out its investment and other duties under this Agreement, and Customer agrees to furnish the Custodian with such information and Instructions as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Agreement and to enable the Custodian to fulfill all legal and regulatory reporting requirements.
- 5.1.2 <u>Investment Directions</u>. All investment directions and other Instructions, including authorizations of delegation to any Investment Manager, must be delivered to the Custodian in such manner as the Custodian may reasonably require.

#### 5.2 Role of Custodian.

- 5.2.1 Processing Transactions. No investment transaction for the Custodial Account that is to be processed by the Custodian at the direction of the Customer or a Designated Representative or an Investment Manager will be processed until the Custodian receives the Instruction in proper form. Investment transactions will be processed either as soon as administratively practicable thereafter or, if later, on the scheduled date for processing. The Custodian may rely conclusively on all Instructions given by the Designated Representative or Investment Manager which the Custodian believes to be genuine. The Custodian's records of a transaction will be conclusive as the content of any Instructions. Unless otherwise agreed, Instructions shall generally be taken from the Designated Representative or from an Investment Manager. Upon application by the Customer, on a form acceptable to the Custodian and upon approval by the Custodian, the Custodian will accept non-written Instructions from the Customer, Designated Representative or Investment Manager subject to immediate confirmation of such Instructions by email or in writing by the Designated Representative or appropriate Investment Manager.
- 5.2.2 <u>Legitimate Delay</u>. The Custodian may delay the processing of any investment transaction due to a Force Majeure, government or NSCC restrictions or changes, exchange, market or NSCC rulings, strikes, interruptions of communications or data processing services, or disruptions in orderly trading on any exchange or market.
- 5.2.3 Other Limitations. The Custodian will invest the Custodial Account as directed by the Designated Representative and/or Investment Managers, and the Custodian will have no discretionary control over, nor any other discretion regarding, the investment or reinvestment of any asset of the Custodial Account.

The Custodian has no duty or authority to provide investment advice with respect to the assets of the Custodial Account, monitor investment performance or the diversification of assets, question any investment direction the Custodian receives in proper form, or inquire into the authority or right of the Designated Representative or Investment Manager to make any investment direction which the Custodian receives in proper form. The Custodian will not be liable for any loss of any kind which may result from any action taken by it in accordance with an Instruction it receives in proper form or from any action omitted because no Instruction is received.

#### 5.3 Nondiscretionary Investment Authority.

- 5.3.1 Customer hereby authorizes and directs the Custodian, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, to pay for securities and receive payment from securities or other investment transactions arising out of the Instruction of the Designated Representative or an Investment Manager. Customer, on behalf of its participants, understands that it is solely the Customer's, on behalf of its participants, responsibility to direct the Designated Representative to execute trades or other investments for the Account, and all Instructions, directions, and/or confirmations received from the Designated Representative shall be deemed to have been authorized by Customer. Customer understands that, if it has delegated investment responsibility to an Investment Manager, the Investment Manager has authority to execute trades or other investments for the Account consistent with its delegation, and all Instructions, directions, and/or confirmations received from an Investment Manager shall be deemed to have been authorized by Customer. Customer agrees that the Custodian shall not supervise the investment of, or advise or make recommendations to the Customer with respect to the purchase, sale or other disposition of any assets of the Fund.
- 5.3.2 The Custodian is authorized to collect all investment earnings of any nature of the Fund, including interest, dividends, proceeds of the sale and other monies due and collectable that arise from the investment of the assets of the Fund (collectively, "Fund Income") and to credit such Fund Income to the Account.
- 5.3.3 The Custodian will act solely as agent for the Customer, subject to the Instructions of the Designated Representative and/or any Investment Manager. The Custodian shall have no obligation to place orders for the purchase of securities if there are insufficient funds in the Account. Customer authorizes the Custodian to charge the Account for the cost of all securities purchased or received against a payment and to credit the Account with the proceeds received from the securities sold or delivered against payment. In the event of any trades not settled immediately upon placement, the Custodian will have the right, without notice, to sell securities in a reasonably prudent fashion from the Fund sufficient to recover any funds advanced.
- 5.3.4 Customer authorizes and instructs the Custodian to register all assets of the Fund in the name of the Custodian or of a nominee. Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the parties, registered securities shall be held in the name of:

### Matrix Trust Company, Custodian FBO: [Name of Customer]

- 5.3.5 All proxies received by the Custodian with respect to securities owned by the Fund and other reports to stockholders issued by any issuer will be forwarded to the Customer.
- 5.4 <u>Investment Restrictions</u>. The Customer, Designated Representative or an Investment Manager shall direct the Custodian to purchase or sell only securities that comply with the Custodian's and/or its affiliate's policies and procedures relating to acceptable securities, and that comply with all applicable rules, regulations, customs and uses of any exchange, market, clearinghouse or self-regulatory organization and applicable state and federal laws and regulations. The Custodian will hold only those categories of assets mutually agreed to between the Customer and the Custodian. The Customer may add or remove types, categories, or classes of assets or investments only with the consent of the Custodian. Further, the Customer may limit the available investment options under the Plan, and may impose separate limitations for different Accounts or for terminated participants. Nothing in this Article shall be construed to impose investment discretion on the Custodian or its affiliates.

#### **ARTICLE 6**

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- 6.1 <u>Records: Inspection and Audit.</u> The Custodian will keep accurate and detailed records and accounts of all receipts, investments, disbursements and other transactions as required by law with respect to the Custodial Account. All records, books and accounts relating to the Custodial Account will be open to inspection by the Customer, provided the Custodian is given reasonable advance written notice of such inspection by the Customer.
- Accounting. On direction of the Customer or Designated Representative, and if agreed to in writing by the Custodian, the Custodian may provide annual or interim accountings, valuations, or other reports concerning the assets of the Custodial Account subject to payment of all required additional fees for such reports. The Custodian's accounting will be at the Custodial Account level rather than the participant level, and the Custodian will not be responsible for participant-level reporting unless it agrees to do so in a separate written agreement with the Customer or a Designated Representative. The Custodian will also furnish the Customer with such other information as the Custodian possesses and which is necessary for the Customer to comply with any applicable reporting requirements. An accounting will be deemed to have been approved by the Customer unless the Customer or Designated Representative objects to the contents of an accounting within sixty (60) days of its mailing or electronic transmission by the Custodian. Any objections must set forth the specific grounds on which they are based. Upon approval, the Custodian shall be forever released from any and all liability with respect to the Account.
- 6.3 <u>Valuation of Assets</u>. The assets of the Custodial Account will be valued at the most recent fair market value.
  - 6.3.1 <u>Assets Managed by Investment Manager or Fiduciary</u>. With respect to the portion of the Custodial Account that is invested by an Investment Manager or any other fiduciary, to the Plan, the Custodian may conclusively rely upon the value of any securities or other property in that portion of the Custodial Account as reported to the Custodian by the Investment Manager or other fiduciary to the Plan, for all purposes under this Agreement.
  - 6.3.2 Other Assets. With respect to the assets in any portion of the Custodial Account that are not managed by an Investment Manager or other fiduciary, to the Plan, or any assets for which an Investment Manager or other fiduciary, refuses or fails to provide valuation information, if the fair market value can be determined by reference to readily available sources, then the Custodian will be responsible for determining the fair market value of those assets. For those assets whose value cannot be determined by reference to a readily available source, the Custodian will identify those assets for the Customer and the Customer will direct the Custodian as to the fair market value of those assets. Should the Customer in its sole discretion determine that an independent appraisal of some or all of such assets is necessary, the Customer will be responsible for hiring a qualified independent appraiser, providing all necessary information to the appraiser, reviewing the report of the appraiser, and reporting the appraised value to the Custodian. The Custodian shall not have the obligation to determine the qualification of any appraiser retained by the Customer and shall have no duty to verify the accuracy of any appraisal.
- 6.4 <u>Record Retention</u>. The Custodian will retain its records relating to the Custodial Account as long as necessary for the proper administration of the Custodial Account and at least for any period required by applicable law. Writing, Photostatting, photographing, micro-filming, magnetic media, mechanical or electrical recording, or other forms of data retention will be acceptable means of record retention.
- 6.5 No Responsibility for Participant-Level Record-keeping or Communications to Participants.

  Unless otherwise agreed in a separate written agreement between the Customer and the Custodian, the Custodian will not be responsible for participant-level recordkeeping or reporting, including, but not limited to, allocating contributions or gains or losses to recordkeeping accounts of participants, processing participant investment change requests, processing loan or distribution requests, or preparing or providing benefit statements to participants. Similarly, unless otherwise agreed in a separate written agreement between the Customer and the Custodian, the Custodian will not be responsible for any communications to participants and beneficiaries regarding the Plan or the Custodial Account.
- 6.6 Action by the Custodian. The Custodian may delegate ministerial acts, specifically including, but not limited to, the signing and mailing of checks, the printing and mailing of statements, endorsement of stock certificates, execution of transfer instruments and any other document, and the signing of tax returns and governmental reports to be done by any agent of the Custodian.

#### DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAXES

7.1 <u>Distributions</u>. The Custodian is authorized to release securities and cash investments in the Account to the Customer, but not to a participant directing the investment of a sub-account as described in Section 3.5, on the written order of the Customer and upon such further written confirmation as the Custodian shall reasonably request. The Custodian may retain such securities as shall be reasonably necessary or appropriate in its opinion to ensure that such assets are available to discharge any liabilities of the Customer or the Account to the Custodian, including, but not limited to, unpaid fees, claims, or other expenses or obligations arising under this Agreement.

#### 7.2 Special Limitations.

- 7.2.1 Generally. Except as otherwise provided herein or in the Plan, and subject to any additional limitations applicable under the Plan or other applicable law, the assets of the Account shall not be distributed or otherwise made available before:
  - (a) a participant has a severance from employment;
  - (b) the calendar year in which a participant attains age 70½;
  - (c) a participant encounters an unforeseeable emergency; or
  - (d) a participant dies.

It shall be solely the Customer's duty to ensure that the requirements of this Section 7.2.1 are met and that all distributions to participants are made in accordance with the terms of the Plan, Code Section 457(b) and the Treasury Regulation issued thereunder.

- 7.2.2 <u>Limitation on Withdrawals due to Unforeseeable Emergency</u>. The Customer shall ensure that any distribution that is made to a participant from the Account for reason of an unforeseeable emergency complies with Treasury Regulations Section 1.457-6(c).
- 7.3 <u>Minimum Distributions</u>; <u>Eligible Rollover Distributions</u>. Consistent with Code Section 457(d), the requirements of Code Section 401(a)(9) relating to required minimum distributions and Code Section 401(a)(31), relating to certain rollover distributions, shall apply to amounts held in the Account. The Custodian shall have no obligation to independently determine, administer, or effect distribution of any such amount.
- 7.4 Authorization with Respect to Taxes. The Custodian may execute, as custodian, any declarations or certificates pertaining to the Account that may be required under any tax law(s) or governmental regulation(s) now or hereafter without prior approval of the Customer. The Custodian may withhold from any distribution to a participant or beneficiary, made at the direction of the Customer or a Designated Representative, all income taxes required by law to be withheld, and pay such withheld amounts to the appropriate taxing authorities. The Customer or its Designated Representative shall calculate all taxes and withholding and shall provide the Custodian all information necessary for the Custodian to carry out such withholding in a timely fashion, and to file all required returns, reports, or other documents with the applicable taxing authorities with respect to distributions by the Custodian to participants and beneficiaries and amounts withheld thereon.

The Custodian shall notify the Designated Representative of any tax levied upon or assessed against the Account of which the Custodian has knowledge. If the Custodian receives no Instructions from the Designated Representative, the Custodian may pay the tax from the Account. If the Designated Representative wishes to contest the tax assessment, it shall give appropriate and timely instructions to the Custodian. The Custodian shall not be required to bring any legal actions or proceedings to contest the validity of any tax assessments unless the Custodian has been indemnified to its satisfaction against loss or expense related to such actions or proceedings, including reasonable attorney's fees.

#### **COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES**

- Generally. The Custodian will be entitled to receive compensation for its services provided hereunder as may be agreed upon in writing with the Customer. The Customer represents that it has determined that the compensation to be paid to the Custodian is reasonable and that the Customer will, in advance of any later agreement, determine that the compensation is reasonable. Customer disclaims any legal or equitable interest in and irrevocably assigns to the Custodian (or any affiliate the Custodian designates) as part of Custodian's compensation for services provided hereunder any earnings credits generated directly or indirectly from any funds in the Account pending investment direction and pending distribution. The Custodian will also be entitled to reimbursement for all reasonable and necessary costs, expenses, and disbursements incurred by it in the performance of such services, including, without limitation, attorneys' fees. Such compensation and reimbursements shall be a charge against and may be withdrawn by the Custodian from the Custodial Account within a reasonable time, as specified by the Custodian; provided, however, that such amounts may be paid by the Designated Representative on behalf of the Customer, as outlined in a separate written agreement between said parties. The Customer shall also be bound by and authorizes the Custodian to pay fees and expenses pursuant to written schedules of fees entered into from time to time by the Customer and/or the Designated Representative and the The schedule of fees may be changed from time to time upon agreement between the Customer and the Custodian. Custodian. Any cash balances of the Fund shall be deposited in an account at an FDIC insured bank selected solely by the Custodian. The Custodian shall not be obligated to invest such funds in any interest-bearing account. Each party hereto shall be responsible for reporting and payment, of its own tax on any income and compensation earned.
- 8.2 <u>Disclosure.</u> The Designated Representative shall disclose any compensation, reimbursements, fees and/or expenses payable from the Account pursuant to Section 8.1, and any changes to such amounts, to the Customer and the participants.

#### **ARTICLE 9**

#### AMENDMENT, ASSIGNMENT AND TERMINATION

- 9.1 Amendment. This Agreement may be amended by the Custodian, provided notice of such amendment is sent to Customer at least thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of any such amendment.
- 9.2 Assignment. This Agreement may be assigned by the Custodian without the consent of the Customer, provided notice of such assignment is sent to Customer at least thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of any such assignment. However, the benefits provided herein and the assets of a participant's Account shall not be subject, whether voluntary or involuntarily, to alienation, assignment, legal process, garnishment, attachment, execution or levy of any kind (other than with regard to the payment of fees and expenses as authorized by this Custodial Agreement), and any attempt to cause such assets to be so subjected shall not be recognized except to the extent as may be required by law or as provided herein. Neither the foregoing nor any provision of this Custodial Agreement, however, shall restrict compliance with a court order determined to be a "qualified domestic relations order" defined in Code Section 414(p). If the Customer so determines, the amount payable with respect to that order shall immediately be distributed in a single sum to the "alternate payee" (as defined in Code Section 414(p)).
- 9.3 <u>Termination</u>. This Agreement shall remain in force until terminated, and either the Customer or the Custodian may terminate this Agreement upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other. Upon termination of this Agreement, Customer agrees to name a successor custodian and notify the Custodian in writing of the name of said successor custodian. In the event that Customer does not name a successor Custodian, the Custodian shall distribute cash directly to the Customer and shall reregister in the name of the Customer any securities in the Account that are registered in the Custodian's name.
- 9.4 <u>Termination of Plan</u>. If the Plan is terminated, this Agreement will nevertheless continue in effect until the earlier of the date as of which all assets of the Custodial Account have been distributed or the Agreement is terminated pursuant to Section 9.3.
  - 9.5 <u>Customer Bankruptcy</u>.

- 9.5.1 If the Customer becomes insolvent, files for or becomes subject to bankruptcy or a similar proceeding in state or federal court, the Customer will notify the Custodian in writing as soon as possible. The notification will include confirmation of the individual(s) who will direct the Custodian. If, within sixty (60) days of such filing the Customer does not notify the Custodian, the Custodian may invoke the provisions of Section 9.5.3.
- 9.5.2 In the case of bankruptcy, insolvency, or dissolution of the Customer, the Custodian will have the right to petition a court of competent jurisdiction to appoint a new Custodian, the costs of such action being payable from the Custodial Account.
- 9.5.3 In the case of dissolution of the Customer, or at any other time that the Customer does not respond to requests from the Custodian for confirmation of the individuals who will provide direction to the Custodian, the Custodian may, in its sole discretion, assume the Plan has been terminated and distribute assets according to applicable law. Before the Custodian may make such assumption, however, the Custodian will send to the last known address of the Customer, and the individuals who last had authority for providing direction to the Custodian, via certified mail, a written notice of the Custodian's intent to begin such action. The Custodian will then wait at least thirty (30) days before beginning such action.
- 9.5.4 If the Custodian receives notice of the Customer's bankruptcy, insolvency or dissolution (either by the Customer or a court of competent jurisdiction), or if the Plan has been deemed abandoned as described in Section 9.5.3, above, any fees and other expenses relating to the provision of services under this Custodial Agreement (whether current or overdue) may be immediately deducted from the Custodial Account.

#### INDEMNIFICATION AND LIABILITY

Customer hereby agrees to indemnify, defend and hold the Custodian and any parent, subsidiary, related corporation, or affiliates, of the Custodian, including their respective directors, managers, officers, employees, and agents, harmless from and against any and all loss, costs, damages, liability, expenses or, claims of any nature whatsoever, including but not limited to legal expenses, court costs, legal fees, and costs of investigation, including appeals thereof, arising, directly or indirectly thereof resulting from their reliance upon and any action that it takes in good faith in accordance with resulting from their reliance upon any certificate, notice, confirmation, or Instruction, purporting to have been delivered by the Designated Representative or an Investment Manager. Customer waives any and all claims of any nature it now has or may have against the Custodian and its affiliates, parent company and their respective directors, managers, officers, employees, agents and other representatives, which arise, directly or indirectly, from any action that it takes in good faith in accordance with any certificate, notice, confirmation, or Instruction from the Designated Representative or an Investment Manager. Customer also hereby agrees to indemnify, defend and hold the Custodian and any parent, subsidiary, related corporation, or affiliates of the Custodian, including their respective directors, managers, officers, employees and agents, harmless from and against any and all loss, costs, damages, liability, expenses or claims of any nature whatsoever, including but not limited to legal expenses, court costs, reasonable legal fees, and costs of investigation, including appeals thereof, arising, directly or indirectly, out of any loss or diminution of the Fund resulting from changes in the market value of the Fund assets; reliance, or action taken in reliance, on Instructions from Customer, a Designated Representative or an Investment Manager; any exercise or failure to exercise investment direction authority by Customer, by a Designated Representative or Investment Manager; the Custodian's refusal on advice of counsel to act in accordance with any investment direction by Customer, a Designated Representative or an Investment Manager; any other act or failure to act by Customer, a Designated Representative or an Investment Manager; any prohibited transaction or plan disqualification or other failure of a Plan to comply with applicable law due to any actions taken or not taken by the Custodian in reliance on Instructions from the Customer, the Designated Representative or an Investment Manager; or any other act the Custodian takes in good faith hereunder that arises under this Agreement or the administration of the Fund.

The Custodian will have no responsibility to see that any investment directions comply with the terms of the Plan. However, if the Custodian receives any direction from the Customer, a Designated Representative or an Investment Manager that appears to the Custodian in its sole judgment to be incomplete or unclear, the Custodian will not be required to act on such directions and may hold uninvested any asset without liability until proper directions are received from the

Customer, the Designated Representative or the appropriate Investment Manager. If investment directions are incomplete or unclear, the Custodian must notify the Customer, a Designated Representative or the Investment Manager within a reasonable period of time. In the absence of proper investment directions, the Custodian will not be liable for interest, market gains or losses on any cash balances maintained in the Custodial Account.

If any tax reporting information is not correctly and timely provided to the Custodian, the Designated Representative and the Customer shall hold the Custodian harmless from and indemnify it for any liability and related expenses that arise in connection with improper or late withholding or reporting.

The Custodian shall have no liability for making any distribution or transfer pursuant to the Instruction of the Designated Representative (including amounts withheld pursuant to this section) and shall be under no duty to make inquiry as to whether any distribution or transfer directed by the Designated Representative is made pursuant to the provisions of the Plan or any applicable law, or as to such Instruction's effect for tax purposes or otherwise.

The Custodian shall not be liable to Customer for any act, omission, or determination made in connection with this Agreement except for its gross negligence or willful misconduct. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Custodian shall not be liable for any losses arising from its compliance with Instructions from the Customer or a Designated Representative or an Investment Manager; or executing, failing to execute, failing to timely execute or for any mistake in the execution of any Instructions, unless such action or inaction is by reason of the gross negligence or willful misconduct of the Custodian.

The Custodian shall not be responsible for any lost profits or any special, indirect or consequential damages in respect of any breach or wrongful conduct in any way related to this Agreement. The Custodian shall have no liability for any matters beyond its control such as market loss or diminution, impact of government regulations, third-party bankruptcies or otherwise.

The provisions of this Article shall survive the termination, amendment, or expiration of this Agreement.

#### **ARTICLE 11**

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

11.1 <u>Duty to Defend.</u> The Custodian shall not be under any obligation to defend any legal action or engage in any legal proceedings with respect to the Account or with respect to any property held in the Fund. Whenever the Custodian deems it reasonably necessary, the Custodian is authorized to consult with its counsel in reference to the Account and to retain counsel and appear in any action, suit, or proceedings affecting the Account or any of the assets of the Fund. All legal fees, costs, and expenses so incurred shall be paid for by the Customer or in the absence of payment charged against the Account. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Custodian will not settle any action taken as set forth herein, without the prior written consent of the Customer.

#### 11.2 Applicable Law.

- 11.2.1 Choice of Law. This Agreement shall be construed and interpreted according to the laws of the State of Colorado to the extent that such laws are not preempted by the laws of the United States of America. All contributions to, and payments from, the Account shall be deemed to take place in the State of Colorado.
- 11.2.2 Choice of Venue. Except as provided in Section 11.5, all controversies, disputes, and claims arising under this Agreement and not otherwise resolved will be submitted to the United States District Court for the district where the Custodian has its principal place of business, and by executing this Agreement, each party hereto consents to that court's exercise of personal jurisdiction over them.
- 11.3 <u>Counterparts</u>. This Agreement shall be executed in any number of counterparts, each one of which shall be deemed to be the original although the others shall not be produced.

- 11.4 Notices. The address of the Customer shall be as set forth in this Agreement, but may be changed by providing either written notice to the Custodian sent by certified mail, return receipt requested or by electronic communication that is used regularly in the ordinary course of business between the Customer and the Custodian.
- Arbitration. The parties acknowledge that this Agreement evidences a transaction involving interstate commerce. The parties agree that any misunderstandings, controversies or disputes arising from this Agreement shall be decided by binding arbitration which shall be conducted, upon request by either party, in Denver, Colorado, before three (3) arbitrators designated by the American Arbitration Association (the "AAA"), in accordance with the terms of the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the AAA, and, to the maximum extent applicable, the United States Arbitration Act (Title 9 of the United States Code). The decision of the majority of the arbitrators shall be binding and conclusive upon the parties. Neither party shall bring a putative or certified class action to arbitration nor seek to enforce any pre-dispute arbitration agreement against the other party who has initiated in court a putative class action who is a member of a putative class action until the class certification is denied; the class is decertified; the party is excluded from the class by the court; or such forbearance to enforce an agreement to arbitrate shall not constitute a waiver of any rights under this Agreement except to the extent stated herein. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, either party may proceed to a court of competent jurisdiction to obtain equitable relief at any time, other than to stay arbitration. Further, any such court proceeding shall only be brought in the federal district court in Denver, Colorado. The arbitration panel shall have no authority to award special, indirect, consequential, punitive or other damages. To the maximum extent practicable, an arbitration proceeding under this Agreement shall be concluded within one hundred eighty (180) days of the filing of the dispute with the AAA. The provisions of this arbitration clause shall survive any termination, amendment or expiration of the Agreement and if any term, covenant, condition or provision of this arbitration clause is found to be unlawful or invalid or unenforceable, the remaining parts of the arbitration clause shall not be affected thereby and shall remain fully enforceable. Judgment on any award rendered by the arbitration panel may be entered in any court having competent jurisdiction. The parties shall each pay one-half of the forum and arbitrators' fees. The prevailing party in the arbitration, or any court proceeding, shall be entitled to its reasonable attorney's fees and expenses from the non-prevailing party.
- 11.6 Exclusive Benefit. Except as permitted by law or by the terms of the Plan, at no time prior to the satisfaction of all liabilities with respect to participants and their beneficiaries under the Plan shall any part of the Account be used for or diverted to any purpose other than for the exclusive benefit of the participants and their beneficiaries. The assets of the Account shall be held for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits to participants in the Plan and their beneficiaries and defraying the reasonable expenses of administering the Plan.
- 11.7 Evidence. Evidence required of anyone under the Custodial Agreement may be by certificate, affidavit, document, facsimile, E-mail or other form which the Person acting in reliance thereon considers to be pertinent and reliable, and to be signed, made, or presented by the proper party.
- 11.8 <u>Waiver of Notice</u>. Any notice required under this Custodial Agreement may be waived in writing by the Person entitled to the notice.
- 11.9 <u>Complete Agreement.</u> This Agreement and any schedule of fees provided by the Custodian or the Designated Representative embodies the entire agreement and understanding of the parties relating to the subject matter hereof.
- 11.10 <u>USA Patriot Act Notification</u>. The following notification is provided to Customer pursuant to Section 326 of the USA Patriot Act of 2001, 31 U.S.C. Section 5318:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT PROCEDURES FOR OPENING A NEW ACCOUNT. To help the government fight the funding of terrorism and money-laundering activities, Federal law requires all financial institutions to obtain, verify, and record information that identifies each person or entity that opens an account, including any deposit account, treasury management account, loan, other extension of credit, or other financial services product. What this means for Customer: When Customer opens an account, if Customer is an individual, The Custodian or the Designated Representative will ask for Customer's name, taxpayer identification number, residential address, date of birth, and other information that will allow The Custodian or the Designated Representative to identify Customer, and, if Customer is not an individual, The Custodian or the Designated Representative will ask for Customer's name, taxpayer identification number, business address, and other information that will allow The Custodian or the Designated Representative to identify Customer. The Custodian or the Designated Representative may also ask, if Customer is an individual, to see Customer's

driver's license or other identifying documents, and, if Customer is not an individual, to see Customer's legal organizational documents or other identifying documents.

- 11.11 Taxes. Customer shall bear all taxes (inclusive of sales and use taxes), duties, levies, and other similar charges (and any related interest and penalties), however designated, imposed as a result of the receipt of services rendered under this Agreement, including but not limited to any tax which Customer is required to withhold or deduct from payments to Custodian, except (i) any tax imposed upon Custodian in a jurisdiction outside the United States if such tax is allowable as a credit against U.S. federal income taxes of Custodian; and (ii) any income tax imposed upon Custodian by the United States or any governmental entity within the United States. In order for the exception contained in (i) to apply, Customer must furnish Custodian with such evidence as may be required by the United States taxing authorities to establish that such tax has been paid so that Custodian may claim the credit. The fees to be charged by Custodian to Customer under this contract, depending on the facts and circumstances of the particular tax jurisdiction, may include Value Added Tax ("VAT"), Goods and Services Tax ("GST") and other similar taxes (collectively, "VAT"). Where Custodian is obligated to report and pay VAT with respect to services provided to Customer, Customer agrees to be invoiced by Custodian for the VAT at the applicable prevailing VAT rate.
- 11.12 <u>Data</u>. Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, aggregated and/or statistical data shall not be considered Customer Information hereunder provided that any such data does not specifically identify any of Customer's confidential information. Customer hereby authorizes Custodian to share Customer's data, Personal Information and confidential information among Custodian's related companies so long as the same protective provisions

contained in Section 12.14 are followed by every entity to which disclosure is made.

#### 11.13 Confidentiality.

- 11.13.1 Definitions. In connection with this Agreement, including without limitation the evaluation of new services contemplated by the parties to be provided by Custodian under this Agreement, information will be exchanged between Custodian and Customer. Custodian shall provide information that may include, without limitation, confidential information relating to the Custodian's products, trade secrets, strategic information, information about systems and procedures, confidential reports, customer information, vendor and other third party information, financial information including cost and pricing, sales strategies, computer software and tapes, programs, source and object codes, and other information that is provided under circumstances reasonably indicating it is confidential (collectively, the "Custodian Information"), and Customer shall provide information required for Customer to use the services received or to be received, including customer information, which may include Personal Information (defined below), to be processed by the services, and other information that is provided under circumstances reasonably indicating it is confidential ("Customer Information") (the Custodian Information and the Customer Information collectively referred to herein as the "Information"). Personal Information that is exchanged shall also be deemed Information hereunder. "Personal Information" means personal information about an identifiable individual including, without limitation, name, address, contact information, age, gender, income, marital status, finances, health, employment, social insurance number and trading activity or history. Personal Information shall not include the name, title or business address or business telephone number of an employee of an organization in relation to such individual's capacity as an employee of an organization. The Information of each party shall remain the exclusive property of such party.
- 11.13.2 Obligations. The receiver of Information (the "Receiver") shall keep any Information provided by the other party (the "Provider") strictly confidential and shall not, without the Provider's prior written consent, disclose such Information in any manner whatsoever, in whole or in part, and shall not duplicate, copy or reproduce such Information, including, without limitation, by means of photocopying or transcribing of voice recording, except in accordance with the terms of this Agreement except as provided in Section 12.13. The Receiver shall only use the Information as reasonably required to carry out the purposes of this Agreement.
- 11.13.3 <u>Disclosure Generally</u>. Except as provided in Section 12.13, Custodian and Customer agree that the Information shall be disclosed by the Receiver only to: (i) the employees, agents and consultants of the Customer and the Designated Representative in connection with Receiver's performance or use of the services, as applicable, and (ii) auditors, counsel, and other representatives of the Customer and Designated Representative for the purpose of providing assistance to the Receiver in the ordinary course of Receiver's performance or use of the services, as applicable. Each party will take reasonable steps to prevent a breach of its obligations by any

employee or third party.

- 11.13.4 <u>Compelled Disclosure</u>. If the Receiver or anyone to whom the Receiver transmits the Information pursuant to this Agreement becomes legally compelled to disclose any of the Information, then the Receiver will provide the Provider with prompt notice before such Information is disclosed (or, in the case of a disclosure by someone to whom the Receiver transmitted the Information, as soon as the Receiver becomes aware of the compelled disclosure), if not legally prohibited from doing so, so that the Provider may seek a protective order or other appropriate remedy and/or waive compliance with the provisions of this Agreement. If such protective order or other remedy is not obtained, then the Receiver will furnish only that portion of the Information which the Receiver is advised by reasonable written opinion of counsel is legally required and will exercise its reasonable efforts to assist the Provider in obtaining a protective order or other reliable assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded to the Information that is disclosed.
- 11.13.5 Exceptions. Except with respect to Personal Information, nothing contained herein shall in any way restrict or impair either party's right to use, disclose or otherwise deal with:
- (i) Information which at the time of its disclosure is publicly available, by publication or otherwise, or which the Provider publicly discloses either prior to or subsequent to its disclosure to the Receiver;
- (ii) Information which the Receiver can show was in the possession of the Receiver, or its parent, subsidiary or affiliated company, at the time of disclosure and which was not acquired, directly or indirectly, under any obligation of confidentiality to the Provider; or
- (iii) Information which is independently acquired or developed by the Receiver without violation of its obligations hereunder.

In addition, each employee of the Receiver shall be free to use for any purpose, upon completion of the services rendered under this Agreement, any general knowledge, skill or expertise that (i) is acquired by such employee in performance of those services, (ii) remains part of the general knowledge of such employee after access to the tangible embodiment of the Provider's Information, (iii) does not contain or include any such Information, and (iv) is not otherwise specific to the Provider.

shall return to each other, or destroy, any and all copies of Information of the other that are in their possession relating to the terminated Agreement, except for any copies reasonably required to maintain such party's customary archives or computer back-up procedures, and as otherwise required by applicable law, rule or regulation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Custodian shall have the right to keep one copy of such Information as may be reasonably required to evidence the fact that it has provided the services to Customer. In the event that Customer requires Custodian to return any Customer Information, Customer shall pay Custodian (at the rates set forth in the applicable Schedule, or, if no such rates are set forth, at Custodian's then current charges) for Custodian's actual time spent and incidental expenses actually incurred in connection with such return.

#### 11.14 Nonpublic Personal Information.

- 11.14.1 Obligations. Custodian shall not disclose or use any nonpublic Personal Information of Customer's employees except to the extent reasonably required to carry out its obligations under this Agreement or as otherwise directed by Customer. In connection with each party's use or provision of the rendered services, as applicable, each party shall comply with any applicable law, rule or regulation of any jurisdiction applicable to such party relating to the disclosure or use of Personal Information (including, without limitation, with respect to Customer and its Affiliates and their customers, Title V of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999 or any successor federal statute, and the rules and regulations thereunder, as the same may be amended or supplemented from time to time).
- 11.14.2 <u>Security Measures</u>. Custodian shall (i) implement and maintain commercially reasonable measures to protect the security, confidentiality and integrity of nonpublic Personal Information of Customer's customers against anticipated threats, unauthorized disclosure or use, and improper disposal, and (ii) provide Customer with information regarding such security measures upon the reasonable request of Customer.

11.14.3 <u>Security Breaches</u>. Each party shall promptly provide the other party with notice of (i) any disclosure, access to or use of any Personal Information in breach of this Agreement and (ii) any unauthorized intrusion into systems containing Customer's Personal Information.

11.15 Equitable Relief. A breach of any provision of Section 12.13 or Section 12.14 of this Agreement may cause the Custodian irreparable injury and damage and therefore may be enjoined through injunctive proceedings, in addition to any other rights or remedies which may be available to such party, at law or in equity. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 12.5, any proceeding brought by the Custodian to seek relief under this Section 12.16 shall be brought in a federal or state court of competent jurisdiction in Denver, Colorado.

#### **ARTICLE 12**

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS (OPTIONAL):

SIGNATURES:
ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO BY THE CUSTOMER:
Employer/Plan Sponsor: Jan  BY: Adam Law
DATE: _O8/19/2019
ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO BY THE DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE:  SIGNATURE:
PRINTED NAME: Aspire Financial Services, LLC/Mark Agustin
DATE:
THIS AGREEMENT IS NOT EFFECTIVE UNTIL COUNTERSIGNED BY AN AUTHORIZED OFFICER OF
ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO BY THE CUSTODIAN AT ITS OFFICE IN DENVER, COLORADO:
MG TRUST COMPANY D/B/A MATRIX TRUST COMPANY BY:
TITLE:
DATE: