

# **INVEST FORT LAUDERDALE, INC.**

**("Invest Fort Lauderdale")**

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

### **ARTICLE I**

#### **PURPOSE**

To the extent, this non-profit is controlled by a governmental agency or is deemed the "alter-ego" of a governmental agency, the Board of Directors, members of committees with delegated authority, its Executive Director, Chief Financial Officer and other principal officers shall be governed by Chapter 112 of the Florida Statutes. In addition, the board of directors and its officers shall be governed by the conflict of interest policy set forth herein. In the event of a conflict between this policy and Chapter 112 of the Florida Statutes, Chapter 112 shall control.

The purpose of the conflict of interest policy is to protect the interest of Invest Fort Lauderdale, Inc. when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of Invest Fort Lauderdale, Inc. or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations and to organizations controlled by governmental agencies or deemed an "alter-ego" of a governmental agency.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **DEFINITIONS**

- 1. Interested Persons.** Any director, principal officer, or member of a committee with governing board delegated powers, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.
- 2. Principal Officer.** An individual designated under Chapter 112 of the Florida or one with decision making authority over the business, financial and administrative affairs of Invest Fort Lauderdale.
- 3. Financial Interest.** A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:
  - a.** An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which Invest Fort Lauderdale has a transaction or arrangement;
  - b.** A compensation arrangement with Invest Fort Lauderdale or with any entity or individual with which Invest Fort Lauderdale has a transaction or arrangement; or
  - c.** A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which Invest Fort Lauderdale is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial.

A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Article III, Section 2, a person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the appropriate governing board or committee decides that a conflict of interest exists or if such person would be deemed to have a conflict of interest under Chapter 112, Florida Statutes.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **PROCEDURES**

1. **Duty to Disclose.** In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the directors and members of committees with governing board delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.
2. **Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists.** After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after discussion with the interested person, he/she will leave the governing board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.
3. **Procedure for Addressing the Conflict of Interest.**
  - a. An interested person may make a presentation at the governing board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible or actual conflict of interest.
  - b. The chairperson of the governing board or committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.
  - c. After exercising due diligence, the governing board or committee shall determine whether Invest Fort Lauderdale can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
  - d. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonable possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the governing board or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in Invest Fort Lauderdale's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination, it

shall make its decision as to whether to enter into transaction or arrangement.

**4. Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy**

- a. If the governing body board or committee has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
- b. If, after hearing the member's response and after making further investigations as warranted by the circumstances, the governing board or committee determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take the appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

**ARTICLE IV**

**RECORDS OF PROCEEDINGS**

The minutes of the governing board and all committees with board delegated powers shall contain:

- a. The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the governing board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.
- b. The names of the persons who were present for discussion and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

**ARTICLE V**

**COMPENSATION**

- a. A voting member of the governing board who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from Invest Fort Lauderdale for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- b. A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from Invest Fort Lauderdale, for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.

- c. No voting member of the governing board or any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from Invest Fort Lauderdale, is prohibited from providing information to any committee or its members individually regarding compensation, including general industry wide compensation data.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **ANNUAL STATEMENTS**

Each director, principal officer and member of a committee with governing board delegated authority shall annually sign a statement which affirms such person:

- a. Has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy;
- b. Has read and understands the policy; and
- c. Understands Invest Fort Lauderdale is a charitable organization and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption, it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **PERIODIC REVIEWS**

To ensure Invest Fort Lauderdale operates in a manner consistent with charitable purposes and does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its tax-exempt status, periodic reviews shall be conducted. The periodic reviews shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:

- a. Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable, based on competent survey information, and the results of the arm's length bargaining.
- b. Whether partnerships, joint ventures, and arrangements with management organizations conform to Invest Fort Lauderdale's written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable investment or payments for goods and services, further charitable purposes and do not result in inurement, impermissible private benefit or in an excess benefit transaction.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **USE OF OUTSIDE EXPERTS**

When conducting the periodic reviews as provided for in Article VII, Invest Fort Lauderdale may, but need not, use outside advisors. If our outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the governing board of its responsibility for ensuring periodic reviews are conducted.