# Town of Hempstead Local Development Corporation

# COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

December 31, 2011





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A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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March 24, 2012

To the Board of Directors Town of Hempstead Local Development Corporation

We have audited the financial statements of the Town of Hempstead Local Development Corporation (the Corporation) for the year ended December 31, 2011. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter dated October 28, 2011. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

#### **Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices**

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Corporation are described in Note 2 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2011. We noted no transactions entered into by the Corporation for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users.

## **Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit**

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

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#### **Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements**

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. We noted no misstatements during the audit.

#### **Disagreements with Management**

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

#### **Management Representations**

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated March 24, 2012.

# **Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants**

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the governmental unit's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

### Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Corporation's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.



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#### **Other Matters**

During our audit, we became aware of a matter relating to segregation of duties that we believe should be communicated to the management of the Corporation. The matter of segregation of duties is discussed in the following paragraph.

#### **Segregation of Duties**

The size of the Corporation's accounting and administrative staff precludes certain internal controls that would be preferred if the staff were large enough to provide optimum segregation of duties. The executive director is encouraged to periodically review all work done by staff members.

This information is intended solely for the use of the audit committee and management of Town of Hempstead Local Development Corporation and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Sheehan & Company, C.P.A., P.C.

