

## **Model Language for Purchase Agreements Regarding Escrowed Funds for Part 20 Plan**

1. The law firm of \_\_\_\_\_, with an address at \_\_\_\_\_, telephone number \_\_\_\_\_, shall serve as escrow agent ("Escrow Agent") for Sponsor and Purchaser. Escrow Agent has designated the following attorneys to serve as signatories:  
\_\_\_\_\_. All designated signatories are admitted to practice law in the State of New York. Neither the Escrow Agent nor any authorized signatories on the account are the Sponsor, Selling Agent, Managing Agent, or any principal thereof, or have any beneficial interest in any of the foregoing.
2. Escrow Agent and all authorized signatories hereby submit to the jurisdiction of the State of New York and its Courts for any cause of action arising out of the Purchase Agreement or otherwise concerning the maintenance of release of the Deposit from escrow.
3. The Escrow Agent has established the escrow account at \_\_\_\_\_, located at \_\_\_\_\_, in the State of New York ("Bank"), a bank authorized to do business in the State of New York. The escrow account is entitled \_\_\_\_\_ ("Escrow Account"). The Escrow Account is not an IOLA account. The Escrow Account is federally insured by the FDIC at the maximum amount of [\$250,000] per deposit. Any deposit in excess of [\$250,000] will not be insured, [unless Escrow Agent has established multiple accounts on behalf of Purchaser at various institutions].
4. All Deposits received from Purchaser shall be in the form of [checks, money orders, wire transfers, or other instruments], and shall be made payable to or endorsed by the Purchaser to the order of \_\_\_\_\_, as Escrow Agent.
5. The interest rate for all Deposits made into the Escrow Account shall be the prevailing rate for such accounts. Interest shall begin to accrue upon placing the Deposit into the Escrow Account. All interest earned thereon shall be paid to or credited to the Purchaser at closing. No fees of any kind may be deducted from the Escrow Account, and the Sponsor shall bear all costs associated with the maintenance of the Escrow Account.
6. Within five (5) business days after the Purchase Agreement has been tendered to Escrow Agent along with the Deposit, the Escrow Agent shall sign the [Purchase Agreement/Escrow Agreement] and place the Deposit into the Escrow Account. Within ten (10) business days of the placing the deposit in the Escrow Account, Escrow Agent shall provide written notice to Purchaser and Sponsor, confirming the Deposit. The notice shall provide the account number and the initial interest rate to be earned on the Deposit. Any Deposits made for upgrades, extras, or custom work shall be initially deposited into the Escrow Account, and released in accordance to the terms of the [Purchase Agreement/Escrow Agreement].

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7. The Escrow Agent is obligated to send notice to the Purchaser once the Deposit is placed in the Escrow Account. If the Purchaser does not receive notice of such deposit within fifteen (15) business days after tender of the Deposit, he or she may cancel the Purchase Agreement within ninety (90) days after tender of the Purchase Agreement and Deposit to Escrow Agent. Complaints concerning the failure to honor such cancellation requests may be referred to the New York State Department of Law, Real Estate Finance Bureau, 28 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10005. Rescission shall not be afforded where proof satisfactory to the Attorney General is submitted establishing that the Deposit was timely placed in the Escrow Account in accordance with the New York State Department of Law's regulations concerning Deposits and requisite notice was timely mailed to the Purchaser.

8. All Deposits, except for advances made for upgrades, extras, or custom work received in connection with the Purchase Agreement, are and shall continue to be the Purchaser's money, and may not be comingled with any other money or pledged or hypothecated by Sponsor, as per GBL § 352-h.

9. Under no circumstances shall Sponsor seek or accept release of the Deposit of a defaulting Purchaser until after consummation of the Plan, as evidenced by the acceptance of a post-closing amendment by the New York State Department of Law. Consummation of the Plan does not relieve the Sponsor of its obligations pursuant to GBL §§ 352-e(2-b) and 352-h.

10. The Escrow Agent shall release the Deposit if so directed:

(a) pursuant to terms and conditions set forth in the Purchase Agreement in [Paragraph/Section] \_\_\_\_ upon closing of title to the [Unit/Shares/Membership Interests/Fractional Interest]; or

(b) in a subsequent writing signed by both Sponsor and Purchaser; or

(c) by a final, non-appealable order or judgment of a court.

If the Escrow Agent is not directed to release the Deposit pursuant to paragraphs (a) through (c) above, and the Escrow Agent receives a request by either party to release the Deposit, then the Escrow Agent must give both the Purchaser and Sponsor prior written notice of not fewer than thirty (30) days before releasing the Deposit. If the Escrow Agent has not received notice of objection to the release of the Deposit prior to the expiration of the thirty (30) day period, the Deposit shall be released and the Escrow Agent shall provide further written notice to both parties informing them of said release. If the Escrow Agent receives a written notice from either party objecting to the release of the Deposit within said thirty (30) day period, the Escrow Agent shall continue to hold the Deposit until otherwise directed pursuant to paragraphs (a) through (c) above. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Escrow Agent shall have the right at any time to deposit the Deposit contained in the Escrow Account with the clerk of the county where the [unit/building] is located and shall give written notice to both parties of such deposit.

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The Sponsor shall not object to the release of the Deposit to:

- (a) a Purchaser who timely rescinds in accordance with an offer of rescission contained in the Plan or an Amendment to the Plan; or
- (b) all Purchasers after an Amendment abandoning the Plan is accepted for filing by the Department of Law.

The Department of Law may perform random reviews and audits of any records involving the Escrow Account to determine compliance with all applicable statutes and regulations.

11. Any provision of the [Purchase Agreement/Escrow Agreement] or separate agreement, whether oral or in writing, by which a Purchaser purports to waive or indemnify any obligation of the Escrow Agent holding any Deposit in trust is absolutely void. The provisions of the Attorney General's regulations and GBL §§ 352-e(2-b) and 352-h concerning escrow trust funds shall prevail over any conflicting or inconsistent provisions in the Purchase Agreement, Plan, or any amendment thereto.

12. Escrow Agent shall maintain the Escrow Account under its direct supervision and control.

13. A fiduciary relationship shall exist between Escrow Agent and Purchaser, and Escrow Agent acknowledges its fiduciary and statutory obligations pursuant to GBL §§ 352-e(2-b) and 352(h).

14. Escrow Agent may rely upon any paper or document which may be submitted to it in connection with its duties under this Purchase Agreement and which is believed by Escrow Agent to be genuine and to have been signed or presented by the proper party or parties and shall have no liability or responsibility with respect to the form, execution, or validity thereof.

15. Sponsor agrees that it shall not interfere with Escrow Agent's performance of its fiduciary duties and statutory obligations as set forth in GBL §§ 352-e(2-b) and 352-(h) and the New York State Department of Law's regulations.

16. Sponsor shall obtain or cause the selling agent under the Plan to obtain a completed and signed Form W-9 or W-8, as applicable, from Purchaser and deliver such form to Escrow Agent together with the Deposit and this Purchase Agreement.

17. Prior to release of the Deposit, Escrow Agent's fees and disbursements shall neither be paid by Sponsor from the Deposit nor deducted from the Deposit by any financial institution under any circumstance.

18. Sponsor agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold Escrow Agent harmless from and against all costs, claims, expenses and damages incurred in connection with or arising out

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of Escrow Agent's responsibilities arising in connection with this Purchase Agreement or the performance or non-performance of Escrow Agent's duties under this Purchase Agreement, except with respect to actions or omissions taken or suffered by Escrow Agent in bad faith or in willful disregard of the obligations set forth in this Purchase Agreement or involving gross negligence of Escrow Agent. This indemnity includes, without limitation, disbursements and attorneys' fees either paid to retain attorneys or representing the hourly billing rates with respect to legal services rendered by Escrow Agent to itself.