



Rizzetta & Company

# Copperstone Community Development District

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**Board of Supervisors' Meeting  
September 13, 2017**

**District Office:  
12750 Citrus Park Lane, Suite 115  
Tampa, Florida 33625  
813-933-5571**

[copperstonecdd.org](http://copperstonecdd.org)

# COPPERSTONE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

## AGENDA

### SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 at 5:00 P.M.

Copperstone Clubhouse located at 8145 115<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, Parrish, FL 34219

<b>District Board of Supervisors</b>	Amy Tran Dan Kiran Gerard Litrenta Ryan Stulman Barry Schlotzhauer	Chairman Vice Chairman Assistant Secretary Assistant Secretary Assistant Secretary
<b>District Manager</b>	Joseph Roethke	Rizzetta & Company, Inc.
<b>District Attorney</b>	Andy Cohen	Persson & Cohen
<b>District Engineer</b>	Denise Greer	King Engineering, Inc.

**All Cellular phones and pagers must be turned off while in the meeting room.**

#### **The District Agenda is comprised of four different sections:**

The meeting will begin promptly at **5:00 p.m.** with the first section which is called **Audience Comments**. The Audience Comment portion of the agenda is where individuals may comment on matters that concern the District. Each individual is limited to three **(3) minutes** for such comment. The Board of Supervisors or Staff is not obligated to provide a response until sufficient time for research or action is warranted. **IF THE COMMENT CONCERNS A MAINTENANCE RELATED ITEM, THE ITEM WILL NEED TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE DISTRICT MANAGER OUTSIDE THE CONTEXT OF THIS MEETING.** The second section is called **Business Administration**. The Business Administration section contains items that require the review and approval of the District Board of Supervisors as a normal course of business. The third section is called **Business Items**. The business items section contains items for approval by the District Board of Supervisors that may require discussion, motion and votes on an item-by-item basis. If any member of the audience would like to speak on one of the business items, they will need to register with the District Manager prior to the presentation of that agenda item. Occasionally, certain items for decision within this section are required by Florida Statute to be held as a Public Hearing. During the Public Hearing portion of the agenda item, each member of the public will be permitted to provide one comment on the issue, prior to the Board of Supervisors' discussion, motion and vote. Agendas can be reviewed by contacting the Manager's office at (813) 933-5571 at least seven days in advance of the scheduled meeting. Requests to place items on the agenda must be submitted in writing with an explanation to the District Manager at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the meeting. The fourth section is called **Staff Reports**. This section allows the District Manager, Engineer, and Attorney to update the Board of Supervisors on any pending issues that are being researched for Board action. The final section is called **Supervisor Requests**. This is the section in which the Supervisors may request Staff to prepare certain items in an effort to meet residential needs.

Public workshops sessions may be advertised and held in an effort to provide informational services. These sessions allow staff or consultants to discuss a policy or business matter in a more informal manner and allow for lengthy presentations prior to scheduling the item for approval. Typically no motions or votes are made during these sessions.

Pursuant to provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the District Office at (239) 936-0913, at least 48 hours before the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 7-1-1, who can aid you in contacting the District Office.

Any person who decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting is advised that this same person will need a record of the proceedings and that accordingly, the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

September 7, 2017

**Board of Supervisors  
Copperstone Community  
Development District**

**REVISED AGENDA**

Dear Board Members:

The **special** meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Copperstone Community Development District will be held on **Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.** at the Copperstone Clubhouse located at 8145 115th Avenue East, Parrish, FL 34219. The following is the agenda for this meeting.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. AUDIENCE COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**
- 3. BUSINESS ITEMS**
  - A. Discussion Regarding Bond Refinancing
    1. Presentation of Eliot Pedrosa Letter .....Tab 1
    2. Presentation of Hank Fishkind Letter .....Tab 2
    3. Presentation of MSRB G-42 .....Tab 3
- 4. AUDIENCE COMMENTS**
- 5. ADJOURNMENT**

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us at (813) 933-5571.

Sincerely,

*Joseph Roethke*

Joseph Roethke  
District Manager

# **Tab 1**

Dear Andy,

It was a pleasure to speak with you on Friday. As you know, we represent Rizzetta & Co. (“Rizzetta”), which serves as the district manager for your client, Copperstone Community Development District. We understand that your client has questioned whether, as a district manager engaged in providing an assessment methodology report, Rizzetta is required to register as a “municipal advisor,” pursuant to Section 15B of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”) and Exchange Act Rule 15Ba1-1(e) (the “Municipal Advisor Rule”). See 15 U.S.C. § 78o-4(e)(4); 17 CFR § 240.15Ba1-1.

In relevant part, the Exchange Act and the Municipal Advisor Rule define a “municipal advisor” and “municipal advisory activities,” respectively, to cover a person that “provides advice to or on behalf of a municipal entity or obligated person with respect to municipal financial products or the issuance of municipal securities . . . .” See 15 U.S.C. § 78o-4(e)(4); 17 CFR § 240.15Ba1-1. In turn, “municipal financial products,” are defined as “municipal derivatives, guaranteed investment contracts, and investment strategies,” and “municipal securities” are defined as “direct obligations of, or obligations guaranteed as to principal or interest by, a State or any political subdivision thereof, or any agency or instrumentality of a State or any political subdivision thereof, or any municipal corporate instrumentality of one or more States.” See 15 U.S.C. §§ 78c(a)(29) (defining “municipal securities”) and 78o-4(e)(5) (defining “municipal financial products”).

Further, the SEC has clarified that “the determination of whether a person provides advice under the advice standard for municipal advisor registration purposes generally involves whether the person makes a recommendation.” See Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Municipal Securities, *Registration of Municipal Advisors Frequently Asked Questions* (available at [https://www.sec.gov/info/municipal/mun-advisors-faqs.shtml#\\_ftnref10](https://www.sec.gov/info/municipal/mun-advisors-faqs.shtml#_ftnref10)). “An important factor in this inquiry is whether, considering its content, context and manner of presentation, the information communicated to the municipal entity or obligated person reasonably would be viewed as a suggestion that the municipal entity or obligated person take action or refrain from taking action regarding municipal financial products or the issuance of municipal securities.” See *id* (quoting Adopting Release, 78 FR at 67480).

Rizzetta’s activities in providing assessment methodology reports are not of the type subject to Exchange Act Section 15B, because Rizzetta does not provide any advice with respect to municipal financial products or the issuance of municipal securities. Rather, such services consist solely of the preparation of a methodology for allocating special assessments. This is achieved through certain mathematical calculations based on information provided by the district’s underwriter, engineer or developer to calculate the quantitative measure of the amount of special benefit received by each parcel within the district. The special benefit calculation is a mathematical calculation that contains no express or implied recommendation, nor does it serve to expressly or impliedly convey a preference for a particular financing structure. To the extent an allocation methodology report includes language regarding the features of a municipal bond offering, such language serves solely to describe the features established by the district or proposed by the potential underwriter and not to recommend that such offering be undertaken or that the offering have such features. The allocation methodology reports make clear that the district and its financing team are charged with assessing whether to undertake an issuance of municipal securities and, if so, determining the structure, timing, terms and other similar matters relating to such issuance.

We understand that one of Rizzetta's competitors, Fishkind and Associates ("Fishkind"), is soliciting your client's business and has suggested that the SEC has taken the position that the issuance of assessment methodologies requires registration as a municipal advisor. There is absolutely no publicly-available pronouncement from the SEC or its staff expressing this position. No rule, guidance or release applying the Municipal Advisor Rule to assessment methodologies has been issued by either the SEC or the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board ("MSRB").

Further, we encourage you to review the list of the firms that have registered as municipal advisors in Florida, which is available from the MSRB's website at <http://www.msrb.org/MARegistrants.aspx>. With the exception of one (Fishkind), all of the firms that have registered are investment bankers, investment advisors, broker-dealers or other financial services firms that offer capital markets services of the type contemplated by the Municipal Advisor Rule, which Rizzetta does not offer.

While we cannot offer legal advice to your client, we hope that these citations and resources are helpful, and we encourage you and your client to examine the materials cited above yourselves.

P.S. Please stay safe during the upcoming storm. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of our Florida neighbors.

Warm regards,

**Eliot Pedrosa**  
Chairman, Miami Litigation Department  
Greenberg Traurig, P.A. | 333 S.E. 2nd Avenue | Miami, FL 33131  
Tel 305.579.0743 | Mob 305.804.4567 | Fax 305.961.5743  
[PedrosaE@gtlaw.com](mailto:PedrosaE@gtlaw.com) | [www.gtlaw.com](http://www.gtlaw.com)



## **Tab 2**

Ms. Tran,

Following up on our discussion yesterday, Fishkind & Associates, Inc. ("FA") is willing to offer our services as a Municipal Advisor ("MA") to the District under our standard contract. You asked for a fee quote to provide an assessment methodology report for the pending refunding issue and for the District's O&M expense allocations. We are willing to provide these services for a fixed fee of \$20,000. However, we can only do so if the District retains us as its MA.

As I have previously informed Mr. Cohen, the new SEC regulations governing financial advisors (see attached MSRB Rule G-42). Under the new regulations advice concerning the issuance of any debt obligations by any unit of government, including conduits, may only be rendered by a licensed Municipal Advisor Representative of a registered Municipal Advisor. The SEC takes a very broad view of what constitutes "advice". We were informed by the SEC that this includes assessment methodologies, supplements to these methodologies, establishing liens, lien books, and any other recommendations related to the issuance of debt by community development districts or any other units of government. Rule G-42 also changes the requirements for the retention of a Municipal Advisor or financial advisor. Specific contract language conforming to G-42 is now required.

Fishkind & Associates, Inc. is registered with the SEC (license # K1055). Joe MacLaren and I are the firm's Municipal Advisor Representatives having passed the required Series 50 examination.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Hank Fishkind, Ph.D.  
President  
Fishkind & Associates, Inc.

## **Tab 3**

# Rule G-42 Duties of Non-Solicitor Municipal Advisors



View Other Rules 



## Printable MSRB Rule Book

[Download a PDF of the MSRB's Rule Book. The PDF is updated on a quarterly basis.](#)

[View previous editions of the MSRB Rule Book.](#)

(a) *Standards of Conduct.*

- (i) A municipal advisor to an obligated person client shall, in the conduct of all municipal advisory activities for that client, be subject to a duty of care.
- (ii) A municipal advisor to a municipal entity client shall, in the conduct of all municipal advisory activities for that client, be subject to a fiduciary duty that includes a duty of loyalty and a duty of care.

(b) *Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest and Other Information.* A municipal advisor must, prior to or upon engaging in municipal advisory activities, provide to the municipal entity or obligated person client full and fair disclosure in writing of:

- (i) all material conflicts of interest, including:
  - (A) any affiliate of the municipal advisor that provides any advice, service, or product to or on behalf of the client that is directly related to the municipal advisory activities to be performed by the disclosing municipal advisor;
  - (B) any payments made by the municipal advisor, directly or indirectly, to obtain or retain an engagement to perform municipal advisory activities for the client;
  - (C) any payments received by the municipal advisor from a third party to enlist the municipal advisor's recommendation to the client of its services, any municipal securities transaction or any municipal financial product;
  - (D) any fee-splitting arrangements involving the municipal advisor and any

provider of investments or services to the client;

(E) any conflicts of interest arising from compensation for municipal advisory activities to be performed that is contingent on the size or closing of any transaction as to which the municipal advisor is providing advice; and

(F) any other actual or potential conflicts of interest, of which the municipal advisor is aware after reasonable inquiry, that could reasonably be anticipated to impair the municipal advisor's ability to provide advice to or on behalf of the client in accordance with the standards of conduct of section (a) of this rule, as applicable.

If a municipal advisor concludes that it has no known material conflicts of interest based on the exercise of reasonable diligence by the municipal advisor, the municipal advisor must provide a written statement to the client to that effect.

(ii) any legal or disciplinary event that is material to the client's evaluation of the municipal advisor or the integrity of its management or advisory personnel.

Information regarding legal or disciplinary events may be disclosed for purposes of this subsection by identification of the specific type of event and specific reference to the relevant portions of the municipal advisor's most recent Forms MA or MA-I filed with the Commission if the municipal advisor provides detailed information specifying where the client may electronically access such forms.

(c) *Documentation of Municipal Advisory Relationship.* A municipal advisor must evidence each of its municipal advisory relationships by a writing or writings created and delivered to the municipal entity or obligated person client prior to, upon or promptly after the establishment of the municipal advisory relationship. The writing(s) must be dated and include, at a minimum,

(i) the form and basis of direct or indirect compensation, if any, for the municipal advisory activities to be performed;

(ii) the information required to be disclosed by section (b) of this rule;

(iii) a description of the specific type of information regarding legal and disciplinary events requested by the Commission on Form MA and Form MA-I, which includes information about any criminal actions, regulatory actions, investigations, terminations, judgments, liens, civil judicial actions, customer complaints, arbitrations and civil litigation, and detailed information specifying where the client may electronically access the municipal advisor's most recent Form MA and each most recent Form MA-I filed with the Commission;

(iv) the date of the last material change or addition to the legal or disciplinary event disclosures on any Form MA or Form MA-I filed with the Commission by the municipal

advisor and a brief explanation of the basis for the materiality of the change or addition;

(v) the scope of the municipal advisory activities to be performed and any limitations on the scope of the engagement;

(vi) the date, triggering event, or means for the termination of the municipal advisory relationship, or, if none, a statement that there is none; and

(vii) any terms relating to withdrawal from the municipal advisory relationship.

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(d) *Recommendations and Review of Recommendations of Other Parties.* If a municipal advisor makes a recommendation of a municipal securities transaction or municipal financial product to a municipal entity or obligated person client, it must have a reasonable basis to believe that the recommended municipal securities transaction or municipal financial product is suitable for the client, based on the information obtained through the reasonable diligence of the municipal advisor. If the review of a recommendation of another party is requested by the municipal entity or obligated person client and within the scope of the engagement, the municipal advisor must determine, based on the information obtained through the reasonable diligence of such municipal advisor, whether the municipal securities transaction or municipal financial product is or is not suitable for the client. In addition, the municipal advisor must inform the client of:

(i) the municipal advisor's evaluation of the material risks, potential benefits, structure, and other characteristics of the recommended municipal securities transaction or municipal financial product;

(ii) the basis upon which the municipal advisor reasonably believes that the recommended municipal securities transaction or municipal financial product is, or (as may be applicable in the case of a review of a recommendation) is not, suitable for the client; and

(iii) whether the municipal advisor has investigated or considered other reasonably feasible alternatives to the recommended municipal securities transaction or municipal financial product that might also or alternatively serve the client's objectives.

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(e) *Specified Prohibitions.*

(i) A municipal advisor is prohibited from:

(A) receiving compensation that is excessive in relation to the municipal advisory activities actually performed;

(B) delivering an invoice for fees or expenses for municipal advisory activities that is materially inaccurate in its reflection of the activities actually performed or the personnel that actually performed those activities;

(C) making any representation or the submission of any information that the

municipal advisor knows or should know is either materially false or materially misleading due to the omission of a material fact about the capacity, resources or knowledge of the municipal advisor, in response to requests for proposals or qualifications or in oral presentations to a client or prospective client, for the purpose of obtaining or retaining an engagement to perform municipal advisory activities;

(D) making, or participating in, any fee-splitting arrangement with underwriters on any municipal securities transaction as to which it has provided or is providing advice, and any undisclosed fee-splitting arrangements with providers of investments or services to a municipal entity or obligated person client of the municipal advisor; and

(E) making payments for the purpose of obtaining or retaining an engagement to perform municipal advisory activities other than: (1) payments to an affiliate of the municipal advisor for a direct or indirect communication with a municipal entity or obligated person on behalf of the municipal advisor where such communication is made for the purpose of obtaining or retaining an engagement to perform municipal advisory activities; (2) reasonable fees paid to another municipal advisor registered as such with the Commission and the Board for making such a communication as described in subparagraph (e)(i)(E)(1); and (3) payments that are permissible “normal business dealings” as described in Rule G-20.

(ii) Except as provided for in paragraph .14 of the Supplementary Material of this rule, a municipal advisor to a municipal entity client, and any affiliate of such municipal advisor, is prohibited from engaging with the municipal entity client in a principal transaction that is the same, or directly related to the, issue of municipal securities or municipal financial product as to which the municipal advisor is providing or has provided advice to the municipal entity client.

(f) *Definitions.*

(i) “Advice” shall, for purposes of this rule, have the same meaning as in Section 15B(e)(4)(A)(i) of the Act, 17 CFR 240.15Ba1-1(d)(1)(ii) and other rules and regulations thereunder.

(ii) “Affiliate of the municipal advisor” shall mean, for purposes of this rule, any person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with such municipal advisor.

(iii) “Municipal advisor” shall, for purposes of this rule, have the same meaning as in Section 15B(e)(4) of the Act, 17 CFR 240.15Ba1-1(d)(1)-(4) and other rules and

regulations thereunder; provided that it shall exclude a person that is otherwise a municipal advisor solely based on activities within the meaning of Section 15B(e)(4)(A) (ii) of the Act and rules and regulations thereunder or any solicitation of a municipal entity or obligated person within the meaning of Section 15B(e)(9) of the Act and rules and regulations thereunder.

(iv) “Municipal advisory activities” shall, for purposes of this rule, mean those activities that would cause a person to be a municipal advisor as defined in subsection (f)(iv) of this rule.

(v) A “municipal advisory relationship” shall, for purposes of this rule, be deemed to exist when a municipal advisor enters into an agreement to engage in municipal advisory activities for a municipal entity or obligated person. The municipal advisory relationship shall be deemed to have ended on the date which is the earlier of (i) the date on which the municipal advisory relationship has terminated pursuant to the terms of the documentation of the municipal advisory relationship required in section (c) of this rule or (ii) the date on which the municipal advisor withdraws from the municipal advisory relationship.

(vi) “Municipal entity” shall, for purposes of this rule, have the same meaning as in Section 15B(e)(8) of the Act, 17 CFR 240.15Ba1-1(g) and other rules and regulations thereunder.

(vii) “Obligated person” shall, for purposes of this rule, have the same meaning as in Section 15B(e)(10) of the Act, 17 CFR 240.15Ba1-1(k) and other rules and regulations thereunder.

(viii) “Official statement” shall, for purposes of this rule, have the same meaning as in Rule G-32(d)(vii).

(ix) “Principal transaction” shall mean, for purposes of this rule, when acting as principal for one’s own account, a sale to or a purchase from the municipal entity client of any security or entrance into any derivative, guaranteed investment contract, or other similar financial product with the municipal entity client.

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## Supplementary Material

**.01 Duty of Care.** Municipal advisors must exercise due care in performing their municipal advisory activities. The duty of care includes, but is not limited to, the obligations discussed in this paragraph .01. A municipal advisor must possess the degree of knowledge and expertise needed to provide the municipal entity or obligated person client with informed advice. A municipal advisor also must make a reasonable inquiry as to the facts that are relevant to a client’s determination as to whether to proceed with a course of action or that form the basis for any advice provided to the client. A municipal advisor must undertake a reasonable investigation to determine that it is not basing any recommendation on materially inaccurate or incomplete information. Among other matters, a municipal advisor must have a reasonable basis for:

(a) any advice provided to or on behalf of a client;

(b) any representations made in a certificate that it signs that will be reasonably foreseeably relied upon by the client, any other party involved in the municipal securities transaction or municipal financial product, or investors in the municipal entity client's securities or securities secured by payments from an obligated person client; and

(c) any information provided to the client or other parties involved in the municipal securities transaction in connection with the preparation of an official statement for any issue of municipal securities as to which the municipal advisor is advising.

**.02 Duty of Loyalty.** Municipal advisors must fulfill a duty of loyalty in performing their municipal advisory activities for municipal entity clients. The duty of loyalty includes, but is not limited to, the obligations discussed in this paragraph .02. A municipal advisor must deal honestly and with the utmost good faith with a municipal entity client and act in the client's best interests without regard to the financial or other interests of the municipal advisor. A municipal advisor must not engage in municipal advisory activities for a municipal entity client if it cannot manage or mitigate its conflicts of interest in a manner that will permit it to act in the municipal entity's best interests.

**.03 Action Independent of or Contrary to Advice.** If a municipal entity or obligated person client of a municipal advisor elects a course of action that is independent of or contrary to advice provided by the municipal advisor, the municipal advisor is not required on that basis to disengage from the municipal advisory relationship.

**.04 Limitations on the Scope of the Engagement.** Nothing contained in this rule shall be construed to permit the municipal advisor to alter the standards of conduct or impose limitations on any of the duties prescribed herein. If requested or expressly consented to by the municipal entity or obligated person client, however, a municipal advisor may limit the scope of the municipal advisory activities to be performed to certain specified activities or services. If the municipal advisor engages in a course of conduct that is inconsistent with any such agreed upon limitations, it may result in negating the effectiveness of such limitations.

**.05 Conflicts of Interest.** Disclosures of conflicts of interest by a municipal advisor to its municipal entity or obligated person client must be sufficiently detailed to inform the client of the nature, implications and potential consequences of each conflict. Such disclosures also must include an explanation of how the municipal advisor addresses or intends to manage or mitigate each conflict.

**.06 Relationship Documentation.** During the term of the municipal advisory relationship, the writing(s) required by section (c) of this rule must be promptly amended or supplemented to reflect any material changes or additions, and the amended writing(s) or supplement must be promptly delivered to the client. This amendment and supplementation requirement applies to any changes and additions that are discovered, or should have been discovered, based on the exercise of reasonable diligence by the municipal advisor. The information described in subsection (c)(ii) of this rule is not required if the municipal advisor previously fully complied with the requirements of section (b) of this rule to disclose conflicts of interest and other information and subsection (c)(ii) would not require the disclosure of any materially different information than that previously disclosed to the client.

**.07 Inadvertent Advice.** A municipal advisor is not required to comply with sections (b) and (c) of this rule if the municipal advisor meets all of the following requirements. In the event that a municipal advisor inadvertently engages in municipal advisory activities for a municipal entity or obligated person and does not intend to continue the municipal advisory activities or enter into a municipal advisory relationship, the municipal advisor must, as promptly as possible after discovery of the provision of inadvertent advice, provide a document to such municipal entity or obligated person that is dated and includes:

(a) a disclaimer that the municipal advisor did not intend to provide advice and that, effective immediately, it has ceased engaging in municipal advisory activities with respect to that municipal entity or obligated person in regard to all transactions and municipal financial products as to which advice was inadvertently provided;

(b) a notification that such municipal entity or obligated person should be aware that the disclosure of material conflicts of interest and other information required by section (b) of this rule has not been provided;

(c) an identification of all of the advice that was inadvertently provided, based on a reasonable investigation; and

(d) a request that the municipal entity or obligated person acknowledge receipt of the document.

A municipal advisor utilizing this alternative must promptly conduct a review of its written supervisory and compliance policies and procedures to ensure they are reasonably designed to prevent the provision of inadvertent advice to municipal entities and obligated persons. The use of this alternative has no effect on the applicability of any provisions of this rule other than sections (b) and (c) or any other legal requirements applicable to municipal advisory activities.

**.08 Applicability of State or Other Laws and Rules.** Municipal advisors may be subject to fiduciary or other duties under state or other laws. Nothing contained in this rule shall be deemed to supersede any more restrictive provision of state or other laws applicable to municipal advisory activities. In addition, the specific prohibition in subsection (e) (ii) of this rule shall not apply to an acquisition as principal, either alone or as a participant in a syndicate or other similar account formed for the purpose of purchasing, directly or indirectly, from an issuer all or any portion of an issuance of municipal securities on the basis that the municipal advisor provided advice as to the issuance because that is a type of transaction that is addressed and prohibited in certain circumstances by Rule G-23.

**.09 Suitability.** A determination of whether a municipal securities transaction or municipal financial product is suitable must be based on numerous factors, as applicable to the particular type of client, including, but not limited to, the client's financial situation and needs, objectives, tax status, risk tolerance, liquidity needs, experience with municipal securities transactions or municipal financial products generally or of the type and complexity being recommended, financial capacity to withstand changes in market conditions during the term of the municipal financial product or the period that municipal securities to be issued in the municipal securities transaction are reasonably expected to be outstanding and any other material information known by the municipal advisor about the client and the municipal securities transaction or municipal financial product, after reasonable inquiry.

**.10 Know Your Client.** A municipal advisor must use reasonable diligence, in regard to the maintenance of the municipal advisory relationship, to know and retain the essential facts concerning the client and concerning the authority of each person acting on behalf of such client. The facts "essential" to "knowing a client" include those required to:

- (a) effectively service the municipal advisory relationship with the client;
- (b) act in accordance with any special directions from the client;
- (c) understand the authority of each person acting on behalf of the client; and
- (d) comply with applicable laws, regulations and rules.

**.11 Excessive Compensation.** Depending on the specific facts and circumstances of the engagement, a municipal advisor's compensation may be so disproportionate to the nature of the municipal advisory activities performed as to constitute an unfair practice in violation of Rule G-17. Among the factors relevant to whether a municipal advisor's compensation is disproportionate to the nature of the municipal advisory activities performed are the municipal advisor's expertise, the complexity of the municipal securities transaction or municipal financial product, whether the fee is contingent upon the closing of the municipal securities transaction or municipal financial product, the length of time spent on the engagement and whether the municipal advisor is paying any other relevant costs related to the municipal securities transaction or municipal financial product.

**.12 529 College Savings Plans, ABLE Programs and Other Municipal Fund Securities.** This rule applies equally to municipal advisors to sponsors or trustees of 529 college savings plans, ABLE programs (*i.e.*, a program established and maintained by a state, or an agency or instrumentality thereof, to implement the Stephen Beck, Jr., Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014), and other municipal fund securities. All references in this rule to an "official statement" include the disclosure document for a 529 college savings plan or an ABLE program and the investment circular or information statement for a local government investment pool.

**.13 Principal Transactions - Other Similar Financial Products.** For purposes of subsection (f)(ix) of this rule, which defines the term "principal transaction," the phrase "other similar financial product" includes a bank loan, but only if it is in an aggregate principal amount of \$1,000,000 or more and it is economically equivalent to the purchase

of one or more municipal securities.

**.14 Principal Transactions - Exception for Transactions in Specified Fixed Income Securities.** Engaging in a principal transaction with a municipal entity client is not specifically prohibited under subsection (e)(ii) of this rule if:

(a) the municipal advisor is a broker-dealer registered under Section 15 of the Act, and each account as to which the municipal advisor relies on this paragraph .14 is a brokerage account subject to the Act, and the rules thereunder, and the rules of the self-regulatory organization(s) of which it is a member, and is an account as to which the municipal advisor exercises no investment discretion (as defined in Section 3(a)(35) of the Act), except investment discretion granted by a municipal entity client on a temporary or limited basis;

(b) neither the municipal advisor, nor any affiliate of the municipal advisor, is providing or has provided advice to the municipal entity client as to an issue of municipal securities or a municipal financial product that is directly related to the principal transaction (other than advice as to another principal transaction under circumstances meeting all the requirements of this paragraph .14);

(c) the principal transaction is a sale to or a purchase from the municipal entity client of any U.S. Treasury security, agency debt security, or corporate debt security (as defined in paragraph .15 of the Supplementary Material) and does not involve municipal escrow investments (as defined in 17 CFR 240.15Ba1-1(h)); and

(d) the municipal advisor either: (1) discloses to the municipal entity client in writing before the completion of the transaction the capacity in which the municipal advisor is acting and obtains the consent of the municipal entity client to such transaction or (2) executes the transaction under circumstances meeting all of the following requirements:

(A) neither the municipal advisor nor any of its affiliates are the issuer of, or, at the time of the sale, an underwriter (as defined in 17 CFR 240.15c2-12(f)(8)) of, the security;

(B) the municipal entity client has executed a written, revocable consent prospectively authorizing the municipal advisor directly or indirectly to act as principal for its own account in selling any security to or purchasing any security from the municipal entity client, so long as such written consent is obtained after written disclosure to the municipal entity client explaining: the circumstances under which the municipal advisor directly or indirectly may engage in principal transactions; the nature and significance of conflicts with its municipal entity client's interests as a result of the transactions; and how the municipal advisor addresses those conflicts;

(C) the municipal advisor, prior to the execution of each principal transaction, informs the municipal entity client, orally or in writing, of the capacity in which it may act with respect to such transaction and obtains consent from the municipal entity client, orally or in writing, to act as principal for its own account with respect to such transaction;

(D) the municipal advisor sends a written confirmation at or before completion of each such transaction that includes, in addition to the information required by 17 CFR 240.10b-10 or Rule G-15, a conspicuous, plain English statement informing the municipal entity client that the municipal advisor disclosed to the client prior to the execution of the transaction that the municipal advisor may be acting in a principal capacity in connection with the transaction, the municipal entity client authorized the transaction, and the municipal advisor sold the security to, or bought the security from, the municipal entity client for its own account;

(E) the municipal advisor sends to the municipal entity client, no less frequently than annually, written disclosure containing a list of all transactions that were executed in the client's account in reliance upon subsection (d)(2) of this paragraph .14, and the date and price of such transactions; and

(F) each written disclosure required by subsection (d)(2) of this paragraph .14 includes a conspicuous, plain English statement that the municipal entity client may revoke the written consent referred to in paragraph (d)(2)(B) of this paragraph .14 without penalty at any time by written notice to the municipal advisor.

This paragraph .14 shall not be construed as relieving in any way a municipal advisor from acting in the best interest of its municipal entity clients, nor shall it relieve the municipal advisor from any obligation that may be imposed by other applicable provisions of the federal securities laws and state law.

**.15 Terms Relating to the Exception in Paragraph .14.** For purposes of paragraph .14 and this paragraph .15 of the Supplementary Material:

(a) “agency” means a U.S. executive agency as defined in 5 U.S.C. 105 that is authorized to issue debt directly or through a related entity, such as a government corporation, or to guarantee the repayment of principal and/or interest of a debt security issued by another entity. The term excludes the U.S. Department of the Treasury in the exercise of its authority to issue U.S. Treasury securities;

(b) “agency debt security” means a debt security (i) issued or guaranteed by an agency, or (ii) issued or guaranteed by a government-sponsored enterprise, including a securitized product that is issued by an agency or a government-sponsored enterprise, or, for which, the principal or interest (or both) is guaranteed by an agency or a government-sponsored enterprise;

(c) “corporate debt security” means a debt security that is U.S. dollar-denominated and issued by a U.S. or foreign private issuer and, if a “restricted security” as defined in 17 CFR 230.144(a)(3), sold pursuant to 17 CFR 230.144A, but does not include a money market instrument;

(d) “government-sponsored enterprise” has the same meaning as defined in 2 U.S.C. 622(8);

(e) “money market instrument” means a debt security that at issuance has a maturity of one calendar year or less, or, if a discount note issued by an agency or a government-sponsored enterprise, a maturity of one calendar year and one day or less;

(f) “securitized product” means a security collateralized by any type of financial asset, such as a loan, a lease, a mortgage, or a secured or unsecured receivable, and includes, but is not limited to, an asset-backed security, a synthetic asset-backed security, and any residual tranche or interest of any security specified above, which tranche or interest is considered a debt security; and

(g) “U.S. Treasury security” means a security issued by the U.S. Department of the Treasury to fund the operations of the federal government or to retire such outstanding securities.

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