# APPROVING RESOLUTION VORTEX USA INC. PROJECT

A regular meeting of County of Clinton Industrial Development Agency (the "Agency") was convened in public session in the offices of the Agency located at 137 Margaret Street, Suite 209 in the City of Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York on March 24, 2025 at 12:00 o'clock p.m., local time.

The meeting was called to order by the (Vice) Chairperson of the Agency and, upon roll being called, the following members of the Agency were:

#### PRESENT:

Trent Trahan
David Hoover

Michael E. Zurlo

Mark Leta

John VanNatten

Chairperson

Vice Chairperson

Secretary

**Assistant Secretary** 

Member

### ABSENT:

Keith Defayette Joey Trombley Treasurer Member

# AGENCY STAFF PRESENT INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

Molly F. Ryan

Toni Moffat
Dorothy Brunell

Christopher C. Canada, Esq. Shannon E. Wagner, Esq.

**Executive Director** 

Executive Assistant

Administrative Assistant Agency Counsel

Agency Counsel

The following resolution was offered by J. VanNatten, seconded by M. Zurlo, to wit:

Resolution No. 03-25-02

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH A LEASE/LEASEBACK TRANSACTION FOR A PROJECT FOR VORTEX USA INC. PROJECT.

WHEREAS, County of Clinton Industrial Development Agency (the "Agency") is authorized and empowered by the provisions of Chapter 1030 of the 1969 Laws of New York, constituting Title 1 of Article 18-A of the General Municipal Law, Chapter 24 of the Consolidated Laws of New York, as amended (the "Enabling Act") and Chapter 225 of the 1971 Laws of New York, as amended, constituting Section 895-f of said General Municipal Law (said Chapter and the Enabling Act being hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Act") to promote, develop, encourage and assist in the acquiring, constructing, reconstructing, improving, maintaining, equipping and furnishing of commercial, manufacturing and industrial facilities, among others, for the purpose of promoting, attracting and developing economically sound commerce and industry to advance the job opportunities, health, general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of the State of New York, to improve their prosperity and standard of living, and to prevent unemployment and economic deterioration; and

WHEREAS, to accomplish its stated purposes, the Agency is authorized and empowered under the Act to acquire, construct and install one or more "projects" (as defined in the Act) or to cause said projects to be acquired, constructed and installed, and to convey said projects or to lease said projects with the obligation to purchase; and

WHEREAS, Vortex USA Inc., a business corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware (the "Company"), submitted an application (the "Application") to the Agency, a copy of which Application is on file at the office of the Agency, which Application requested that the Agency consider undertaking a project (the "Project") for the benefit of the Company, said Project consisting of the following: (A) (1) the acquisition of a leasehold interest in an approximately 6.35 acre parcel of land located at 31 Northern Avenue (Tax Map No.: 233.-5-25) in the Town of Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York (the "Land") together with an existing building located thereon (the "Existing Facility"), (2) the reconstruction and renovation of the Existing Facility; and (3) the acquisition and installation therein and thereon of related fixtures, machinery, equipment and other tangible personal property (collectively, the "Equipment") (the Land, the Existing Facility, and the Equipment are hereinafter, collectively, referred to as the "Project Facility") all of the foregoing to be owned and operated by the Company, or an affiliate thereof, as an industrial, manufacturing and warehousing facility and other directly and indirectly related activities; (B) the granting of certain "financial assistance" (within the meaning of Section 854(14) of the Act) with respect to the foregoing, including potential exemptions from certain sales and use taxes, real property taxes, real property transfer taxes and mortgage recording taxes (collectively, the "Financial Assistance"); and (C) the lease (with an obligation to purchase) or sale of the Project Facility to the Company or such other person as may be designated by the Company and agreed upon by the Agency; and

WHEREAS, by resolution adopted by the members of the Agency on December 9, 2024 (the "Public Hearing Resolution"), the Agency authorized a public hearing to be held pursuant to Section 859-a of the Act with respect to the Project. Pursuant to Section 859-a of the Act, the Executive Director of the Agency caused a copy of the certified Public Hearing Resolution to be sent via certified mail return, receipt requested on December 12, 2024 to the chief executive officers of the county and of each city, town, village and school district in which the Project Facility is to be located (collectively, the "Affected Tax Jurisdictions"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authorization contained in the Public Hearing Resolution, the Executive Director of the Agency (A) caused notice of a public hearing of the Agency (the "Public Hearing") pursuant to Section 859-a of the Act, to hear all persons interested in the Project and the Financial Assistance being contemplated by the Agency with respect to the Project, to be mailed on January 3, 2025 to the chief executive officers of the Affected Tax Jurisdictions, (B) caused notice of the Public Hearing to be posted on January 6, 2025 on the Agency's website and on a public bulletin board located at the Plattsburgh Town Hall located at 151 Banker Road, in the Town of Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York, (C) caused notice of the Public Hearing to be published on January 23, 2024 in the Press Republican, a newspaper of general circulation available to the residents of the Town of Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York, (D) conducted the Public Hearing on February 5, 2025 at 9:30 o'clock a.m., local time at the Plattsburgh Town Hall located at 151 Banker Road, in the Town of Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York, and (E) prepared a report of the Public Hearing (the "Public Hearing Report") fairly summarizing the views presented at such Public Hearing and caused copies of said Public Hearing Report to be made available to the members of the Agency; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law, Chapter 43-B of the Consolidated Laws of New York, as amended (the "SEQR Act") and the regulations (the "Regulations") adopted pursuant thereto by the Department of Environmental Conservation of the State of New York (collectively with the SEQR Act, "SEQRA"), by resolution adopted by the members of the Agency on

March 24, 2025, the Agency (A) concurred in the determination that the Town of Plattsburgh Planning Board (the "Planning Board") is the "lead agency" with respect to SEQRA and (B) acknowledged receipt of a negative declaration from the Planning Board dated March 18, 2025 (the "Negative Declaration"), in which the Planning Board determined that the Project is an "unlisted action" which will not have a "significant effect on the environment" and, therefore, that an "environmental impact statement" is not required to be prepared with respect to the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has given due consideration to the Application, and to representations by the Company that (A) the granting by the Agency of the Financial Assistance with respect to the Project will be an inducement to the Company to undertake the Project in Clinton County, New York and (B) the completion of the Project will not result in the removal of a plant or facility of any proposed occupant of the Project Facility from one area of the State of New York to another area in the State of New York and will not result in the abandonment of one or more plants or facilities of any occupant of the Project Facility located in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the Agency desires to encourage the Company to preserve and advance the job opportunities, health, general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of County, New York by undertaking the Project in Clinton County, New York; and

WHEREAS, in order to consummate the Project and the granting of the Financial Assistance described in the notice of the Public Hearing, the Agency proposes to enter into the following documents (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Agency Documents"): (A) a lease to agency (the "Lease to Agency" or the "Underlying Lease") by and between the Company, as landlord, and the Agency, as tenant, pursuant to which the Company will lease to the Agency a portion of the Land and all improvements now or hereafter located on said portion of the Land (collectively, the "Leased Premises"); (B) a license agreement (the "License to Agency" or the "License Agreement") by and between the Company, as licensor, and the Agency, as licensee, pursuant to which the Company will grant to the Agency (1) a license to enter upon the balance of the Land (the "Licensed Premises") for the purpose of undertaking and completing the Project and (2) in the event of an occurrence of an Event of Default by the Company, an additional license to enter upon the Licensed Premises for the purpose of pursuing its remedies under the Lease Agreement (as hereinafter defined); (C) a lease agreement (and a memorandum thereof) (the "Lease Agreement") by and between the Agency and the Company, pursuant to which, among other things, the Company agrees to undertake the Project as agent of the Agency and the Company further agrees to lease the Project Facility from the Agency and, as rental thereunder, to pay the Agency's administrative fee relating to the Project and to pay all expenses incurred by the Agency with respect to the Project; (D) a payment in lieu of tax agreement (the "Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement") by and between the Agency and the Company, pursuant to which the Company will agree to pay certain payments in lieu of taxes with respect to the Project Facility; (E) a uniform agency project agreement (the "Uniform Agency Project Agreement") by and between the Agency and the Company regarding the granting of the financial assistance and the potential recapture of such assistance; (F) a recapture agreement (the "Section 875 GML Recapture Agreement") by and between the Company and the Agency, required by the Act, regarding the recovery or recapture of certain sales and use taxes; (G) a sales tax exemption letter (the "Sales Tax Exemption Letter") to ensure the granting of the sales tax exemption which forms a part of the Financial Assistance; (H) a New York State Department of Taxation and Finance form entitled "IDA Appointment of Project Operator or Agency for Sales Tax Purposes" (the form required to be filed pursuant to Section 874(9) of the Act) (the "Thirty-Day Sales Tax Report") and any additional report to the Commissioner of the State Department of Taxation and Finance concerning the amount of sales tax exemption benefit for the Project (the "Additional Thirty-Day Project Report"); (I) if the Company intends to finance the Project with borrowed money, a mortgage and any other security documents and related documents (collectively, the "Mortgage") from the Agency and the Company to the Company's lender with respect to the Project ("the "Lender"), which Mortgage will grant a lien on and security interest in the Project Facility to secure a loan from the Lender to the Company with respect to the Project (the "Loan"); (J) if the Company requests the Agency to appoint a contractor or contractors, as agent(s) of the Agency (each, a "Contractor") (1) an agency indemnification agreement (the "Contractor Agency and Indemnification Agreement") by and between the Agency and the Contractor, (2) a recapture agreement (the "Contractor Section 875 GML Recapture Agreement") by and between the Agency and the Contractor, (3) a sales tax exemption letter (the "Contractor Sales Tax Exemption Letter") and (4) a Thirty-Day Sales Tax Report (the "Contractor Thirty-Day Sales Tax Report") and any additional report to the Commissioner of the State Department of Taxation and Finance concerning the amount of sales tax exemption benefit for the Project (the "Additional Thirty-Day Project Report") (collectively, the "Contractor Documents"); (K) if the Company intends to request the Agency to appoint (1) the Company, as agent of the Agency and (2) a contractor or contractors, as agent(s) of the Agency prior to closing on the Project and the Lease Agreement, agency and indemnification agreements, interim Section 875 GML recapture agreements, interim sales tax exemption letters and interim thirty-day sales tax reports (collectively, the "Interim Documents"); and (L) various certificates relating to the Project (the "Closing Documents"); and

WHEREAS, as a result of discussions had by the Company with the Affected Tax Jurisdictions, the Agency has been advised that one or more of the Affected Tax Jurisdictions desires not to receive its allocation of payments pursuant to the Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Section 858(15) of the Act requires the Agency to obtain the written consent of the Affected Tax Jurisdictions when the Agency proposes to allocate and distribute payments in lieu of taxes (each a "PILOT payment") to the Affected Tax Jurisdictions in a manner that is different from the distribution and allocation of real property tax payments that would be in effect if the Agency was not involved in the Project and the Project Facility was not exempt from real property taxes (as each capitalized term is defined in the Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement); and

WHEREAS, as a condition to granting the Financial Assistance, the Agency desires that the Affected Tax Jurisdictions each adopt resolutions approving the allocation of real property tax payments to the Affected Taxing Jurisdictions under the proposed Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF COUNTY OF CLINTON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1. All action taken by the Executive Director of the Agency with respect to the Public Hearing with respect to the Project is hereby ratified and confirmed.
- Section 2. The law firm of Hodgson Russ LLP is hereby appointed Agency Counsel to the Agency with respect to all matters in connection with the Project. Agency Counsel for the Agency is hereby authorized, at the expense of the Company, to work with the Company, counsel to the Company, counsel to the Agency and others to prepare, for submission to the Agency, all documents necessary to effect the transactions contemplated by this Resolution. Agency Counsel has prepared and submitted, or will prepare and submit, an initial draft of the Agency Documents to staff of the Agency.
  - Section 3. The Agency hereby finds and determines that:
  - (A) By virtue of the Act, the Agency has been vested with all powers necessary and convenient to carry out and effectuate the purposes and provisions of the Act and to exercise all powers granted to it under the Act;
    - (B) The Project constitutes a "project," as such term is defined in the Act;

- (C) The Project site is located entirely within the boundaries of Clinton County, New York;
- (D) It is estimated at the present time that the costs of the planning, development, acquisition, construction, reconstruction and installation of the Project Facility (collectively, the "Project Costs") will be approximately \$6,250,000;
- (E) The completion of the Project will not result in the removal of a plant or facility of any proposed occupant of the Project Facility from one area of the State of New York to another area in the State of New York and will not result in the abandonment of one or more plants or facilities of any occupant of the Project Facility located in the State of New York;
- (F) The Project Facility does not constitute a project where facilities or property that are primarily used in making retail sales of goods and/or services to customers who personally visit such facilities constitute more than one-third of the total cost of the Project, and accordingly the Project is not prohibited by the provisions of Section 862(2)(a) of the Act, and accordingly the Agency is authorized to provide financial assistance in respect of the Project pursuant to Section 862(2)(a) of the Act;
- (G) The granting of the Financial Assistance by the Agency with respect to the Project will preserve a manufacturing facility located within the County. Therefore, the granting of the Financial Assistance will promote and maintain the job opportunities, general prosperity and economic welfare of the citizens of Clinton County, New York and the State of New York and improve their standard of living, and thereby serve the public purposes of the Act;
- (H) The Agency has reviewed the Public Hearing Report and has fully considered all comments contained therein;
- (I) The Project should receive the Financial Assistance in the form of exemptions from sales tax, mortgage recording tax, and/or real property tax based on the description of expected public benefits to occur as a result of this Project, as described on Exhibit A attached hereto; and
- (J) It is desirable and in the public interest for the Agency to enter into the Agency Documents.
- Section 4. In consequence of the foregoing, the Agency hereby determines to: (A) accept the License Agreement; (B) lease the Project Facility to the Company pursuant to the Lease Agreement; (C) acquire, construct and install the Project Facility, or cause the Project Facility to be acquired, installed and constructed; (D) enter into the Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement; (E) enter into the Uniform Agency Project Agreement; (F) enter into the Section 875 GML Recapture Agreement; (G) if applicable, secure the Loan by entering into the Mortgage; (H) if applicable, enter into the Interim Documents; and (I) grant the Financial Assistance with respect to the Project; provided, however, that no financial assistance shall be provided to the Project by the Agency unless and until the Affected Tax Jurisdictions shall, pursuant to Section 858(15) of the Act, provided written consent to the proposed allocation and distribution of PILOT payments under the Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement with respect to the Project.
- Section 5. The Agency is hereby authorized (A) to acquire a license in the Licensed Premises pursuant to the License Agreement, (B) to acquire a leasehold interest in the Leased Premises pursuant to the Underlying Lease, (C) to acquire title to the Equipment pursuant to a bill of sale (the "Bill of Sale to Agency") from the Company to the Agency, and (D) to do all things necessary or appropriate for the accomplishment thereof, and all acts heretofore taken by the Agency with respect to such acquisitions are

hereby approved, ratified and confirmed; provided, however, that no financial assistance shall be provided to the Project by the Agency unless and until the Affected Tax Jurisdictions shall, pursuant to Section 858(15) of the Act, have provided written consent to the proposed allocation and distribution of PILOT payments under the Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement with respect to the Project.

Section 6. The Agency is hereby authorized to acquire, construct and install the Project Facility as described in the Lease Agreement and to do all things necessary or appropriate for the accomplishment thereof, and all acts heretofore taken by the Agency with respect to such acquisition, construction and installation are hereby ratified, confirmed and approved.

Section 7. The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson or Executive Director of the Agency, with the assistance of Agency Counsel, is authorized to negotiate and approve the form and substance of the Agency Documents.

Section 8. (A) The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson or Executive Director of the Agency is hereby authorized, on behalf of the Agency, to execute and deliver the Agency Documents, and, where appropriate, the Secretary (or Assistant Secretary) of the Agency is hereby authorized to affix the seal of the Agency thereto and to attest the same, all in the forms thereof as the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson or Executive Director shall approve, the execution thereof by the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson or Executive Director to constitute conclusive evidence of such approval.

(B) The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson or Executive Director of the Agency is hereby further authorized, on behalf of the Agency, to designate any additional Authorized Representatives of the Agency (as defined in and pursuant to the Lease Agreement).

Section 9. The officers, employees and agents of the Agency are hereby authorized and directed for and in the name and on behalf of the Agency to do all acts and things required or provided for by the provisions of the Agency Documents, and to execute and deliver all such additional certificates, instruments and documents, to pay all such fees, charges and expenses and to do all such further acts and things as may be necessary or, in the opinion of the officer, employee or agent acting, desirable and proper to effect the purposes of the foregoing resolution and to cause compliance by the Agency with all of the terms, covenants and provisions of the Agency Documents binding upon the Agency.

Section 10. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

Trent Trahan	VOTING	Yes
David Hoover	VOTING	Yes
Michael E. Zurlo	VOTING	Yes
Keith Defayette	VOTING	Excused
Mark Leta	VOTING	Yes
John VanNatten	VOTING	Yes
Joey Trombley	VOTING	Excused

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

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STATE OF NEW YORK	)
	) SS.:
COUNTY OF CLINTON	)

I, the undersigned (Assistant) Secretary of County of Clinton Industrial Development Agency (the "Agency"), DO HEREBY CERTIFY that I have compared the foregoing annexed extract of the minutes of the meeting of the members of the Agency, including the resolution contained therein, held on March 24, 2025 with the original thereof on file in my office, and that the same is a true and correct copy of said original and of such resolution contained therein and of the whole of said original so far as the same relates to the subject matters therein referred to.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that (A) all members of the Agency had due notice of said meeting; (B) said meeting was in all respects duly held; (C) pursuant to Article 7 of the Public Officers Law (the "Open Meetings Law"), said meeting was open to the general public, and due notice of the time and place of said meeting was duly given in accordance with such Open Meetings Law; and (D) there was a quorum of the members of the Agency present throughout said meeting.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that, as of the date hereof, the attached resolution is in full force and effect and has not been amended, repealed or rescinded.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Agency this  $24^{th}$  day of March, 2025.

Assistant) Secretary

(SEAL)

#### EXHIBIT A

## DESCRIPTION OF THE EXPECTED PUBLIC BENEFITS

In the discussions had between the Project Beneficiary and the Agency with respect to the Project Beneficiary's request for Financial Assistance from the Agency with respect to the Project, the Project Beneficiary has represented to the Agency that the Project is expected to provide the following benefits to the Agency and/or to the residents of Clinton County, New York (the "Public Benefits"):

Description of Benefit		Applicable to Project (indicate Yes or NO)		Expected Benefit
1.	Retention of existing jobs	Yes	☑ No	The Existing Facility is currently vacant. The undertaking of the Project is not expected to retain employees, but will create employees and revitalize a currently vacant facility.
2.	Creation of new permanent jobs	☑ Yes	□ No	Approximately 30 full time equivalent jobs at the Project Facility within 5 years of the completion of the Project Facility.
3.	Estimated Value of Tax Exemptions	☑ Yes	□ No	Sales tax exemption is estimated at \$416,000; and Real property tax exemption is estimated at \$553,759.
4.	Private sector investment	☑ Yes	□ No	Estimate \$6,250,000.
5.	Likelihood of project being completed in a timely fashion	☑ Yes	□ No	Anticipated completion in a timely manner.
6.	Extent of new revenue provided to local taxing jurisdictions	☑ Yes	□ No	The Project will provide a revenue source to the affected tax jurisdictions in the form of PILOT payments. Additionally, the Project will generate new employment, which new employment will contribute to additional commerce in the area.
7.	Extent of new revenue provided to local taxing jurisdictions	☑ Yes	□No	The Project will revitalize an existing vacant manufacturing facility and generate new employment. By generating new employment in the area, the tax jurisdictions will benefit from the revenue generated by such employees.

8.	Local labor construction jobs	☑ Yes	□ No	The Company has indicated in the application that it is willing to consider the use of local labor.
9.	Regional wealth creation (% of sales /customers outside of the County)	□ Yes	☑ No	N/A
10.	Located in a highly distressed census tract	□ Yes	☑ No	N/A
11.	Alignment with local planning efforts and development efforts	☑ Yes	□ No	The Project is consistent with local planning and development efforts.
12.	Promotes walkable community areas	□ Yes	☑ No	The Project site is not located in an urban setting with sidewalks.
13.	Elimination or reduction of blight	☑ Yes	□No	If the Project was not undertaken, an existing manufacturing facility would be left empty. By completing the Project, the Company will revitalize the facility.
14.	Proximity/support of regional tourism attractions/facilities	☐ Yes	☑ No	N/A
15.	Local or County official support	☑ Yes	□ No	The Project has received strong from the affected tax jurisdictions.
16.	Building or site has historic designation	☐ Yes	☑ No	There is no historic designation.
17.	Provides brownfield remediation	□ Yes	☑ No	No brownfields present.
18.	Provides onsite child daycare facilities	☐ Yes	☑ No	It is not anticipated that the Project will provide onsite child daycare facilities.