

January 31, 2024

Mr. Scott F. Thompson
Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official
Office of the General Counsel
Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Thompson:

The purpose of this letter is to describe the steps that I will take to avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest in the event that I am confirmed for the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Department of Defense. It is my responsibility to understand and comply with commitments outlined in this agreement.

SECTION 1 – GENERAL COMMITMENTS

As required by the criminal conflicts of interest law at 18 U.S.C. § 208(a), I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which I know that I have a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, or in which I know that a person whose interests are imputed to me has a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the particular matter, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2). I understand that the interests of the following persons are imputed to me:

- Any spouse or minor child of mine;
- Any general partner of a partnership in which I am a limited or general partner;
- Any organization in which I serve as an officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee; and
- Any person or organization with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

In the event that an actual or potential conflict of interest arises during my appointment, I will consult with an agency ethics official and take the measures necessary to resolve the conflict, such as recusal from the particular matter or divestiture of an asset.

If I have a managed account or otherwise use the services of an investment professional during my appointment, I will ensure that the account manager or investment professional obtains my prior approval on a case-by-case basis for the purchase of any assets other than cash, cash equivalents, investment funds that qualify for the regulatory exemption for diversified mutual funds and unit investment trusts at 5 C.F.R. § 2640.201(a), obligations of the United States, or municipal bonds.

I will receive a live ethics briefing from a member of the ethics office after my confirmation but not later than 7 days after my appointment pursuant to the ethics program regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2638.305. Within 90 days of my confirmation, I will submit my

Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance which documents my compliance with this ethics agreement.

I understand that as an appointee I will be required to sign the Ethics Pledge (Exec. Order No. 13989) and that I will be bound by it. Among other obligations, I will be required to recuse from particular matters involving specific parties involving my former employer or former clients for a period of two years after I am appointed, with the exception of federal, state and local government.

I will not modify this ethics agreement without your approval and the approval of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics pursuant to the ethics agreement requirements contained in the financial disclosure regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2634.803(a)(4).

SECTION 2 – BLUE ROSE CONSULTING GROUP, INC

Upon confirmation, I will resign from my position with Blue Rose Consulting Group, Inc. I hold stock in Blue Rose Consulting Group, Inc. I do not hold any vested or unvested stock options, restricted stock, or restricted stock units in Blue Rose Consulting Group, Inc. Upon confirmation and before I assume the duties of the position of Assistant Secretary, I will divest my stock in Blue Rose Consulting Group, Inc. I have verified that I will be able to carry out this divestiture within the timeframe described above. Blue Rose Consulting Group, Inc., will pay me a fixed amount over a period of time at a fixed, fair market interest rate pursuant to a promissory note. If Blue Rose Consulting Group, Inc. defaults on the promissory note, I will not receive equity in Blue Rose Consulting Group, Inc. to satisfy the outstanding amount owed to me. Until Blue Rose Consulting Group, Inc., has completed its payments to me, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the ability or willingness of Blue Rose Consulting Group, Inc., to make these payments, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1). Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, for a period of one year after my resignation or until all of the payments for the sale of the business are made, whichever is later, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know Blue Rose Consulting Group, Inc., is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d). In addition, pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know a former client of mine is a party or represents a party for a period of one year after I last provided service to that client, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

I understand that I may be eligible to request a Certificate of Divestiture for qualifying assets and that a Certificate of Divestiture is effective only if obtained prior to divestiture. Regardless of whether I receive a Certificate of Divestiture, I will ensure that all divestitures discussed in this agreement occur within the agreed upon timeframes and that all proceeds are invested in non-conflicting assets. I understand that I must timely submit my request for a Certificate of Divestiture to allow for adequate time for OGE to process the Certificate of Divestiture, and in order to divest assets within the agreed upon timeframe.

I (including my spouse and dependent children if applicable) will not repurchase any asset I was required to divest without consulting with my agency ethics official and the U.S. Office of Government Ethics.

SECTION 3 – OTHER RESIGNATION

Upon confirmation, I will resign from my position with Arlington Premier Realty. Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, for a period of one year after my resignation, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know Arlington Premier Realty is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d). In addition, pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know a former client of mine is a party or represents a party for a period of one year after I last provided service to that client, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

SECTION 4 – PHOENIX DEVELOPMENT GROUP, LLC

I will retain my unpaid position as managing member of Phoenix Development Group, LLC. I will not at any time receive compensation for services that I perform during my government appointment. I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of Phoenix Development Group, LLC, or its underlying assets, unless I first obtain a written waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1).

SECTION 5 – EXEMPTIONS

If I rely on a *de minimis* exemption under 5 C.F.R. § 2640.202 with regard to any of my financial interests in securities, I will monitor the value of those interests. If the aggregate value of interests affected by a particular matter increases and exceeds the *de minimis* threshold, I will not participate personally and substantially in the particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the interests, unless I first obtain a written waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1).

SECTION 6 – PUBLIC POSTING

I have been advised that this ethics agreement and the Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance will be posted publicly, consistent with the public information law at 5 U.S.C.

§ 552, on the website of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics with ethics agreements of other Presidential nominees who file public financial disclosure reports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ronald T. Keohane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' and a long, sweeping tail.

Ronald Keohane