# HARRIS BEACH ₹

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# TO ALL ON THE ATTACHED DISTRIBUTION LIST:

Re:

August 24, 2023

County of Monroe Industrial Development Agency ("COMIDA") and

University Avenue, LLC Project

1344-1350 University Avenue in the City of Rochester, New York

#### Ladies and Gentlemen:

The County of Monroe Industrial Development Agency (the "Agency") granted a partial real property tax abatement for the above-captioned property to University Avenue, LLC pursuant to a certain PILOT Agreement, dated as of July 1, 2023 (the "PILOT Agreement"), a copy of which is attached hereto.

At that time 24Ligne LLC d/b/a Black Button Distilling (the "Tenant") had not yet signed the PILOT Addendum. Attached is a signed PILOT Addendum between the Agency, the Company and the Tenant, relating to the PILOT Agreement. The Tenant occupies the entire building.

Very truly yours,

Rachel C. Baranello

Rachel C. Barancelo

RCB/lap Enclosures

cc:

COMIDA

Jason Barrett

Christopher Calabro

James J. Baranello, Esq.

#### **DISTRIBUTION LIST**

Hon. Adam J. Bello Monroe County Executive 39 West Main Street, Suite 110 County Office Building Rochester, New York 14614 CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT #: 9489 0090 0027 6389 9899 32

Hon. Malik Evans, Mayor City Hall, Room 307A 30 Church Street Rochester, New York 14614 CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT #: 9489 0090 0027 6389 9899 56

Mr. Michael Zazzara, Assessor City Hall, Room 101-A 30 Church Street Rochester, New York 14614 CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT #: 9489 0090 0027 6389 9899 70

District Clerk Rochester City School District 131 West Broad Street Rochester, New York 14614 CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT #: 9489 0090 0027 6389 9899 94 Ms. Susan Buck
Collector of Fees and Taxes
B-3 County Office Building
39 West Main Street
Rochester, New York 14614
CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT #:
9489 0090 0027 6389 9899 49

Mr. Randy Webb City Hall, Room 106-A 30 Church Street Rochester, New York 14614 CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT #: 9489 0090 0027 6389 9899 63

Dr. Carmine Peluso, Superintendent Rochester City School District 131 West Broad Street Rochester, New York 14614 CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT #: 9489 0090 0027 6389 9899 87

Ms. Cynthia Elliott, Board President Rochester City School District 131 West Broad Street Rochester, New York 14614 CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT #: 9489 0090 0027 6389 9900 06

# PILOT ADDENDUM (24LIGNE LLC D/B/A BLACK BUTTON DISTILLING)

The County of Monroe Industrial Development Agency, University Avenue, LLC (the "Applicant") and 24Ligne LLC d/b/a Black Button Distilling (the "Tenant") acknowledge and agree that the Tenant is responsible for creating and maintaining the three (3) new full-time/full-time equivalent job(s) required under this PILOT Agreement in accordance with Section 9.1 thereof. However, in the event the Tenant does not create the required job(s), the Applicant, as the direct beneficiary of the PILOT Agreement, is responsible for any and all penalties due as a result of Tenant's failure. The Applicant may attempt to find a substitute tenant and create the three (3) full-time/full-time equivalent job(s) with such new tenant, provided the Agency is informed and consents to the new tenant occupying the Facility.

COUNTY OF MONROE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

By: Ana J. Liss

Title: Executive Director

UNIVERSITY AVENUE, LLC

Name: Christopher Calabro

Title: Managing Member

24LIGNE LLC D/B/A BLACK BUTTON DISTILLING

By: Lason Barrett

Title: President

# COUNTY OF MONROE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

## AND

# UNIVERSITY AVENUE, LLC

# PAYMENT-IN-LIEU-OF-TAX AGREEMENT

# Tax Map No.

Part of 122.39-1-3.005

# **Affected Tax Jurisdictions:**

County of Monroe City of Rochester

Dated as of July 1, 2023

#### **PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT**

THIS PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT (the "PILOT Agreement") made as of July 1, 2023, is by and between the COUNTY OF MONROE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, a public benefit corporation of the State of New York, having its offices at 50 West Main Street, Rochester, New York 14614 (the "Agency"), and UNIVERSITY AVENUE, LLC, a limited liability company formed and existing under the Laws of the State of New York with offices at 1344 University Avenue, Rochester, New York 14607 (the "Company").

#### WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Agency was created by Chapter 55 of the Laws of 1972 of the State of New York pursuant to Title I of Article 18-A of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York (collectively, the "Act") as a body corporate and politic and as a public benefit corporation of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the Company has requested the Agency to assist in a certain project (the "Project") consisting of: (A) the acquisition of a leasehold interest in a portion of a certain parcel of land located at 1344-1350 University Avenue in the City of Rochester, New York 14607 and all other lands in the City of Rochester where, by license or easement or other agreement, the Company or its designees are making improvements that benefit the Project (collectively, the "Land"); (B) the renovation of approximately 31,000 square feet of space within the existing approximately 126,848 square-foot building located on the Land (the "Improvements") and (C) the acquisition and installation therein, thereon or thereabout of certain machinery, equipment and related personal property (the "Equipment" and, together with the Land and the Improvements, the "Facility") to be subleased to 24Ligne LLC d/b/a Black Button Distilling (the "Tenant") for use as a distillery and retail tasting area; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has agreed to lease the Facility to the Company; and

WHEREAS, in order to induce the Company to acquire, renovate and equip the Facility, the Agency is willing to take a leasehold interest in the Land and the Facility pursuant to a certain Lease Agreement, dated as of July 1, 2023 (the "Lease Agreement"), and thereafter lease said Facility back to the Company pursuant to the terms and conditions of a certain Leaseback Agreement, dated as of July 1, 2023 (the "Leaseback Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 874(1) of the Act, the Agency is exempt from the payment of taxes imposed upon real property and improvements owned by it or under its jurisdiction, control or supervision other than special ad valorem levies, special assessments and service charges against real property, which are or may be imposed for special improvements or special district improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Agency and the Company deem it necessary and proper to enter into an agreement making provisions for payments in lieu of taxes by the Company to the County of Monroe (the "County") and the City of Rochester (the "City" and, collectively with the County, the "Affected Tax Jurisdictions").

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the covenants herein contained, and other good and valuable consideration the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, it is mutually agreed as follows:

# Section 1 - Payment in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes.

A. Subject to the completion and filing by the taxable status date (February 1, 2024) (the "Taxable Status Date") of New York State Form RP-412-a "Application For Real Property Tax Exemption" (the "Exemption Application") under Section 412-a of the New York State Real Property Tax Law (the "RPTL") and Section 874 of the Act and the approval of the Exemption Application by the appropriate assessors or Board of Assessment Review, the Facility shall be exempt from Real Estate Taxes commencing with the 2025 County tax year and the 2024-2025 City tax year. For purposes of the foregoing "Real Estate Taxes" means all general levy real estate taxes levied against the Facility by the County and City. The Company shall provide to the Agency with the information necessary for the completion and filing of the Exemption Application and shall provide such additional information and take such actions as are required by the appropriate assessors or Board of Assessment Review to process and approve the Exemption Application. Notwithstanding anything contained herein or in the Lease Agreement to the contrary, in the event the exemption from Real Estate Taxes is denied for any reason, the Company shall pay (and hereby agrees to pay) all Real Estate Taxes levied upon the Facility as they become due. After giving written notice to the Agency, the Company may in good faith contest the denial of the Exemption Application, provided that (i) the overall operating efficiency of the Facility is not impaired and the Facility continues to qualify as a "project" under the Act; (ii) neither the Facility nor any part of or interest in it would be in any danger of being sold, forfeited or lost; or (iii) neither the Company nor the Agency, as a result of such contest, shall be in any danger of any civil or criminal liability. The Company hereby waives any claim or cause of action against the Agency, and releases the Agency from any liability to the Company, arising from the denial of an exemption from Real Estate Taxes except to the extent that such denial results solely from the failure of the Agency to file the Exemption Application with the appropriate assessors or Board of Assessment Review by the Taxable Status Date.

B. Payee. As long as the Facility is leased to the Agency or under its jurisdiction, control or supervision, the Company agrees to pay annually directly to the Affected Tax Jurisdictions, as a payment in lieu of taxes, within thirty (30) days of receipt of the invoice for payment of taxes (the "Payment Date"), commencing with the invoice for the 2024-2025 City tax year and the invoice for the 2025 County tax year, an amount equal to the Total PILOT Payment, as set forth on Schedule A attached hereto and made a part hereof. The Company shall remit payment to the applicable Affected Tax Jurisdiction in accordance with instructions provided on the respective invoice. The Company shall make all payments due hereunder without further notice or invoicing from the Agency, any Affected Tax Jurisdiction or any other party.

The parties agree and acknowledge that payments made hereunder are to obtain revenues for public purposes, and to provide a revenue source that the Affected Tax Jurisdictions would otherwise lose because the subject parcels are not on the tax rolls.

- 1.2 <u>Allocation</u>. If the Agency shall receive any amounts hereunder, the Agency shall remit such monies to the Affected Tax Jurisdictions within thirty (30) days of receipt of said payment and shall allocate said payments among the Affected Tax Jurisdictions in the same proportion as ad valorem taxes would have been allocated but for the Agency's involvement, unless the Affected Tax Jurisdictions have consented in writing to a specific allocation.
- 1.3 Tax Rates. For purposes of determining the allocation of the Total PILOT Payment among the Affected Tax Jurisdictions, the Affected Tax Jurisdictions shall use the last tax rate utilized for levy of taxes by each such jurisdiction. For County and special district purposes, the tax rates used to determine the allocation of the Total PILOT Payment shall be the tax rates relating to the calendar year which includes the Total PILOT payment shall be the rate relating to the school year which includes the Total PILOT Payment due date.
- 1.4 <u>Valuation of Future Additions to the Facility</u>. In the event that any structural addition shall be made to the building or buildings included in the Facility, or any additional building or improvement shall be constructed on the Land (such structural additions, buildings and improvements being referred to hereinafter as "Future Addition"), the Company agrees to make additional payments in lieu of taxes to the Affected Tax Jurisdictions in amounts equal to the then current ad valorem tax rates which would be levied upon or with respect to the Future Addition by the Affected Tax Jurisdictions if the Future Addition were owned by the Company exclusive of the Agency's leasehold interest multiplied by the assessment or assessments established for that tax year by the appropriate Affected Tax Jurisdiction.
- 1.5 Period of Benefits. The tax benefits provided for herein should be deemed to include (i) the 2024-2025 City tax year through the 2033-2034 City tax year, and (ii) the 2025 County tax year through the 2034 County tax year. This PILOT Agreement shall expire on December 31, 2034; provided, however, the Company shall pay the 2034-2035 City tax bill and the 2035 County tax bills on the dates and in the amounts as if the Agency were not in title on the tax status date with respect to said tax years. In no event shall the Company be entitled to receive tax benefits relative to the Facility for more than the periods provided for herein, unless the period is extended by amendment to this PILOT Agreement executed by both parties after any applicable public hearings. The Company agrees that it will not seek any tax exemption for the Facility which could provide benefits for more than the periods provided for herein and specifically agrees that the exemptions provided for herein, to the extent actually received (based on the number of lease years elapsed), supersede and are in substitution of the exemptions provided by Section 485-b of the New York RPTL. It is hereby agreed and understood that the Affected Tax Jurisdictions can rely upon and enforce the above waiver to the same extent as if they were signatories hereto.
- <u>Section 2 Special District Charges, Special Assessments and other Charges.</u> Special district charges, special assessments, and special ad valorem levies (specifically including but not limited to fire district charges), and pure water charges and sewer charges are to be paid in full in accordance with normal billing practices.

Section 3 - Transfer of Facility. In the event that the Facility is transferred from the Agency to the Company (the lease/leaseback agreements are terminated), and the Company is ineligible for a continued tax exemption under some other tax incentive program, or the exemption results in a payment to the Affected Tax Jurisdictions in excess of the payment described in Section 1 herein, or this PILOT Agreement terminates and the property is not timely transferred back to the Company, the Company agrees to pay no later than the next tax lien date (plus any applicable grace period), to each of the Affected Tax Jurisdictions, an amount equal to the taxes and assessments which would have been levied on the Facility if the Facility had been classified as fully taxable as of the date of transfer or loss of eligibility of all or a portion of the exemption described herein or date of termination.

#### Section 4 - Assessment Challenges.

- 4.1 The Company shall have all of the rights and remedies of a taxpayer with respect to any proposed assessment or change in assessment of the Facility by any of the Affected Tax Jurisdictions. The Company shall be entitled to protest before and be heard by the appropriate assessors or Board of Assessment Review, and shall be entitled to take any and all appropriate appeals or initiate any proceedings to review the validity or amount of any assessment or the validity or amount of any tax equivalent provided for herein.
- 4.2 The Company shall have all of the rights and remedies of a taxpayer with respect to any tax, service charge, special benefit, ad valorem levy, assessment, or special assessment or service charge in lieu of which the Company is obligated to make a payment pursuant to this PILOT Agreement.
- 4.3 The Company shall (i) cause the appropriate real estate tax assessment office and tax levy officers to assess the Facility and apply tax rates to the respective assessments, and (ii) file any accounts or tax returns required by the appropriate real estate tax assessment office and tax levy officers.
- <u>Section 5 Changes in Law</u>. To the extent the Facility is declared to be subject to taxation or assessment by an amendment to the Act, other legislative change, or by final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, the obligations of the Company hereunder shall, to such extent, be null and void.

# Section 6 - Events of Default.

6.1 If payments are not made as provided for herein, the Agency and/or Affected Tax Jurisdictions, individually or collectively, shall be entitled to pursue any and all remedies afforded them at law or in equity.

Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, upon the occurrence of (i) the sale or closure of the Facility; (ii) a significant unapproved change in use of the Facility; (iii) a significant reduction in employment at the Facility (as defined below); (iv) the Company abandons or otherwise vacates the County of Monroe; (v) the failure by the Company to make any payments required under this PILOT Agreement; or (vi) the breach of covenants or event of

default (singularly or collectively an "Event of Default") under the Leaseback Agreement, dated as of the date hereof, by and between the Agency and the Company (the "Leaseback Agreement"), the Agency shall have the right to recapture real property tax abatements provided hereunder pursuant to the following schedule:

Year of Recapture	Percent of Recapture, Applicable to Current Year and All Prior Years	
1	100%	
2	100%	
3	50%	
4	50%	
5	25%	
6	25%	
After year 6	At Agency's Discretion, 25% or Less	

Any such recapture is at the sole and exclusive discretion of the Agency. The Agency shall notify the Company in writing of such Event of Default and of its intent to recapture the PILOT benefits (or any portion thereof). For purposes of this Section only, a "significant reduction in employment" shall mean more than twenty percent (20%) of the employment as stated in the Company's Application, to wit, 25. Any and all recaptured payments received pursuant to this provision shall be remitted to the Affected Tax Jurisdictions on a pro rata basis within sixty (60) days of receipt of payment.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the provisions of this Section 6.1 shall survive termination of this PILOT Agreement, for any reason whatsoever.

other payment required to be made hereunder is not made by the last day of any applicable cure period within which said payment can be made without penalty, the Company shall pay penalties and interest as follows: With respect to payments to be made pursuant to Section 6.1 herein, if said payment is not received by the due date defined in Section 6.1 herein, the Company shall pay, in addition to said payment, (i) a late payment penalty equal to five percent (5%) of the amount due and (ii) for each month, or any part thereof, that any such payment is delinquent beyond the first month, interest on the total amount due plus a late payment penalty, in an amount equal to one percent (1%) of the amount due per month. With respect to all other payments due hereunder, if said payment is not paid within any applicable cure period, the Company shall pay, in addition to said payment, the greater of the applicable penalties and interest hereunder, or penalties and interest which would have been incurred had payments made hereunder been tax payments to the Affected Tax Jurisdictions.

<u>Section 7 - Assignment</u>. No portion of any interest in this PILOT Agreement may be assigned by the Company, nor shall any person other than the Company be entitled to succeed to

or otherwise obtain any benefits of the Company hereunder without the prior written consent of the Agency, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

## Section 8 - Miscellaneous.

- 8.1 This PILOT Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts each of which shall be deemed an original but which together shall constitute a single instrument.
- 8.2 All notices, requests, consents, claims, demands, waivers and other communications hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been given (a) when delivered by hand (with written confirmation of receipt); (b) when received by the addressee if sent by a nationally recognized overnight courier (receipt requested); (c) on the date sent by email of a PDF document (with confirmation of transmission) if sent during normal business hours of the recipient, and on the next business day if sent after normal business hours of the recipient or (d) on the third day after the date mailed, by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid. Such communications must be sent to the respective party at the following address (or at such other address for a party as shall be specified in a notice given in accordance with this Section:

To the Agency: County of Monroe Industrial Development Agency

50 West Main Street, Suite 1150 Rochester, New York 14614 Attn: Executive Director

With a Copy to:

Harris Beach PLLC

99 Garnsey Road

Pittsford, New York 14534 Attn: Rachel C. Baranello, Esq. rbaranello@harrisbeach.com

To the Company:

University Avenue, LLC 1344 University Avenue Rochester, New York 14607

Attention: Christopher Calabro, Managing Member

cicrentals@aol.com

With a Copy to:

James J. Baranello Law Office

39 Church Street

Cortland, New York 13045

Attention: James J. Baranello, Esq.

james@baranellolaw.com

or at such other address as any party may from time to time furnish to the other party by notice given in accordance with the provisions of this Section. All notices shall be deemed given when mailed or personally delivered in the manner provided in this Section.

- 8.3 This PILOT Agreement shall be governed by, and all matters in connection herewith shall be construed and enforced in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York applicable to agreements executed and to be wholly performed therein and the parties hereto hereby agree to submit to the personal jurisdiction of the federal or state courts located in Monroe County, New York.
- 8.4 Notwithstanding any other term or condition contained herein, all obligations of the Agency hereunder shall constitute a special obligation payable solely from the revenues and other monies, if any, derived from the Facility and paid to the Agency by the Company. Neither member of the Agency nor any person executing this PILOT Agreement on its behalf shall be liable personally under this PILOT Agreement. No recourse shall be had for the payment of the principal or interest on amounts due hereunder or for any claim based upon or in respect of any modification of or supplement hereto against any past, present or future member, officer, agent, servant, or employee, as such, of the Agency, or of any successor or political subdivision, either directly or through the Agency or any such successor, all such liability of such members, officer, agents, servants and employees being, to the extent permitted by law, expressly waived and released by the acceptance hereof and as part of the consideration for the execution of this PILOT Agreement.

#### Section 9 - JobsPlus Tax Abatement Policy.

- 9.1 <u>Jobs Requirement.</u> The Company shall maintain its present impacted job level of 25 full-time jobs at the Facility and the Company or the Tenant shall create, at the Facility, three (3) new full-time/full-time equivalent jobs in three (3) years and maintains those full-time/full-time equivalent jobs for the balance of the ten (10) year term hereof.
- 9.2 <u>Compliance Report</u>. The Company shall report its compliance with these provisions as requested by the Agency, or its project compliance monitor.
- 9.3 Job Failure. If the three (3) new full-time/full-time equivalent jobs are not created by the end of the three (3) year period or not continuously maintained during the balance of the term hereof, the exemption schedule will revert back to Section 485-b of the New York RPTL and the Company agrees to pay in any year for which the job creation requirements are not met (a "Disqualifying Year"), as an additional payment in lieu of taxes, an amount equal to the difference between the tax benefits received in years one through the Disqualifying Year under this PILOT Agreement and the tax benefits which would have been received in years one through the Disqualifying Year under Section 485-b of the New York RPTL. Under extenuating circumstances, the Agency Board may waive the above penalties after reviewing a written request from the Company for waiver of the penalties.
- 9.4 <u>Waiver Process</u>. The payments required hereunder for any non-compliance shall be paid by the Company to any and all Affected Tax Jurisdictions whether or not billed. However, if the Company has made a good faith effort to achieve the job creation requirement, it may apply in writing for relief from the obligation for repayment of taxes abated, based on a showing of unforeseen economic circumstances, fiscal hardship, or other good cause. Application for relief from the repayment obligation shall be made to the Agency, which shall

examine the application and grant relief, in whole or in part, from the repayment obligation or grant an alternate schedule for attaining the job creation requirement.

9.5 <u>Benefit Period.</u> In no event shall the Company be entitled to receive tax benefits relative to the Facility for more than ten (10) consecutive years. The Company agrees that it will not seek any tax exemption for the Facility which would provide benefits for more than ten (10) consecutive years. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing contained in this PILOT Agreement shall render the Company ineligible for a continued tax exemption under Real Property Tax Law Section 485-b or any other applicable statute if this PILOT Agreement is terminated prior to the expiration of the exemption schedule set forth herein.

[Remainder of Page Intentionally Left Blank]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this PILOT Agreement as of the day and year first above written.

COUNTY OF MONROE INDUSTRIAL

Name: Ana J. Liss

Title: Executive Director

UNIVERSITY AVENUE, LLC

Name: Christopher Calabro

Title: Managing Member

Tracy A. Smith

Notary Public, State of New York

Reg. No. 01SM6234321

Qualified in Cortland County

Commission Expires January 18, 20

#### SCHEDULE A TO

# PILOT AGREEMENT DATED AS OF JULY 1, 2023 BY AND BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF MONROE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY AND UNIVERSITY AVENUE, LLC

"Total PILOT Payment" shall be calculated as follows:

<u>Tax</u> <u>Year</u>	County Tax Year	City Tax Year	Total Taxable Valuation
Year 1	2025	2024/2025	Base Valuation, plus (Added Value x .10)
Year 2	2026	2025/2026	Base Valuation, plus (Added Value x .20)
Year 3	2027	2026/2027	Base Valuation, plus (Added Value x .30)
Year 4	2028	2027/2028	Base Valuation, plus (Added Value x .40)
Year 5	2029	2028/2029	Base Valuation, plus (Added Value x .50)
Year 6	2030	2029/2030	Base Valuation, plus (Added Value x .60)
Year 7	2031	2030/2031	Base Valuation, plus (Added Value x .70)
Year 8	2032	2031/2032	Base Valuation, plus (Added Value x .80)
Year 9	2033	2032/2033	Base Valuation, plus (Added Value x .90)
Year 10	2034	2033/2034	Full Taxes

For the term of this PILOT Agreement, the Company shall continue to pay full taxes based on the assessed value of the Land and any existing improvements before the completion of any Improvements (the "Base Valuation"). During the term of this PILOT Agreement, the Base Valuation shall be revised from time to time by the change in the assessed valuation in all taxable real property in the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York, as of the respective tax status date for the tax year for which the recalculation is being made. The Total Taxable Valuation for each Total PILOT Payment shall be calculated such that a graduated abatement factor (the "Abatement Factor") shall be applied to the increased assessed valuation attributable to the Improvements made to the Facility by the Company, as an agent of the Agency, for the Project (the "Added Value"). The abatement schedule shall allow for a 90% exemption from taxation for the Added Value in Year 1, with such exemption being eliminated in 10% increments in PILOT Years 2-10.

Once the Total Taxable Valuation is established using the Abatement Factor, the Total PILOT Payment shall be determined by multiplying the Total Taxable Valuation by the respective tax rate for each Affected Tax Jurisdiction (after application of any applicable equalization rate). After Year 9, the Facility shall be subject to full taxation by the Affected Tax Jurisdictions.

Total Taxable Valuation = Base Valuation + (Added Value x Abatement Factor)
Total PILOT Payment = Total Taxable Valuation (after equalization) x Tax Rate