



City of Freeport, Texas Investment Policy

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City Freeport Investment Policy

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I. Policy

It is the policy of the City Freeport (the “City”) to administer and invest its funds in a manner that will preserve the principal and maintain the liquidity while meeting the daily cash flow requirements of the City. The City will conform to all federal, state and local statutes, rules and regulations governing the investment of the City’s funds.

Not less than annually, City Council shall adopt a written instrument by resolution stating that it has reviewed the Investment Policy and investment strategies and that the written instrument so adopted shall record any changes made to the Investment Policy or investment strategies.

II. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction for investing the funds of the City of Freeport and to comply with Chapter 2256 of the Texas Government Code (“Public Funds Investment Act”), which requires each entity to adopt a written investment policy regarding the investment of its funds and any funds under its control. The investment policy addresses the methods, procedures and practices that must be exercised to ensure effective and judicious fiscal management of the City’s funds.

III. Scope

This investment policy applies to the safekeeping and investing of all financial assets of the City. These funds are accounted for in the City's Annual Financial Report and include all financial assets of all funds managed by the City, including but not limited to tax revenues, charges for services, bond proceeds, interest income, loans and funds received by the City where the City performs a custodial function. However, this policy does not apply to the assets administered for the benefit of the City by outside agencies under deferred compensation programs or other retirement programs.

IV. General Objectives

The primary objectives, in priority order, of the City’s investment activities shall be safety, liquidity, and yield:

- A. **Safety** – Safety of the principal is the foremost objective of the investment program. Investments shall be undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure the preservation of capital in the overall portfolio. The objective will be to minimize credit risk and interest rate risk.
 - i. **Credit Risk and Concentration of Credit Risk** – The City will minimize credit risk, the risk of loss due to the failure of the security issuer or backer, and concentration of credit risk, the

risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of investment in a single issuer, by:

- Limiting investments to the safest types of securities,
- Pre-qualifying the financial institutions, broker/dealers, intermediaries, and advisers with which the City will do business, and;
- Diversifying the investment portfolio so that potential losses on individual securities will be minimized.

ii. **Interest Rate Risk** – The City will manage the risk that the market value of securities in the portfolio will fail due to changes in general interest rates, by:

- Structuring the investment portfolio so that securities mature to meet cash requirements for ongoing operations, thereby avoiding the need to sell securities on the open market prior to maturity,
- Investing operating funds primarily in shorter-term securities, money market mutual funds, or similar investment pools, and;
- Diversify maturities and stagger purchase dates to minimize the impact of market movements over time.

B. **Liquidity** – The investment portfolio shall remain sufficiently liquid to meet all operating requirements that may be reasonably anticipated. This is accomplished by structuring the portfolio so that securities mature concurrent with cash needs to meet anticipated demands. Furthermore, since all possible cash demands cannot be anticipated, a portion of the portfolio will be invested in money market mutual funds or local government investment pools that offer same-day liquidity for short-term funds. Additionally, securities held in the portfolio will have active secondary or resale markets.

C. **Public Trust** – All participants in the City’s investment process shall seek to act responsibly as custodians of the public trust. Investment officials shall avoid any transaction that might impair public confidence in the City’s ability to govern effectively.

D. **Yield** – The investment portfolio shall be designed with the objective of attaining a market rate of return throughout budgetary and economic cycles, taking into account the investment risk constraints and liquidity needs. Return on investment is of secondary importance compared to the safety and liquidity objectives described above. The core of investments is restricted to relatively low risk securities in anticipation of earning a fair return relative to the risk being assumed.

- E. **Investments held to Maturity** - Securities shall not be sold prior to maturity with the following exceptions:

- 1) A security with declining credit may be sold early to minimize loss of principal.
- 2) Liquidity needs of the portfolio require that the security be sold.

City Council will be informed promptly in the event that a security is sold prior to maturity.

V. **Standards of Care**

- F. **Prudence** – The standard of prudence to be used by investing officials shall be the "prudent person" rule. This rule states that "Investments shall be made with judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering the probable safety of their capital as well as the probable income to be derived." The determination of whether an investing official has exercised prudence with respect to an investment decision shall be applied in the context of managing an overall portfolio rather than a consideration as to the prudence of a single investment.

Investment officials acting in accordance with written procedures and the investment policy and exercising due diligence shall be relieved of personal responsibility for an individual security's credit risk or market price changes, provided that deviations from expectations are reported in a timely fashion and appropriate action is taken to control unfavorable developments.

- G. **Ethics and Conflicts of Interest** – Officers and employees involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with proper execution and management of the investment program, or that could impair their ability to make impartial investment decisions. Employees and investment officials shall disclose to the City any material interests in financial institutions that conduct business with the City. They shall further disclose any personal financial/investment positions that could be related to the performance of the investment portfolio. (See Exhibit B.)

Furthermore, an investment official who has a personal business relationship with an organization seeking to sell an investment to the City shall file a statement disclosing that personal business interest. An investment official who is related within the second degree by affinity or consanguinity to an individual seeking to sell an investment to the City shall file a statement disclosing that relationship. A statement required

under this subsection must be filed with the Texas Ethics Commission and the City Council.

- H. **Delegation of Authority** – Authority to manage the City's investment program is granted to the Investment Officer (s) as listed in Exhibit A. Responsibility for the operation of the investment program is hereby delegated to the Investment Officer, who shall act in accordance with established procedures and internal controls for the operation of the investment program consistent with this investment policy. This policy includes explicit delegation of authority to persons responsible for investment transactions. (See Exhibit A) No person may engage in an investment transaction except as provided under the terms of this policy and the procedures established by the Investment Officer. The Investment Officer shall be responsible for all transactions undertaken and shall establish a system of controls to regulate activities of subordinate officials.
- I. **Training** – Investment officials must complete at least 10 hours of investment training within 12 months of taking office or assuming duties and shall attend an investment training session not less than once in a two-year period and receive not less than 8 hours of instruction relating to investment responsibilities. The City shall provide the training through courses and seminars offered by professional organizations and associations to insure the quality and capability of the City's investment personnel making investment decisions in compliance with Public Funds Investment Act (PFIA). Professional organizations and associations that may provide investment training included the Government Treasurer's Organization of Texas, the University of North Texas, the Government Finance Officers Association of Texas, or the Texas Municipal League.
- J. **Internal Controls** – The Investment Officer is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure designed to ensure that the assets of the entity are protected from loss, theft, or misuse. The internal control structure shall be designed to provide reasonable assurance that these objectives are met. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that (a) the cost of a control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived and (b) the valuation of costs and benefits requires estimates and judgments by management.

VI. Safekeeping and Custody

- A. **Authorized Broker/Dealers and Financial Institutions** – The Investment Officer will maintain a list of financial institutions and security broker/dealers authorized to provide investment services (Exhibit C) to the City. This list shall be reviewed, revised as necessary and adopted at least annually.

Any person or business entity wishing to be listed as authorized to provide investment services will be required to provide a certification stating the firm has received, read and understood the Entity's investment policy and agree to comply with the policy (Exhibit D). Authorized firms may include primary dealers or regional dealers that qualify under Securities & Exchange Commission Rule 15C3-1 (Uniform Net Capital Rule), and qualified depositories. All investment providers, including financial institutions, banks, money market mutual funds, and local government investment pools, must sign a certification acknowledging that the organization has received and reviewed the Entity's investment policy and that reasonable procedures and controls have been implemented to preclude investment transactions that are not authorized by the Entity's policy. No security, even if otherwise authorized by this policy, may be acquired from an investment provider who has not complied with this requirement.

No securities may be acquired from entities not qualified under this section.

- B. Competitive Purchasing** – The City's policy requires competitive quotes for all individual security purchases and sales except for a) transactions with money market mutual funds and local government investment pools; b) treasury and agency securities purchased at issue through an approved broker/dealer or financial institution; and c) exceptions approved by the Investment Officer on a case by case basis. These exceptions will take into consideration the investment type, maturity date, amount to be invested, and disruption to the City's investment strategy.

Quotes may be accepted orally, in writing, electronically or in any combination of these methods.

- C. Delivery vs. Payment** – All trades apart from investment pools and mutual funds will be executed by delivery vs. payment (DVP) to ensure that securities are deposited in an eligible financial institution prior to the release of funds. Securities and collateral will be held in the City's name by a third-party custodian as evidenced by safekeeping receipts of the institution with which the securities are deposited.

VII. Suitable and Authorized Investments

- A. Eligible Investments** – Assets of the City may be invested in the following instruments described below. All these investments are authorized by the Public Funds Investment Act. Only those instruments listed in this section are authorized.

1. Obligations of the United States of America, its agencies and instrumentalities
 2. Certificates of Deposit issued by a depository institution that has its main office or a branch in Texas. The certificate of deposit must be guaranteed or insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or its successor or the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund or its successor and secured by obligations in a manner and amount as provided by law. In addition, certificates of deposit obtained through a depository institution which are fully collateralized under a pledge agreement approved by the City are authorized investments.
 3. No-load Money Market Mutual Funds that 1) are registered and regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission, 2) have a dollar weighted average stated maturity of 90 days or less, 3) seek to maintain a net asset value of \$1.00 per share and 4) are rated no lower than AAA or an equivalent rating by at least one nationally recognized rating service.
 4. Local Government Investment Pools, authorized by a separate resolution, which meet the requirements of Chapter 2256.016 of the Public Funds Investment Act and are rated no lower than AAA or an equivalent rating by at least one nationally recognized rating service.
- B. Collateralization** – Collateralization will be required on all funds on deposit with a depository bank, other than investments. To anticipate market changes and provide a level of security for all funds, the collateralization level will be one hundred two percent (102%) of market value of principal and accrued interest on the deposits, less an amount insured by the FDIC.

Securities pledged as collateral will be held in the City's name by an independent third party with whom the City has a current custodial agreement. The Investment Officer is responsible for entering into collateralization agreements with third party custodians in compliance with this Policy. The agreements are to specify the acceptable investment securities for collateral, including provisions relation to possession of the collateral, the substitution or release of investment securities, ownership of securities, and the method of valuation of securities. A clearly marked evidence of ownership (safekeeping receipt) must be supplied to the City and retained. Collateral shall be reviewed at least quarterly to assure that the market value of the pledged securities is adequate.

- C. Existing Investments** – Any investment currently held that does not meet the guidelines of this policy, but were authorized investments at the time of purchase, is not required to be liquidated; however, the City

shall take all prudent measures consistent with this Investment Policy to liquidate an investment that does not or no longer qualifies as an authorized investment.

VIII. Investment Parameters

- D. Diversification** – The investments shall be diversified by security type and institution. Except for U.S. Treasury securities and authorized pools, the City will diversify the entire portfolio to comply with the investment strategy; however, in no case shall any single investment transaction be more than five-percent (5%) of the entire portfolio.
- E. Maximum Maturities** – To the extent possible, the City shall attempt to match its investments with anticipated cash flow requirements. Unless matched to a specific cash flow, the City will not directly invest in securities maturing more than three (3) years from the date of purchase. The composite portfolio will have a weighted average maturity of 365 days or less. This dollar weighted average maturity will be calculated using the stated final maturity dates of each security.

IX. Investment Strategies

The City maintains separate portfolios for individual funds or groups of funds that are managed according to the terms of this Policy and the corresponding investment strategies listed in Exhibit E. The investment strategy for portfolios established after the annual Investment Policy review and adoption will be managed in accordance with the terms of this Policy and applicable agreements until the next annual review when a specific strategy will be adopted.

The City maintains a pooled fund group that is an aggregation of the majority of City funds including tax receipts, enterprise fund revenues, fine and fee revenues, as well as some, but not all, bond proceeds, and grants. This portfolio is maintained to meet anticipated daily cash needs for City operations, capital projects and debt service.

The objectives of this portfolio are to ensure safety of principal; ensure adequate investment liquidity; limit market and credit risk through diversification; and attain the best feasible yield in accordance with the objectives and restrictions set for in this Policy.

X. Reporting

- F. Methods** – The Investment Officer shall prepare an investment report at least quarterly, including a management summary that provides an analysis of the status of the current investment portfolio and

transactions made over the last quarter. This management summary will be prepared in a manner consistent with the requirements of Section 2256.023 (Internal Management Reports) of the PFIA, and that will allow the City to ascertain whether investment activities during the reporting period have conformed to the investment policy. The report should be provided to the City Council.

G. Annual Audit - The City's external independent auditor shall formally review the quarterly reports, compliance with this policy, and internal management controls over investments in conjunction with the annual financial audit. The results of the review will be reported to the City Council.

H. Performance Standards - The investment portfolio shall be managed in accordance with the objectives specified in this policy (safety, liquidity, and yield). The portfolio should obtain a market average rate of return during a market/economic environment of stable interest rates. The Investment Officer shall determine whether market yields are being achieved by comparing the portfolio market yield to the three (3) month U.S. Treasury Bill, the six (6) month U.S. Treasury Bill and the two (2) year U.S. Treasury Note.

I. Marking to Market - The market value of the portfolio shall be calculated at least monthly and a statement of the market value of the portfolio shall be issued at least quarterly. The market value of each investment shall be obtained from an independent source such as the Wall Street Journal, a reputable brokerage firm or security pricing service and reported on the investment reports.

XI. Record Retention

Records related to the City's investment activities will be maintained as recommended by the *Texas State Library Municipal Records Manual*. The Investment Officer, in conjunction with the City Secretary is responsible for filing and storing records of investment activity.

Exhibits

EXHIBIT A

List of Authorized Investment Officers

Tim Kelty, City Manager

Stephanie Russell, Finance Director

Giselle Hernandez, Accounting Specialist

EXHIBIT B

Statement of Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

Investment officials for the City Freeport shall refrain from personal business relationships with business organizations that could conflict with the proper execution of the investment program, or which could impair their ability to make partial investment decisions. This would only apply to personal business relationships with business organizations that have been approved by City Council to conduct investment transactions with the City.

An investment official is considered to have a personal business relationship with a business organization if:

- (1) The investment official owns 10 percent or more of the voting stock or shares of the business organization or owns \$5,000 or more of the fair market value of the business.
- (2) Funds received by the investment official from the business organization exceed 10 percent of the investment official's gross income for the previous year.
- (3) The investment official has acquired from the business organization during the previous year investments with a book value of \$2,500 or more for the personal account of the investment official.

I do hereby certify that I do not have a personal business relationship with any business organization approved to conduct investment transactions with the City Freeport, nor am I related within the second degree by affinity or consanguinity, as determined under Chapter 573, to an individual seeking to sell an investment to the Freeport as of the date of this statement.

City of Freeport
Investment Official

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Title

EXHIBIT C

Approved Broker/Dealers, Financial Institutions and Investment Pools

Broker/Dealers

Financial Institutions

Texas Gulf Bank, N.A. (Primary Depository)

U.S. Bank, N.A.

Investment Pools

TexPool

EXHIBIT D

Certification by Broker/Dealers and Financial Institutions

(date)

City of Freeport, Texas
Attn: Finance
200 W. 2nd Street
Freeport, TX 77541

Dear Ms. Russell:

This certification is executed on behalf of the City of Freeport, Texas (the Investor) and _____ (the Business Organization), pursuant to the Public Funds Investment Act, Chapter 2256, Texas Government Code, (the Act) in connection with investment transactions conducted between the Investor and Business Organization.

The undersigned Registered Principal of the Business Organization hereby certifies on behalf of the Business Organization that:

1. The undersigned is a Registered Principal of the Business Organization offering to enter an investment transaction with the Investor (Note: as such terms are used in the Public Funds Investment Act, chapter 2256, Texas Local Government Code) and;
2. The Registered Principal of the Business Organization has received and reviewed the Investment Policy furnished by the Investor and;
3. The Registered Principal of the Business Organization has implemented reasonable procedures and controls in an effort to preclude investment transactions conducted between the Business Organization and the Investor that are not authorized by the Investor's investment policy, except to the extent that this authorization is dependent on an analysis of the makeup of the investor's entire portfolio or requires and interpretation of the subjective investment standards.

Registered Principal

Broker Assigned to the Account

Signed By: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

EXHIBIT E

Investment Strategy

The City of Freeport's investment portfolio will be designed and managed to ensure that it will meet all the requirements established by the City's investment policy and the Public Funds Investment Act. The overall investment strategy outlined in the investment policy has been further refined in this investment strategy statement by the following fund types.

Operating Funds:

Operating Funds generally have greater cash flow needs than other funds types. The operating fund portfolio may consist of any approved investment type with the understanding that the financial requirements of the operating funds will dictate the maturity dates of the investment. At utmost importance is the preservation and safety of the investment principal.

Additionally each investment will be viewed for its liquidity and marketability of the investment if the need arises to liquidate the investment before maturity. The final determining factors for the investment strategy will be the diversification of the investment portfolio and the yield of the investment.

To achieve short-term needs of one (1) to one hundred and eighty (180) days, funds will be invested in approved investment pools. For longer-term needs of six (6) months to five (5) years, funds will be invested in approved investments with objectives prioritized as follows:

- 1) understanding the suitability of the investment to the financial requirements of the City of Freeport;
- 2) preservation and safety of principal;
- 3) liquidity;
- 4) marketability of the investment if the need arises to liquidate the investment before maturity;
- 5) diversification of the investment portfolio; and
- 6) yield.

Debt Service Funds:

The debt service requirements are semi-annual, thus allowing the investment strategy to mirror debt obligation payment dates. The strategy for debt service funds allows greater flexibility since the actual requirements are known into the future. Investments will still meet the adopted policies; however, planning maturity dates to match debt requirement dates will be the primary objective.

The investment instruments will be primarily in approved investment types with maturities at six or twelve months established to match debt requirement dates. Shorter-term investment may be used to meet these objectives and longer-term investments may be used when fund balance reserves exceed one year's debt service requirements.

To achieve this strategy the following objectives are prioritized to evaluate investment opportunities:

- 1) understanding the suitability of the investment to the financial requirements of the City Freeport;
- 2) preservation and safety of principal;
- 3) yield;
- 4) marketability of the investment if the need arises to liquidate the investment before maturity;
- 5) diversification of the investment portfolio; and
- 6) liquidity.

Capital Improvement Funds:

Bond proceeds can be invested over the life of the project; however, the exact disbursement of the funds is not always known. The investment objective of the capital improvement funds is to schedule maturities to maximize investment earnings while preserving principle. The key to an effective strategy is to be aware of the project needs and match maturities to the period funds are needed.

The investment objective for capital projects funds is still to match investment maturities with funding needs. As short-term needs are recognized investment maturities will be moved into approved investment pools to meet financial requirements. Longer-term needs will be invested with the following objectives as prioritized for capital improvement funds:

- 1) understanding the suitability of the investment to the financial requirements of the City of Freeport;
- 2) preservation and safety of principal;
- 3) diversification of the investment portfolio;
- 4) yield;
- 5) liquidity; and
- 6) marketability of the investment if the need arises to liquidate the investment before maturity.

Reserve Funds:

Certain reserve funds have been established as required by bond covenants. The investment objective is to invest reserve funds to the extent that maturities are established to the limit of the investment policy or to the end of the bond requirements whichever is shorter.

The overall investment strategy for reserve funds will not rely on investment pools; however, the use of pools is not prohibited. Longer-term investment objectives are prioritized as follows:

- 1) understanding the suitability of the investment to the financial requirements of the City of Freeport;
- 2) diversification of the investment portfolio;
- 3) preservation and safety of principal;
- 4) yield;
- 5) liquidity; and
- 6) marketability of the investment if the need arises to liquidate the investment before maturity.