



DASNY

TO: Jack D. Homkow, Director, Office of Environmental Affairs

FROM: Matthew A. Stanley, AICP, Senior Environmental Manager

DATE: April 29, 2016

RE: *State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Type II Determination* for the Little Flower Union Free School District *2016 Financing Project* (Special Act School Districts Program)

Little Flower Union Free School District (“Little Flower UFSD”) has requested financing from DASNY (“Dormitory Authority State of New York”) pursuant to DASNY’s Special Act School Districts Program for its *2016 Financing Project*. Accordingly, the *2016 Financing Project* is subject to environmental review pursuant to the *State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”)*.

Based on a review of the attached *Credit Summary Update*, dated April 29, 2016, it has been determined that for purposes of *SEQRA*, the Proposed Action would consist of DASNY’s authorization of the issuance of an amount not to exceed \$5,195,000 in fixed- and/or variable-rate tax-exempt and/or taxable Series 2016 bonds on behalf of Little Flower UFSD. The bond proceeds would be used to finance the *2016 Financing Project*, which would consist of repairs and renovations to an existing building (related to health and safety, provision of an appropriate learning environment, and accessibility); a one-story extension; interior alterations to an existing building wing (constructed in the 1950s); a new main building entry; and internal relocations to the previously-renovated wing (constructed in 1992) (the “Proposed Project”). The total new square footage would be approximately 4,080 gross square feet (“gsf”). The Proposed Project would be located on Little Flower UFSD’s existing campus located at 2460 North Wading River Road, Wading River, New York (Suffolk County).

Description of the Institution. Little Flower UFSD is the only residential Special Act public school district on Long Island. Little Flower UFSD was originally founded as a Catholic parochial school in 1931 by a nationally acclaimed educator of disadvantaged children, Mother Katherine Drexel, of Philadelphia. Constructed on a boarding school model, the students live in cottages at the campus in Wading River. The New York State Department of Family Assistance (formerly the New York State Department of Social Services), has licensed Little Flower Children and Family Services of New York as a residential treatment center (“RTC”). While Little Flower UFSD also provides programming for day students, the majority of the students reside in cottages on the campus in living groups based on their age, sex, developmental needs and individualized treatment goals. Counseling and psychotherapy are provided to every student. Students are referred to the Little Flower public school by other local schools in New York State through their Committee on Special Education (“CSE”). The classes are designed to focus on the individual needs of each child. The teaching faculty and staff are specially trained in the education and behavior of learning disabled and emotionally handicapped children. Certified Special Area

teachers provide instruction in Physical Education, Art, Music, Technology, Home and Career Skills, Computer Literacy, and Business Education.

SEQR Determination. DASNY completed this environmental review in accordance with the *SEQRA*, codified at Article 8 of the New York *Environmental Conservation Law* (“*ECL*”) and implementing regulations, promulgated at Part 617 of Title 6 of the *New York Codes, Rules and Regulations* (“*N.Y.C.R.R.*”), which collectively contain the requirements for the *State Environmental Quality Review* (“*SEQR*”) process.

Replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes, unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in Part 617.4 is a Type II action as specifically designated by 6 *N.Y.C.R.R.* § 617.5(c)(2). Routine activities of educational institutions, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area and school closings, but not changes in use related to such closings, is a Type II action as specifically designated by 6 *N.Y.C.R.R.* § 617.5(c)(8). Refinancing of existing debt is a Type II action as specifically designated by 6 *N.Y.C.R.R.* § 617.5(c)(23). Type II “actions have been determined not to have significant impact on the environment or are otherwise precluded from environmental review under Environmental Conservation Law, article 8.”¹ Therefore, no further *SEQR* determination or procedure is required for any project identified as Type II.

SHPA Determination. The Proposed Project was also reviewed in conformance with the *New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980* (“*SHPA*”), especially the implementing regulations of Section 14.09 of the *Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Law* (“*PRHPL*”), as well as with the requirements of the Memorandum of Understanding (“*MOU*”), dated March 18, 1998, between DASNY and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (“*OPRHP*”).

The existing school building is not eligible for the National and State Registers of Historic Places. It is the opinion of DASNY that the Proposed Project would have no impact on historic or cultural resources in or eligible for inclusion in the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

Attachments

cc: Deborah J. Paden, Esq.; Matthew T. Bergin; *SEQR* File, *OPRHP* File

¹ 6 *N.Y.C.R.R.* § 617.5(a).