

# COUNCIL CHAMBER

City of Berea, Ohio

Ordinance No. 2021-13

By Deon Dozier Sponsored By Mayor Cyril M. Ykem

## AN ORDINANCE

### AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA ("CRA") AGREEMENT WITH DNS TECHNOLOGIES, INC. AND CASTAWAY PROPERTIES, LLC. AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**WHEREAS**, DNS Technologies, Inc. ("DNS") and Castaway Properties, LLC. ("CP"), intend to construct a new 15,000 square foot building on the vacant property located at 1090 Berea Industrial Parkway, Berea, Ohio 44017 (Permanent Parcel Number 361-34-024); and

**WHEREAS**, upon completion of this new building, DNS will retain 28 full-time equivalent, permanent jobs and create 9 new full-time equivalent permanent jobs with an approximate total payroll of \$315,000 for the new jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, such development project qualifies for benefits associated with the City's duly adopted (as amended) Community Reinvestment Area program.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Berea, State of Ohio:

**SECTION 1.** That the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into a Community Reinvestment Area ("CRA") Agreement with DNS and CP in substantially the form of Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein.

**SECTION 2.** That due notice of such Agreement has been provided by the Mayor (or his designee) to the Olmsted Falls City School District and Polaris Vocational School District in accordance with current law and/or regulations, and that all other notices, requirements, application contents and/or reviews be otherwise completed and provided, as may be required or called for in said Agreement, or pursuant to law.

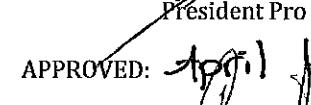
**SECTION 3.** That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

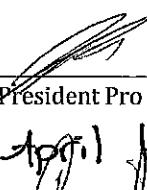
**SECTION 4.** That this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, property, health, safety and welfare, or providing for the usual daily operation of a municipal department and for the further reason that said Agreement must be in place before improvements on the property may begin, and the improvements are ready to immediately commence upon such approval, thereby enhancing business expansion and creating jobs. Therefore, provided this Ordinance receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; otherwise, from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: April 5, 2021

  
President Pro Tempore of Council

ATTEST: Deon Dozier  
Clerk of Council

  
APPROVED: April 5, 2021

  
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
Paul O.  
Director of Law

## COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT

This Community Reinvestment Area Agreement (the "Agreement"), dated as of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021, is entered into by and between the City of Berea, Ohio (the "City"), a municipal corporation and political subdivision, organized and existing under the laws of the State of Ohio (the "State"), with its main offices located at 11 Berea Commons, Berea, Ohio 44017, (hereinafter referred to as the "City"); DNS Technologies, Inc., a corporation with its main offices located at 1090 Berea Industrial Parkway, Berea, Ohio 44017 (hereinafter referred to as "DNS") and Castaway Properties, LLC., a limited liability company with its main offices located at 1090 Berea Industrial Parkway, Berea, Ohio 44017 (hereinafter referred to as "CP").

### WITNESSETH

**WHEREAS**, by Ordinance No. 94-60, 97-24, 2007-11, 2008-27 passed by this Council on June 21, 1994, as amended by 97-24, 2007-11, 2008-27 (collectively the "CRA Ordinance"), the Council found and determined that the Community Reinvestment Area (the "Community Reinvestment Area") designated in Ordinance No. 94-60 constitutes an area in which housing facilities or structures of historical significance are located and in which new construction and repair of existing facilities has been discouraged; and

**WHEREAS**, effective June 20, 1994, the Director of Development of the State determined that the aforementioned area designated in said Ordinance No. 94-60 June 21, 1994, as amended by 97-24, 2007-11, 2008-27 contains the characteristics set forth in Section 3735.66 of the Ohio Revised Code and confirmed said area as a Community Reinvestment Area under said Chapter 3735; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has encouraged the development of real property located in the Community Reinvestment Area; and

**WHEREAS**, CP intends to construct an approximately 15,000 Square Foot contracting and office facility at 1090 Berea Industrial Parkway, Berea, Ohio 44017 and known as Permanent Parcel Number 361-34-014 (hereinafter also referred to as the "Site"). Said new building is to be used by DNS as a contracting, office, and warehouse facility (hereinafter also referred to as the "Project") within the boundaries of the aforementioned Community Reinvestment Area, provided that the appropriate development incentives are available to support the economic viability of said Project; and

**WHEREAS**, DNS designs, installs and maintains electrical, data, audio, and visual technologies to commercial, industrial, and institutional customers. Currently, DNS operates from a leased building on Helwig Street in Berea, but needs to construct a new building in order to continue to grow as a company; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed use of the Site is beneficial to the community because it allows a strong Berea business to continue its growth by moving from a leased building to a building owned by an affiliated company, CP. The Project will likely encourage similar development within the general area; and

**WHEREAS**, the City having the appropriate authority for the Project is desirous of providing DNS and CP with incentives available for the development of the Project in the Community Reinvestment Area under Chapter 3735 of the Ohio Revised Code; and

**WHEREAS**, DNS and CP have submitted a proposed agreement application (herein attached as Exhibit 1) to the City and said application is hereinafter referred to the "Application"); and

**WHEREAS**, DNS and CP have remitted the required state application fee of \$750.00 made payable to the Ohio Department of Development with the application to be forwarded to said Department with a copy of the final agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the administrative staff of the City investigated the application of DNS and CP and has recommended the same to the Council of the City on the basis that DNS and CP are qualified by financial responsibility and business experience to create and preserve employment opportunities in said Community Reinvestment Area and improve the economic climate of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, DNS currently employs 28 Full-Time Employees or Full Time Equivalent Employees and wishes to expand but cannot expand within its current facility; and

**WHEREAS**, if CP builds the proposed Project pursuant to this agreement, DNS will retain 28 Full-Time Employees or Full Time Equivalent Employees and forecasts the addition of nine (9) additional Full Time Employees or Full Time Equivalent Employees hired within 36 months after obtaining the Final Occupancy Permit for the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, if CP builds the proposed Project pursuant to this agreement and DNS hires the new Full Time Employees or Full Time Equivalent Employees as projected, the additional payroll from the nine (9) new Full Time Employees or Full Time Equivalent Employees is estimated to be \$315,000 within thirty-six months of obtaining the Final Occupancy Permit for the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 3735.67(A) and in accordance with the format required under Section 3735.671(B) of the Ohio Revised Code, the parties hereto desire to set forth their agreement with respect to matters hereinafter contained.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual covenants hereinafter contained and the benefits to be derived by the parties from the execution hereof, the parties herein agree as follows:

**1. Construction of the Project.** The Project shall consist of the construction of a new, approximately 15,000 square foot facility to be used by DNS for its electrical, data, audio, and visual technologies business as well as to conduct business related activities. Said new building will be constructed on the Site which is located in the Ward 2 of Berea, Ohio.

CP agrees that the investment in the Project shall be not less than \$1,500,000.00 (plus or minus 10%) in the aggregate and that such investment shall be made at the Site. Included in this investment will be \$1,500,000 for construction of the Project.

The Project will begin as soon as possible and all acquisition and construction will be completed by late Spring to early Summer, 2021.

**2. Job Creation and Retention.** DNS and CP shall work to create the equivalent of nine (9) new Full Time Job Opportunities or Full Time Equivalent Job Opportunities within thirty-six months after obtaining the Final Occupancy Permit for the Project.

DNS and CP will retain the equivalent of 28 full-time permanent jobs during the abatement period.

The increase in the number of employees to be created in accordance with this Section 2 will result in approximately \$315,000.00 of new additional annual payroll for DNS and CP. The entire increase in payroll shall be attributed to the creation of permanent employment positions.

**3. Exemption Granted.** As authorized under Section 3735.67 of the Ohio Revised Code, the City hereby grants to DNS and CP a tax exemption for real property improvements made to the Site. Such real property improvements will receive a ten-year exemption period, commencing the first year for which such real property improvements would first be taxable were that property not exempted from taxation. The exemptions provided for herein in each year shall be in the amounts set forth below.

<i>Years of Tax Exemption</i>	<i>Tax Exemption Amount</i>
Years 1-10	49%

DNS and CP acknowledge and agree that they shall have sole and full responsibility for filing the appropriate tax forms to effect and maintain the exemptions contemplated herein, including without limitation, form DTE 23 with the County Auditor and that neither the City nor any employee or agent thereof shall have any responsibility for taking any actions, other than those expressly set forth herein, to effect or maintain such exemption.

**4. Provision of Information.** DNS and CP agree that they shall promptly provide to the City of Berea Tax Incentive Review Council (the "Council") any information reasonably required by the Council to evaluate the compliance of DNS and CP with this Agreement, including, but not limited to, yearly employee counts, payroll figures, and returns filed pursuant to Section 5711.02 of the Ohio Revised Code if requested by the Council.

**5. Annual Fee.** DNS and CP shall pay to the City an annual fee equal to the greater of one percent of the dollar value of the taxes abated in such year under this Agreement or five hundred dollars: provided, however, that if in any year, the value of the taxes abated pursuant to this Agreement shall exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars, the fee shall be two thousand five hundred dollars.

Each such payment shall be made to the City on March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year that this Agreement shall be in effect, commencing on March 1<sup>st</sup> in the year following issuance of the Final Occupancy Permit and ending on the March 1<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year following the last tax year in which taxes shall be abated hereunder. Each such payment shall be made to the Director of Finance of the City and shall be made by certified check or such other method as may be approved by the Director of Finance. Any amounts received by the City may be used for such purposes as are authorized by applicable law, including but not limited to Section 3735.671(D) of the Revised Code.

**6. Payment of Taxes.** DNS and CP shall pay such real and tangible personal property taxes as are not exempted under this Agreement and are charged against such property and shall file all tax reports and returns as required by law. In the event that the DNS or CP fail to pay such taxes or file such returns and reports, all incentives granted under this Agreement are rescinded beginning with the year for which such taxes are charged or such reports or returns are required to be filed and thereafter.

**7. Further Acts.** The City shall perform such acts as are reasonably necessary or appropriate to effect, claim, reserve, and maintain exemptions from taxation granted under this agreement including, without limitations, joining to the execution of all documentation, providing any necessary certificates required in connection with such exemptions; provided, however that DNS and CP acknowledge and agree that the City shall have no monetary liability for any damages caused or incurred by DNS and CP by any failure of the City to perform its obligations under Section 7 or any other provisions of this Agreement. DNS and CP will collectively contribute \$500.00 annually to the City of Berea Special Events Fund for the support of events put on or sponsored by the city or not-for-profit organizations for the support of events that draw people to Berea and to Berea businesses for the duration of the agreement, of which is the first payment is due within 45 days of the passage of this Agreement. Subsequent donations will be made by August 1, of every year the agreement is active.

**8. Entitlements to Survive Revocation of Area Designation.** If for any reason the Community Reinvestment Area designation expires, the Director of the Ohio Department of Development revokes certification of the area, or the City revokes the designation of the area, entitlements granted under this Agreement shall continue for the number of years specified under this Agreement, unless DNS and CP materially fail to fulfill its obligation under this Agreement and the City terminates or modifies the exemptions for taxation granted under this agreement.

**9. Termination or Modification of the Exemption; Repayment to the City of the Amounts Exempted.** If DNS or CP materially fail to fulfill its obligation under this Agreement, or if the City determines that the certification as to delinquent taxes required by this Agreement is fraudulent, the

City may terminate or modify the exemptions from taxation granted under this Agreement and may require the repayment of the amount of taxes that would have been repayable had the property not been exempted from taxation. If DNS or CP relocates from the City of Berea for any reason during the abatement period, the total amount of all taxes abated is due and payable to the City of Berea within 30 days of the said relocation.

10. No Delinquent Amounts. DNS and CP hereby certify that at the time this Agreement is executed neither DNS nor CP owes any delinquent real or tangible personal property taxes to any taxing authority of the State, and does not owe delinquent taxes for which DNS or CP is liable under Chapter 5733., 5735., 5739., 5741., 5743., 5747., or 5753. of the Revised Code or, if such delinquent taxes are owed, DNS and/or CP currently is paying delinquent taxes pursuant to an undertaking enforceable by the State of Ohio or an agent or instrumentality thereof, has filed petition in bankruptcy under 11 U.S.C.A. 101, et seq., or such a petition has been filed against DNS or CP. For the purposes of the certification, delinquent taxes are taxes that remain unpaid on the latest day prescribed for payment without penalty under the chapter of the Revised Code governing payment of those taxes.

DNS and CP further covenant that they do not owe (1) any moneys to the State or a state agency for the administration or enforcement of any environmental laws of the State; and (2) any other moneys to the State, a state agency or a political subdivision of the State that are past due, whether the amounts owed are being contested in a court of law or not.

11. Further Approvals. DNS, CP and the City acknowledge that this Agreement must be approved by formal action of the legislative authority of the City as a condition for the agreement to take effect. This agreement takes effect upon such approval.

12. Revocation of Exemption Under Certain Circumstances. The exemptions from taxation granted under this agreement shall be revoked if it is determined that DNS or CP, any successor property owner, or any related member (as those terms are defined in Section 3735.671 of the Ohio Revised Code) has violated the prohibition against entering into this agreement under Division (E) of Section 3735.671 or Section 5709.62 or 5709.63 of the Ohio Revised Code prior to the time prescribed by that division or either of those sections.

13. No False Statements. DNS and CP affirmatively covenant that they have made no false statements to the State or local political subdivisions in the process of obtaining approval of the Community Reinvestment Area incentives. If any representative of DNS or CP has knowingly made a false statement to the State or local political subdivision to obtain the Community Reinvestment Area incentives, DNS and CP acknowledge and agree that they shall be required to immediately return and shall return, all benefits received under this Agreement pursuant Ohio Revised Code Section 9.66(C)(2) and shall be ineligible for any future economic development assistance from the State, any state agency or a political subdivision pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 9.66(C)(1). Any person who provides a false statement to secure economic development assistance may be guilty of falsification, a misdemeanor of the first degree, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 2921.13(D)(1), which is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 and/or a term of imprisonment of not more than six months.

14. Non-Discriminatory Hiring. DNS and CP acknowledge that the City has developed a policy to ensure that recipients of Community Reinvestment Area tax benefits practice non-discriminatory hiring in their operations. By executing this Agreement, DNS and CP agree to follow non-discriminatory hiring practices, and acknowledges and agrees that no individual shall be denied employment with DNS or CP on the basis of race, religion, sex, disability, color, national origin, or ancestry.

15. Assignment and Transfer. This Agreement is not transferable or assignable without the express, written approval of the City.

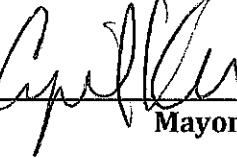
**16. No Waiver.** No failure by the City to insist upon the strict performance by DNS or CP of any provisions hereof shall constitute a waiver of the City's right to strict performance and no express waiver shall be deemed to apply to any other existing or subsequent right to remedy the failure by DNS or CP to observe or comply with any provision hereof, including but not limited to any rights of the City under Section 9 of this Agreement.

**17. Miscellaneous.** This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be regarded as an original and all of which shall constitute but one and the same instrument. If any provision of this Agreement, or any covenant, obligation or agreement contained herein is determined by a court to be invalid or unenforceable, such determination shall not affect any other provision, covenant, obligation or agreement, each of which shall be construed and enforced as if such invalid or unenforceable provisions were not contained herein and each such provision, covenant obligation or agreement shall be deemed to be effective in the manner and to the full extent permitted by law. This Agreement may not be amended except by a written instrument executed by the parties hereto.

All covenants, obligations and agreements of the City contained in this Agreement shall be effective to the extent authorized and permitted by applicable law. No such covenant, obligation or agreement shall be deemed to be a covenant, obligation or agreement of any employee, officer, agent, independent contractor or elected representative of the City in other than his or her official capacity, acting pursuant to the laws of the State, and no such employee, officer, agent, independent contractor or elected representative shall be personally liable or in any way obligated by reason hereof or by reason of any other action taken by the City or any representative thereof.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the City of Berea, Ohio, by its Mayor, DNS and CP by its authorized representatives, have caused this instrument to be executed all as of the date first written above.

**City of Berea, Ohio**

By   
Mayor

**DNS Technologies, Inc.**

By \_\_\_\_\_

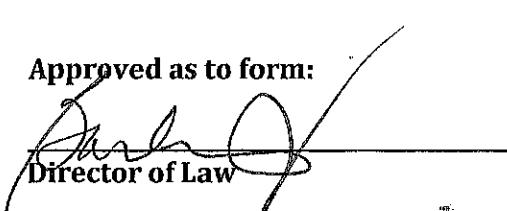
Title \_\_\_\_\_

**Castaway Properties, LLC.**

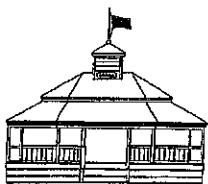
By \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved as to form:**

  
Director of Law

Note: A copy of this agreement must be forwarded to the Ohio Department of Taxation and Development within fifteen (15) days of finalization.



# CITY OF BEREAL

*"The Grindstone City"*

Cyril Kleem  
*Mayor*

11 Berea Commons  
Berea, Ohio 44017  
(440) 826-5800  
Fax. (440) 826-4800  
[www.cityofberea.org](http://www.cityofberea.org)

February 10, 2021

Olmsted Falls City Schools  
Attn: Dr. Jim Lloyd, Superintendent  
26937 Bagley Road  
Olmsted Falls, OH 44138

Re: City of Berea  
Community Reinvestment Area Agreement with  
DNS Technologies and Castaway Properties

Dear Superintendent Lloyd,

The City of Berea has received an application requesting that the City enter into a Community Reinvestment Area Agreement with DNS Technologies and Castaway Properties, see enclosed application. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 3735.671 and 5709.83 and Ordinances No. 94-60, 97-24, 2007-11, and 2008-27, the City of Berea is hereby providing notice that Berea City Council will consider adopting an ordinance approving a Community Reinvestment Area Agreement (the "Agreement") relating to a new commercial project (the "Project"). The Project is construction of a new 15,000 square foot commercial facility and offices located at 1090 Berea Industrial Parkway, Berea, Ohio 44017 and identified by the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer as Permanent Parcel Number: 361-34-024.

It is anticipated that Berea City Council will consider first reading of the legislation for the CRA Agreement at its meeting on March 1, 2021. This meeting will be held in Berea City Council Chambers, 11 Berea Commons, Berea, Ohio 44017 and will commence at 7:30 p.m. If approved, it is anticipated that this ordinance would be effective from the earliest date permitted by law.

Any comments which you may have concerning the Agreement or passage of the ordinance should be made to me prior to that meeting. Should you need any additional information, please let me know. I appreciate your cooperation with this mutually beneficial project for the community.

Very truly yours,

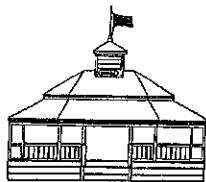
CITY OF BEREAL

  
Matthew J. Madzy  
Director of Development

cc: Berea Clerk of Council



*"City of Champions"*



# CITY OF BEREAL

*"The Grindstone City"*

Cyril Kleem  
*Mayor*

11 Berea Commons  
Berea, Ohio 44017  
(440) 826-5800  
Fax. (440) 826-4800  
[www.cityofberea.org](http://www.cityofberea.org)

February 10, 2021

Polaris Career Center  
Attn: Mr. Robert Timmons, Superintendent  
7285 Old Oak Blvd.  
Middleburg Hts., OH 44130

Re: City of Berea  
Community Reinvestment Area Agreement with  
DNS Technologies & Castaway Properties

Dear Superintendent Timmons,

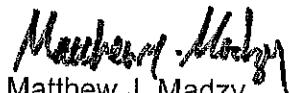
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Very truly yours,

CITY OF BEREAL

  
Matthew J. Madzy  
Director of Development

cc: Berea Clerk of Council



*"City of Champions"*