

EXHIBIT “C”

HIPAA BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT (“BA Agreement”)

To the extent that the **City of Pembroke Pines** (“Covered Entity”) discloses Protected Health Information (“PHI”) to **Doviniti-J15:12, Inc. d/b/a Homewatch Caregivers of Southwest Broward** (“Business Associate”) (Covered Entity and Business Associate are each a “Party” and together are the “Parties”) in connection with services or products provided to Covered Entity, or as otherwise required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, as amended, (“HIPAA”), Covered Entity and Business Associate agree to the following terms and conditions, which are intended to comply with HIPAA, the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009 (the “HITECH Act”), and to the extent applicable the Florida Information Protection Act (Section 501.171, Florida Statutes):

1. Definitions

(a) Business Associate. “Business Associate” shall have the same meaning as the term “business associate” at 45 CFR 160.103, herein and shall mean the individual or entity identified above as the Business Associate.

(b) Covered Entity. “Covered Entity” shall generally have the same meaning as the term “covered entity” at 45 CFR Part 160.103, herein and shall mean the individual or entity identified above as the Covered Entity.

(c) HIPAA Rules. “HIPAA Rules” shall mean the Privacy, Security, Breach Notification, and Enforcement Rules at 45 CFR Part 160 and Part 164.

(d) The following terms used herein shall have the same meaning as those terms defined in the HIPAA Rules: Breach, Data Aggregation, Designated Record Set, Disclosure, Health Care Operations, Individual, Minimum Necessary, Notice of Privacy Practices, Protected Health Information, Required by Law, Secretary, Security Incident, Subcontractor, Unsecured Protected Health Information, and Use. All other capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the same meaning as those terms in the Privacy Rule and Security Rule, including 45 CFR Part 160.103 and 164.501.

(e) The following terms used herein shall have the same meaning as those terms defined in the Florida Information Protection Act, Section 501.171, Florida Statutes: “customer records”, “personal information”, and “third-party agent”. All terms that may be defined in multiple laws, i.e. HIPAA and the Florida Information Protection Act, shall be given such meaning as to provide the more strict interpretation or form of compliance with applicable state or federal laws.

(f) A citation in this Agreement to the Code of Federal Regulations, federal law, or state law shall mean the cited section as that section may be amended from time to time.

2. Obligations and Activities of Business Associate

(a) Business Associate agrees to not Use or disclose Protected Health Information other than as permitted or required pursuant to the Agreement, any other related agreement executed by the parties hereto, and by this BA Agreement or as Required by Law.

(b) Business Associate agrees to use appropriate safeguards and comply with Subpart C of 45 CFR Part 164 with respect to electronic protected health information, to prevent Use or Disclosure of the Protected Health Information other than as provided by the Agreement, any other related agreement executed by the parties hereto, or this BA Agreement.

(c) Business Associate agrees to report to Covered Entity within five (5) business days, any Use or Disclosure of the Protected Health Information not provided for by the Agreement, any other related agreement executed by the parties hereto, or this BA Agreement, of which it becomes aware, including breaches of Unsecured Protected Health Information as required by 45 CFR Part 164.410. Such report shall include, without limitation, the identification of each Individual whose Unsecured Protected Health Information has been, or is reasonably believed by the Business Associate to have been, accessed, acquired, or disclosed during such Breach. This includes, but is not limited to, a Breach of the security of any data covered by Section 501.171, Florida Statutes, if applicable.

(d) In accordance with 45 CFR Part 164.502(e)(1)(ii) and Part 164.308(b)(2), if applicable, Business Associate agrees to ensure that any agent or Subcontractor that create, receive, maintain, or transmit Protected Health Information on behalf of Business Associate agrees in writing to the same restrictions, conditions and requirements that apply to Business Associate with respect to such information. Upon Covered Entity's request, Business Associate shall make such written agreements between Business Associate and its agents or Subcontractors available to Covered Entity for its review.

(e) To the extent Business Associate has Protected Health Information in a Designated Record Set that is not maintained by Covered Entity, Business Associate agrees to provide access, at the request of Covered Entity (which may also be on behalf of an Individual), to Protected Health Information in a Designated Record Set, to Covered Entity in order to meet the requirements under 45 CFR Part 164.524, including provision of records in electronic form (including those requests made by Covered Entity on behalf of an Individual), to the extent required by the HITECH Act.

(f) Business Associate agrees to make any amendment(s) to Protected Health Information in its possession contained in a Designated Record Set that Covered Entity directs or agrees to pursuant to 45 CFR Part 164.526, at the request of Covered Entity, or take other measures as necessary to satisfy Covered Entity's obligations under 45 CFR Part 164.526.

(g) To the extent that Business Associate is to carry out one or more of Covered Entity's obligation(s) under Subpart E of 45 CFR Part 164, Business Associate shall comply with the requirements of Subpart E that apply to Covered Entity in the performance of such obligation(s).

(h) Business Associate agrees to make its internal practices, books, and records relating to the Use and Disclosure of Protected Health Information received from, or created or received

by Business Associate on behalf of Covered Entity, available to the Secretary, in a time and manner designated by the Secretary, for purposes of the Secretary determining Covered Entity's compliance with the HIPAA Rules.

(i) Business Associate agrees to document and maintain a record of all Disclosures of Protected Health Information in its possession and information related to such Disclosures as would be required for Covered Entity to respond to a request by an Individual for an accounting of Disclosures of Protected Health Information in accordance with 45 CFR Part 164.528, the HITECH Act, and Florida law.

(j) Business Associate agrees to provide to Covered Entity information collected in accordance with Section 2(i) herein, to permit Covered Entity to respond to a request by an Individual for an accounting of Disclosures of Protected Health Information in accordance with 45 CFR Part 164.528, the HITECH Act, and Florida law. Such accounting must be provided without cost to the individual or Covered Entity if it is the first accounting requested by an individual within any twelve (12) month period; however, a reasonable, cost-based fee may be charged for subsequent accountings if Business Associate informs the individual in advance of the fee and is afforded an opportunity to withdraw or modify the request. Such accounting is limited to disclosures that were made in the six (6) years prior to the request (not including disclosures prior to the compliance date of the Privacy Rule) and shall be provided for as long as Business Associate maintains the PHI.

(k) Business Associate agrees to, subject to subsection 4(c) below, return to the Covered Entity or destroy, within fifteen (15) calendar days of the termination of this BA Agreement, the Protected Health Information in its possession and retain no copies.

(l) Business Associate agrees to mitigate, to the extent practicable, any harmful effect that is known to either Party, of a use or Disclosure of Protected Health Information in violation of this BA Agreement.

(m) Business Associate agrees to indemnify, insure, defend, and hold harmless Covered Entity and Covered Entity's employees, directors, officers, subcontractors, agents, or members of its workforce, each of the foregoing hereinafter referred to as an "indemnified party," against all actual and direct losses suffered by the indemnified party and all liability to third parties arising from or in connection with any Breach of this BA Agreement or of any warranty hereunder or from any negligence, wrongful acts, or omissions, including the failure to perform its obligations under HIPAA, as well as the additional obligations under the HITECH Act, by Business Associate or its employees, directors, officers, subcontractors, agents, or members of its workforce. This includes, but is not limited to, expenses associated with notification to Individuals and/or the media in the event of a Breach of Protected Health Information held by Business Associate. Accordingly, on demand, Business Associate shall reimburse any indemnified party for any and all actual and direct losses, liabilities, lost profits, fines, penalties, costs or expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) which may for any reason be imposed upon any indemnified party by reason of any suit, claim, action, proceeding or demand by any third party which results from the indemnifying party's Breach hereunder. The provisions of this paragraph shall survive the expiration or termination of this BA Agreement for any reason.

(n) In addition to its overall obligations with respect to Protected Health Information, to the extent required by the Security Rule, Business Associate will:

(1) implement administrative, physical, and technical safeguards that reasonably and appropriately protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the electronic Protected Health Information (EPHI) that it creates, receives, maintains, or transmits on behalf of Covered Entity as required by HIPAA;

(2) ensure that any agent or Subcontractor to whom it provides such EPHI agrees to implement reasonable and appropriate safeguards to protect the EPHI; and

(3) that all PHI or EPHI be secured when accessed by Business Associate's employees, agents, or subcontractors, limited to the legitimate business needs while working with the PHI or EPHI; and

(4) that any personnel changes by Business Associate, eliminating the legitimate business needs for employees, agents, or contractors' access to PHI – either by revision of duties or termination – shall be immediately reported to Covered Entity, or no later than the third business day after the personnel change becomes effective; and

(5) report to Covered Entity any Security Incident of which it becomes aware in accordance with section 2(c) herein.

(6) periodically conduct an accurate and thorough assessment of the potential risks and vulnerabilities to the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of electronic protected health information held by Business Associate and implement security measures sufficient to reduce risks and vulnerabilities in accordance with 45 CFR § 164.306(a).

(o) Except as otherwise allowed in this BA Agreement, HIPAA, and the HITECH Act, Business Associate shall neither directly nor indirectly receive remuneration in exchange for any Protected Health Information of an Individual unless the Individual has provided a valid, HIPAA-compliant authorization.

(p) Business Associate shall use and disclose only the Minimum Necessary Protected Health Information to accomplish the intended purpose of such Use, Disclosure, or request. Prior to any Use or Disclosure, Business Associate shall determine whether a Limited Data Set would be sufficient for these purposes.

(q) Covered Entity delegates to Business Associate the requirement under HIPAA and the HITECH Act to notify affected Individuals of a Breach of Unsecured Protected Health Information if such Breach results from, or is related to, an act or omission of Business Associate or the agents or representatives of Business Associate. Business Associate shall perform such notifications and any other reasonable remediation services (1) at Business Associate's sole cost and expense, and (2) in compliance with all applicable laws including HIPAA, the HITECH Act, and the Florida Information Protection Act (Section 501.171, Florida Statutes). Business

Associate shall also provide Covered Entity with the opportunity, in advance, to review and approve of the form and content of any Breach notification that Business Associate provides to Individuals.

(r) Business Associate agrees to comply with the following:

(1) Sections 164.308 (administrative safeguards), 164.310 (physical safeguards), 164.312 (technical safeguards) and 164.316 (policies and procedures and documentation requirements) of the Security Rule shall apply to Business Associate in the same manner that such sections apply to Covered Entity. The additional requirements of the HITECH Act that relate to security and that are made applicable with respect to covered entities shall also be applicable to Business Associate and shall be and by this reference hereby are incorporated into this BA Agreement.

(2) Unless Covered Entity agrees, in writing, that this requirement is infeasible with respect to particular data, Business Associate shall secure all Protected Health Information by a technology standard that renders Protected Health Information unusable, unreadable, or indecipherable to unauthorized individuals and is developed or endorsed by a standards developing organization that is accredited by the American National Standards Institute and is consistent with guidance issued by the Secretary specifying the technologies and methodologies that render Protected Health Information unusable, unreadable, or indecipherable to unauthorized individuals, including the use of standards developed under Section 3002(b)(2)(B)(vi) of the Public Health Service Act, as added by the HITECH Act.

(3) Business Associate may Use and Disclose Protected Health Information that Business Associate obtains or creates only if such Use or Disclosure, respectively, is in compliance with each applicable requirement of Section 164.504(e) of the Privacy Rule, relating to business associate contracts. The additional requirements of Subtitle D of the HITECH Act that relate to privacy and that are made applicable with respect to Covered Entity shall also be applicable to Business Associate and shall be and by this reference hereby are incorporated into this BA Agreement.

(4) In accordance with Section 164.504(e)(1)(ii) of the Privacy Rule, each Party agrees that, if it knows of a pattern of activity or practice of the other Party that constitutes a material Breach or violation of the other Party's obligation herein, the non-breaching Party will take reasonable steps to cure the Breach or end the violation, as applicable, and, if such steps are unsuccessful, terminate the contract or arrangement, if feasible, or if termination is not feasible, report the problem to the Secretary.

(s) Business Associate shall abide by the limitations of Covered Entity's Notice of Privacy Practices, which it has knowledge (a copy may be provided upon request by the Business Associate). Any use or disclosure permitted by this BA Agreement may be amended by changes to Covered Entity's Notice; provided, however, that the amended Notice shall not affect permitted uses and disclosures on which Business Associate relied prior to receiving notice of such amended Notice.

(t) Business Associate agrees to review and understand the HIPAA Rules as it applies to Business Associate, and to comply with the applicable requirements of the HIPAA Rule, as well as any applicable amendments.

3. Permitted Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information by Business Associate

(a) General Use and Disclosure Provisions. Except as otherwise limited herein, Business Associate may Use or Disclose Protected Health Information obtained from or on behalf of Covered Entity to perform functions, activities, or services for, or on behalf of, Covered Entity as more particularly described by the Agreement and any other related agreement executed by the parties hereto, provided that such Use or Disclosure complies with HIPAA. Business Associate acknowledges and agrees that it acquires no title or rights to the Protected Health Information, including any de-identified information, as a result of this BA Agreement.

(b) Specific Use and Disclosure Provisions.

(1) Business Associate agrees to make Uses and Disclosures and requests for Protected Health Information consistent with Covered Entity's Minimum Necessary policies and procedures.

(2) Business Associate may Use and disclose Protected Health Information for the proper and necessary management and administration of Business Associate or to carry out the legal responsibilities of Business Associate, provided that, as to any such Disclosure, the following requirements are met:

(i) the Disclosure is required by law; or

(ii) Business Associate obtains reasonable assurances from the person to whom the information is disclosed that it will remain confidential and be used or further disclosed only as required by law or for the purpose for which it was disclosed to the person, and the person notifies Business Associate of any instances of which it is aware in which the confidentiality of the information has been breached.

(3) Except as otherwise limited in this BA Agreement, Business Associate may Use Protected Health Information to provide Data Aggregation services to Covered Entity, relating to the Health Care Operations of Covered Entity.

(4) If the Underlying Agreement permits or requires Business Associate to Use de-identified Protected Health Information, the Protected Health Information must be de-identified in accordance with 45 CFR 164.514 (a)-(c).

(c) Withdrawal of Authorization. If the use or disclosure of PHI as provided herein is based upon an Individual's specific authorization for the use or disclosure of his or her PHI, and the Individual revokes such authorization, the effective date of such authorization has expired, or

such authorization is found to be defective in any manner that renders it invalid, Business Associate shall, if it has notice of such revocation, expiration, or invalidity, cease the use and disclosure of the Individual's PHI except to the extent it has relied on such use or disclosure, or if an exception under the Privacy Rule expressly applies.

4. Term, Survival and Termination

(a) Term. The term of this BA Agreement shall be effective upon the date of execution by Covered Entity and Business Associate and shall terminate when Business Associate no longer possesses Protected Health Information from Covered Entity or on the date Covered Entity terminates for cause set forth herein, whichever is sooner.

(b) Termination for Cause. Upon Covered Entity's knowledge of a material Breach by Business Associate, Covered Entity shall provide written notice to Business Associate and may terminate this BA Agreement and any related agreement with Business Associate if Business Associate does not cure the Breach or end the violation within fourteen (14) calendar days.

(c) Effect of Termination.

(1) Except as provided below in section 4(c)(2) herein, upon termination of this BA Agreement, for any reason, Business Associate shall return to Covered Entity or destroy all Protected Health Information received from Covered Entity, or created or received by Business Associate on behalf of Covered Entity, that the Business Associate still maintains in any form. This provision shall apply to Protected Health Information that is in the possession of Subcontractors or agents of Business Associate. Business Associate shall retain no copies of the Protected Health Information.

(2) In the event that Business Associate determines that returning or destroying the Protected Health Information is infeasible, Business Associate shall provide to Covered Entity written notification of the conditions that make return or destruction infeasible, and, if Covered Entity determines that return or destruction is infeasible, Business Associate shall extend the protections of this BA Agreement to such Protected Health Information and limit further Uses and Disclosures of such Protected Health Information to those purposes that make the return or destruction infeasible, for so long as Business Associate maintains such Protected Health Information.

(3) If Business Associate needs to retain Protected Health Information after termination Business Associate shall:

(i) retain only that Protected Health Information which is necessary for Business Associate to continue its proper management and administration or to carry out its legal responsibilities;

(ii) return to Covered Entity or, if agreed to by Covered Entity, destroy the remaining protected health information that the business associate still maintains in any form;

(iii) continue to use appropriate safeguards and comply with Subpart C of 45 CFR Part 164 with respect to electronic protected health information to prevent Use or Disclosure of the Protected Health Information, other than as provided for in this section, for as long as Business Associate retains the Protected Health Information;

(iv) not Use or disclose the protected health information retained by Business Associate other than for the purposes for which such Protected Health Information was retained and subject to the same conditions set out at section 3 of this BA Agreement, which applied prior to termination; and

(v) return to Covered Entity or, if agreed to by Covered Entity, destroy the Protected Health Information retained by Business Associate when it is no longer needed by Business Associate for its proper management and administration or to carry out its legal responsibilities.

(d) Survival. Business Associate's obligations as described herein shall survive the termination of this BA Agreement and shall end when all of the Protected Health Information provided by Covered Entity to Business Associate, or created or received by Business Associate on behalf of Covered Entity, is destroyed or returned to Covered Entity.

5. Interpretation and Amendment of this BA Agreement

To the degree the terms of this BA Agreement conflict with the terms of any underlying contract, the terms of this BA Agreement shall control. A reference in this BA Agreement to a section of the Privacy Rule means the section as in effect or as amended. Any ambiguity or inconsistency in this BA Agreement shall be resolved in favor of a meaning that permits Covered Entity to comply with the Privacy Rule, the Security Rule, and the HITECH Act. The parties hereto agree to negotiate in good faith to amend this BA Agreement from time to time as is necessary for Covered Entity to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Rule and HIPAA and for Business Associate to provide services to Covered Entity. However, no change, amendment, or modification of this BA Agreement shall be valid unless it is set forth in writing and agreed to by both parties.

6. Notices

Any notice required or permitted by this BA Agreement to be given or delivered shall be in writing and shall be deemed given or delivered if delivered in person, or sent by courier or expedited delivery service, or sent by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, or sent by facsimile (if confirmed), to the address set forth below. Each Party may change its address for purposes of this BA agreement by written notice to the other Party.

Covered Entity: Charles F. Dodge, City Manager
City of Pembroke Pines

601 City Center Way, 4th Floor
Pembroke Pines, Florida 33025
Telephone No. (954) 450-1040

Copy To: Samuel S. Goren, City Attorney
Goren, Cherof, Doody & Ezrol, P.A.
3099 East Commercial Boulevard, Suite 200
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33308
Telephone No. (954) 771-4500
Facsimile No. (954) 771-4923

Business Associate: Irma M. Diaz – Owner/President
Doviniti-J15:12, Inc. d/b/a Homewatch Caregivers of Southwest
Broward
13798 NW 4th Street, Suite #310
Sunrise, FL 33325
Telephone No.: (954) 645-2945
E-Mail: idiaz@hwcg.com

7. Florida Information Protection Act

Business Associate agrees and understands that to the extent that the services and/or goods provided under the BA Agreement consist, at least in part, of “customer records” that contain “personal information,” as defined in the Florida Information Protection Act, Section 501.171, Florida Statutes (the “Act”). Accordingly, as required by the Act, Business Associate agrees to implement safeguards to protect customer records containing personal information, in whatever form retained and stored, from a breach of security. The procedures specified herein shall not supersede any requirements specified by the Act. The provisions of the Act, as may be amended from time to time, shall prevail in the event of any conflict. If customer records in Business Associate’s possession are breached in the manner set forth in the Act, Business Associate shall immediately notify Covered Entity as indicated herein, and Business Associate shall work with Covered Entity as required by the Act to assist in any of the following actions:

- (a) Investigate the alleged breach and determine if an actual breach has occurred, which may include the use of law enforcement officials as needed and as determined by Covered Entity;
- (b) Provide notice to any and all consumers whose personal information has been breached;
- (c) Provide any and all other notices to governmental agencies that may be applicable under the Act, if a breach has reached a particular threshold, as defined in the Act, which may include but is not limited to: credit reporting agencies and the Florida Department of Legal Affairs;
- (d) Ensure that Business Associate’s third-party agents are made aware of the Act and any requirements to comply with the Act, and require that those third-party agents that store customer records of Covered Entity who experience a breach notify Covered Entity immediately, and work with Business Associate and Covered Entity as outlined in this section of the Addendum.

8. **Miscellaneous**

(a) **Rights of Proprietary Information.** Covered Entity retains any and all rights to the proprietary information, confidential information, and PHI/EPHI it releases to Business Associate.

(b) **Assignment of Rights and Delegation of Duties.** This BA Agreement is binding upon and inures to the benefit of the Parties hereto and their respective successors and permitted assigns. However, neither Party may assign any of its rights or delegate any of its obligations under this BA Agreement without the prior written consent of the other Party, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary, however, Covered Entity retains the right to assign or delegate any of its rights or obligations hereunder to any of its wholly owned subsidiaries, affiliates, or successor companies. Assignments made in violation of this provision are null and void.

(c) **No Waiver.** Failure or delay on the part of either Party to exercise any right, power, privilege, or remedy hereunder shall not constitute a waiver thereof. No provision of this BA Agreement may be waived by either Party except by a writing signed by an authorized representative of the Party making the waiver.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this BA Agreement, effective as of the last signature date below.

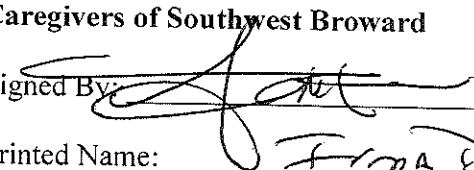
Covered Entity:

Business Associate:

City of Pembroke Pines

Doviniti-J15:12, Inc. d/b/a Homewatch
Caregivers of Southwest Broward

By: _____

Signed By: 

CHARLES F. DODGE,
City Manager

Printed Name: Irma Diaz

Date: _____

Date: 2/6/2024

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Print Name: _____
OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY