

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT**

**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): **June 25, 2024**

**Sterling Real Estate Trust**

dba Sterling Multifamily Trust  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

<b>North Dakota</b>	<b>000-54295</b>	<b>90-0115411</b>
(State or other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(IRS Employer Identification No.)
<b>4340 18th Ave South Ste. 200</b>		
<b>Fargo, North Dakota</b>		<b>58103</b>
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)		(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(701) 353-2720**

(Former name or former address if changed since last report.)

Securities Registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act

Title of Each Class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Shares, \$0.01 par value per share	N/A	N/A

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- ☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- ☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (17 CFR § 230.405) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR § 240.12b-2).

Emerging growth company ☐

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. ☐

## Item 1.01. Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement

### *New Promissory Note*

On June 25, 2024, Sterling Real Estate Trust (the “Company”), through its operating partnership, Sterling Properties L.L.P. (the “Borrower”) entered into a promissory note and commercial guarantee (collectively, the “New Promissory Note”) with Bell Bank in the principal amount of \$10,000,000. The New Promissory Note bears a variable interest at a rate that is subject to change from time to time based on changes in an independent index, which is the “Prime Rate” as published in the Wall Street Journal, with principal plus accrued and unpaid interest due and payable on December 20, 2024. The Borrower may prepay the New Promissory Note without penalty.

The New Promissory Note contains customary events of default, upon which Bell Bank may declare the entire unpaid principal balance of the New Promissory Note and all accrued and unpaid interest immediately due and payable. The New Promissory Note is guaranteed by the Company.

The Company has a historical and ongoing relationship with Bell Bank, which has periodically provided the Company with certain financial services. James S. Wieland, a Trustee of the Company, also serves as a Board Member of Bell Bank and may have an indirect material interest in any such engagement and related transactions.

The descriptions of the New Promissory Note contained herein does not purport to be complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to the complete text of the New Promissory Note and Commercial Guaranty, copies of which are filed herewith as Exhibit 10.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and are incorporated by reference herein.

## Item 2.03. Creation of Direct Financial Obligation or an Obligation under an Off-Balance Sheet Arrangement of a Registrant

The information provided in Item 1.01 of this Current Report on Form 8-K is incorporated by reference herein.

## Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

Exhibit No.	Title
10.1	<a href="#"><u>Bell Bank Promissory Note, dated June 25, 2024, between Bell Bank and Sterling Properties, LLLP, together with</u></a>
104	<a href="#"><u>Commercial Guaranty of Sterling Real Estate Trust, dated June 25, 2024.</u></a> Cover Page Interactive Data File, (Formatted in inline XBRL).

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## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

### **Sterling Real Estate Trust**

Date: July 3, 2024

By: /s/ Megan E. Schreiner

Name: Megan E. Schreiner

Title: President

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\*0955\*

## PROMISSORY NOTE

Principal	Loan Date	Maturity	Loan No	Call / Coll	Account	Officer	Initials
\$10,000,000.00	06-20-2024	12-20-2024	2391615	410 / 205	0001300362	NLA01	

References in the boxes above are for Lender's use only and do not limit the applicability of this document to any particular loan or item.  
Any item above containing "\*\*\*\*\*" has been omitted due to text length limitations.

**Borrower:** STERLING PROPERTIES, LLLP  
4340 18TH AVE S STE 200  
FARGO, ND 58103

**Lender:** BELL BANK  
CENTER OFFICE  
3100 13th Ave South  
PO Box 10877  
Fargo, ND 58106-0877  
(701) 298-1500

**Principal Amount: \$10,000,000.00**

**Date of Note: June 20, 2024**

**PROMISE TO PAY.** STERLING PROPERTIES, LLLP ("Borrower") promises to pay to BELL BANK ("Lender"), or order, in lawful money of the United States of America, the principal amount of Ten Million & 00/100 Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) or so much as may be outstanding, together with interest on the unpaid outstanding principal balance of each advance. Interest shall be calculated from the date of each advance until repayment of each advance.

**PAYMENT.** Borrower will pay this loan in one payment of all outstanding principal plus all accrued unpaid interest on December 20, 2024. In addition, Borrower will pay regular monthly payments of all accrued unpaid interest due as of each payment date, beginning July 20, 2024, with all subsequent interest payments to be due on the same day of each month after that. Unless otherwise agreed or required by applicable law, payments will be applied to any accrued unpaid interest first; then to principal; then to late charges and other charges. Payments received at Lender's address on any business day will be credited to your loan as of the date received. For purposes of receiving payments, business day is defined as Monday-Friday, excluding Federal and bank holidays. Borrower will pay Lender at Lender's address shown above or at such other place as Lender may designate in writing.

**VARIABLE INTEREST RATE.** The interest rate on this Note is subject to change from time to time based on changes in an independent index which is the "Prime Rate" as published in the Wall Street Journal (the "Index"). The Index is not necessarily the lowest rate charged by Lender on its loans. Lender will tell Borrower the current Index rate upon Borrower's request. The interest rate change will not occur more often than each day, using the effective date as published in the Wall Street Journal. Borrower understands that Lender may make loans based on other rates as well. Interest on the unpaid principal balance of this Note will be calculated as described in the "INTEREST CALCULATION METHOD" paragraph using a rate equal to the Index. If Lender determines, in its sole discretion, that the Index has become unavailable or unreliable, either temporarily, indefinitely, or permanently, during the term of this Note, Lender may amend this Note by designating a substantially similar substitute index. Lender may also amend and add a positive or negative margin (percentage added to or subtracted from the substitute index value) as part of the rate determination. In making these amendments, Lender may take into consideration any then-prevailing market convention for selecting a substitute index and margin for the specific Index that is unavailable or unreliable. Such an amendment to the terms of this Note will become effective and bind Borrower 10 business days after Lender gives written notice to Borrower without any action or consent of the Borrower. NOTICE: Under no circumstances will the interest rate on this Note be less than 6.500% per annum or more than the maximum rate allowed by applicable law.

**INTEREST CALCULATION METHOD.** Interest on this Note is computed on a 365/360 basis; that is, by applying the ratio of the interest rate over a year of 360 days, multiplied by the outstanding principal balance, multiplied by the actual number of days the principal balance is outstanding. All interest payable under this Note is computed using this method.

**PREPAYMENT.** Borrower agrees that all loan fees and other prepaid finance charges are earned fully as of the date of the loan and will not be subject to refund upon early payment (whether voluntary or as a result of default), except as otherwise required by law. Except for the foregoing, Borrower may pay without penalty all or a portion of the amount owed earlier than it is due. Early payments will not, unless agreed to by Lender in writing, relieve Borrower of Borrower's obligation to continue to make payments of accrued unpaid interest. Rather, early payments will reduce the principal balance due. Borrower agrees not to send Lender payments marked "paid in full", "without recourse", or similar language. If Borrower sends such a payment, Lender may accept it without losing any of Lender's rights under this Note, and Borrower will remain obligated to pay any further amount owed to Lender. All written communications concerning disputed amounts, including any check or other payment instrument that indicates that the payment constitutes "payment in full" of the amount owed or that is tendered with other conditions or limitations or as full satisfaction of a disputed amount must be mailed or delivered to: BELL BANK, CENTER OFFICE, 3100 13th Ave South, PO Box 10877, Fargo, ND 58106-0877.

**LATE CHARGE.** If a payment is 11 days or more late, Borrower will be charged 5.000% of the unpaid portion of the regularly scheduled payment or \$25.00, whichever is greater.

**INTEREST AFTER DEFAULT.** Upon default, including failure to pay upon final maturity, the interest rate on this Note shall be increased by adding an additional 3.000 percentage point margin ("Default Rate Margin"). The Default Rate Margin shall also apply to each succeeding interest rate change that would have applied had there been no default. However, in no event will the interest rate exceed the maximum interest rate limitations under applicable law.

**DEFAULT.** Each of the following shall constitute an event of default ("Event of Default") under this Note:

**Payment Default.** Borrower fails to make any payment when due under this Note.

**Other Defaults.** Borrower fails to comply with or to perform any other term, obligation, covenant or condition contained in this Note or in any of the related documents or to comply with or to perform any term, obligation, covenant or condition contained in any other agreement between Lender and Borrower.

**Default in Favor of Third Parties.** Borrower or any Grantor defaults under any loan, extension of credit, security agreement, purchase or sales agreement, or any other agreement, in favor of any other creditor or person that may materially affect any of Borrower's property or Borrower's ability to repay this Note or perform Borrower's obligations under this Note or any of the related documents.

**False Statements.** Any warranty, representation or statement made or furnished to Lender by Borrower or on Borrower's behalf under this Note or the related documents is false or misleading in any material respect, either now or at the time made or furnished or becomes false or misleading at any time thereafter.

**Death or Insolvency.** The dissolution or termination of Borrower's existence as a going business or the death of any partner, the insolvency of Borrower, the appointment of a receiver for any part of Borrower's property, any assignment for the benefit of creditors, any type of creditor workout, or the commencement of any proceeding under any bankruptcy or insolvency laws by or against Borrower.

**Creditor or Forfeiture Proceedings.** Commencement of foreclosure or forfeiture proceedings, whether by judicial proceeding, self-help, repossession or any other method, by any creditor of Borrower or by any governmental agency against any collateral securing the loan. This includes a garnishment of any of Borrower's accounts, including deposit accounts, with Lender. However, this Event of Default shall not apply if there is a good faith dispute by Borrower as to the validity or reasonableness of the claim which is the basis of the creditor or forfeiture proceeding and if Borrower gives Lender written notice of the creditor or forfeiture proceeding and deposits with Lender monies or a surety bond for the creditor or forfeiture proceeding, in an amount determined by Lender, in its sole discretion, as being an adequate reserve or bond for the dispute.

**Events Affecting Guarantor.** Any of the preceding events occurs with respect to any Guarantor of any of the indebtedness or any Guarantor dies or becomes incompetent, or revokes or disputes the validity of, or liability under, any guaranty of the indebtedness evidenced by this Note.

**Events Affecting General Partner of Borrower.** Any of the preceding events occurs with respect to any general partner of Borrower or any general partner dies or becomes incompetent.

**Change In Ownership.** The resignation or expulsion of any general partner with an ownership interest of twenty-five percent (25%) or more in Borrower.

**Adverse Change.** A material adverse change occurs in Borrower's financial condition, or Lender believes the prospect of payment or performance of this Note is impaired.

**Insecurity.** Lender in good faith believes itself insecure.

**PROMISSORY NOTE  
(Continued)**

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**LENDER'S RIGHTS.** Upon default, Lender may declare the entire unpaid principal balance under this Note and all accrued unpaid interest immediately due, and then Borrower will pay that amount.

**ATTORNEYS' FEES; EXPENSES.** Lender may hire or pay someone else to help collect this Note if Borrower does not pay. Borrower will pay Lender that amount. This includes, subject to any limits under applicable law, Lender's reasonable attorneys' fees and Lender's legal expenses, whether or not there is a lawsuit, including reasonable attorneys' fees, expenses for bankruptcy proceedings (including efforts to modify or vacate any automatic stay or injunction), and appeals. If not prohibited by applicable law, Borrower also will pay any court costs, in addition to all other sums provided by law.

**JURY WAIVER.** Lender and Borrower hereby waive the right to any jury trial in any action, proceeding, or counterclaim brought by either Lender or Borrower against the other.

**GOVERNING LAW.** This Note will be governed by federal law applicable to Lender and, to the extent not preempted by federal law, the laws of the State of North Dakota without regard to its conflicts of law provisions. This Note has been accepted by Lender in the State of North Dakota.

**CHOICE OF VENUE.** If there is a lawsuit, Borrower agrees upon Lender's request to submit to the jurisdiction of the courts of Cass County, State of North Dakota.

**RIGHT OF SETOFF.** To the extent permitted by applicable law, Lender reserves a right of setoff in all Borrower's accounts with Lender (whether checking, savings, or some other account). This includes all accounts Borrower holds jointly with someone else and all accounts Borrower may open in the future. However, this does not include any IRA or Keogh accounts, or any trust accounts for which setoff would be prohibited by law. Borrower authorizes Lender, to the extent permitted by applicable law, to charge or setoff all sums owing on the indebtedness against any and all such accounts, and, at Lender's option, to administratively freeze all such accounts to allow Lender to protect Lender's charge and setoff rights provided in this paragraph.

**LINE OF CREDIT.** This Note evidences a straight line of credit. Once the total amount of principal has been advanced, Borrower is not entitled to further loan advances. Advances under this Note may be requested either orally or in writing by Borrower or as provided in this paragraph. Lender may, but need not, require that all oral requests be confirmed in writing. All communications, instructions, or directions by telephone or otherwise to Lender are to be directed to Lender's office shown above. The following person or persons are authorized to request advances and authorize payments under the line of credit until Lender receives from Borrower, at Lender's address shown above, written notice of revocation of such authority: **LUKE B. SWENSON, Chief Investment Officer of STERLING REAL ESTATE TRUST, General Partner of STERLING PROPERTIES, LLLP.** Borrower agrees to be liable for all sums either: (A) advanced in accordance with the instructions of an authorized person or (B) credited to any of Borrower's accounts with Lender. The unpaid principal balance owing on this Note at any time may be evidenced by endorsements on this Note or by Lender's internal records, including daily computer print-outs. Lender will have no obligation to advance funds under this Note if: (A) Borrower or any guarantor is in default under the terms of this Note or any agreement that Borrower or any guarantor has with Lender, including any agreement made in connection with the signing of this Note; (B) Borrower or any guarantor ceases doing business or is insolvent; (C) any guarantor seeks, claims or otherwise attempts to limit, modify or revoke such guarantor's guarantee of this Note or any other loan with Lender; (D) Borrower has applied funds provided pursuant to this Note for purposes other than those authorized by Lender; or (E) Lender in good faith believes itself insecure.

**OBLIGATION TO NOTIFY.** Borrower agrees to promptly notify Lender (i) of any changes in ownership of those individuals or entities owning 25% or more of the equity interests in Borrower, and (ii) if the identity of the individuals or entities with significant responsibility to manage, control or direct Borrower changes. Borrower agrees to execute and deliver a certification in favor of Lender setting forth information on the ownership and control of Borrower, as requested by Lender from time to time, including following any ownership or control change in Borrower.

**UNCONDITIONALLY CANCELABLE COMMITMENT.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Note or in any document or instrument executed in connection with this Note, Lender's commitment to make advances to Borrower under this Note shall at all times be unconditionally cancelable by Lender within the meaning of 12 C.F.R. §324.2, with or without cause, to the extent permitted under applicable law.

**SUCCESSOR INTERESTS.** The terms of this Note shall be binding upon Borrower, and upon Borrower's heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns, and shall inure to the benefit of Lender and its successors and assigns.

**NOTIFY US OF INACCURATE INFORMATION WE REPORT TO CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCIES.** Borrower may notify Lender if Lender reports any inaccurate information about Borrower's account(s) to a consumer reporting agency. Borrower's written notice describing the specific inaccuracy(ies) should be sent to Lender at the following address: BELL BANK 3100 13th Avenue South Fargo, ND 58106-0877.

**COUNTERPARTS AND ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION.** This document, and any related documents, may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which, when so executed, shall be deemed an original, and all such counterparts, when taken together, shall constitute one and the same document. This document, and any related documents, may be delivered by facsimile or PDF or other electronic transmission, and if delivered by facsimile or PDF or other electronic transmission, shall constitute and be admissible as original documents and evidence of the signer's execution of the documents.

**FURTHER ASSURANCES AND LIMITED POWER OF ATTORNEY.** The parties hereto agree to do all things deemed necessary by Lender in order to fully document the loan evidenced by this Note and any related agreements, and will fully cooperate concerning the execution and delivery of security agreements, stock powers, instructions and/or other documents pertaining to any collateral intended to secure this indebtedness. Borrower agrees to assist in the cure of any defects in the execution, delivery or substance of the Note and related agreements, and in the creation and perfection of any liens, security interests or other collateral rights securing the Note. Furthermore, the Borrower, for and in consideration of Lender approving, closing and funding this Note, hereby grants authority to any authorized representative of Lender, the limited power to correct and/or execute or initial all typographical or clerical errors discovered in any of the loan documents required to be executed by Borrower in connection with this loan. No other action may be taken by Lender for Borrower. The Borrower hereby ratifies and confirms all action taken pursuant to this limited power of attorney. In the event this limited power of attorney is exercised, the Borrower will be notified in writing and will receive a copy of the document that was executed, initialed or revised on the Borrower's behalf.

**GENERAL PROVISIONS.** If any part of this Note cannot be enforced, this fact will not affect the rest of the Note. Lender may delay or forgo enforcing any of its rights or remedies under this Note without losing them. Borrower and any other person who signs, guarantees or endorses this Note, to the extent allowed by law, waive presentment, demand for payment, and notice of dishonor. Upon any change in the terms of this Note, and unless otherwise expressly stated in writing, no party who signs this Note, whether as maker, guarantor, accommodation maker or endorser, shall be released from liability. All such parties agree that Lender may renew or extend (repeatedly and for any length of time) this loan or release any party, partner, or guarantor or collateral; or impair, fail to realize upon or perfect Lender's security interest in the collateral; and take any other action deemed necessary by Lender without the consent of or notice to anyone. All such parties also agree that Lender may modify this loan without the consent of or notice to anyone other than the party with whom the modification is made. The obligations under this Note are joint and several.

**PRIOR TO SIGNING THIS NOTE, BORROWER READ AND UNDERSTOOD ALL THE PROVISIONS OF THIS NOTE, INCLUDING THE VARIABLE INTEREST RATE PROVISIONS. BORROWER AGREES TO THE TERMS OF THE NOTE.**

**BORROWER ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF A COMPLETED COPY OF THIS PROMISSORY NOTE.**

**BORROWER:**

STERLING PROPERTIES, LLLP

STERLING REAL ESTATE TRUST, General Partner of STERLING PROPERTIES, LLLP

By: /s/ Luke B. Swenson

LUKE B. SWENSON, Chief Investment Officer of  
STERLING REAL ESTATE TRUST



\*0220\*

**COMMERCIAL GUARANTY**

**Borrower:** STERLING PROPERTIES, LLLP  
4340 18TH AVE S STE 200  
FARGO, ND 58103

**Lender:** BELL BANK  
CENTER OFFICE  
3100 13th Ave South  
PO Box 10877  
Fargo, ND 58106-0877  
(701) 298-1500

**Guarantor:** STERLING REAL ESTATE TRUST  
4340 18TH AVE S STE 200  
FARGO, ND 58103

**CONTINUING GUARANTEE OF PAYMENT AND PERFORMANCE.** For good and valuable consideration, Guarantor absolutely and unconditionally guarantees full and punctual payment and satisfaction of the Indebtedness of Borrower to Lender, and the performance and discharge of all Borrower's obligations under the Note and the Related Documents. This is a guaranty of payment and performance and not of collection, so Lender can enforce this Guaranty against Guarantor even when Lender has not exhausted Lender's remedies against anyone else obligated to pay the Indebtedness or against any collateral securing the Indebtedness, this Guaranty or any other guaranty of the Indebtedness. Guarantor will make any payments to Lender or its order, on demand, in legal tender of the United States of America, in same-day funds, without set-off or deduction or counterclaim, and will otherwise perform Borrower's obligations under the Note and Related Documents. Under this Guaranty, Guarantor's liability is unlimited and Guarantor's obligations are continuing.

**INDEBTEDNESS.** The word "Indebtedness" as used in this Guaranty means all of the principal amount outstanding from time to time and at any one or more times, accrued unpaid interest thereon and all collection costs and legal expenses related thereto permitted by law, reasonable attorneys' fees, arising from any and all debts, liabilities and obligations of every nature or form, now existing or hereafter arising or acquired, that Borrower individually or collectively or interchangeably with others, owes or will owe Lender. "Indebtedness" includes, without limitation, loans, advances, debts, overdraft indebtedness, credit card indebtedness, lease obligations, liabilities and obligations under any interest rate protection agreements or foreign currency exchange agreements or commodity price protection agreements, other obligations, and liabilities of Borrower, and any present or future judgments against Borrower, future advances, loans or transactions that renew, extend, modify, refinance, consolidate or substitute these debts, liabilities and obligations whether: voluntarily or involuntarily incurred; due or to become due by their terms or acceleration; absolute or contingent; liquidated or unliquidated; determined or undetermined; direct or indirect; primary or secondary in nature or arising from a guaranty or surety; secured or unsecured; joint or several or joint and several; evidenced by a negotiable or non-negotiable instrument or writing; originated by Lender or another or others; barred or unenforceable against Borrower for any reason whatsoever; for any transactions that may be voidable for any reason (such as infancy, insanity, ultra vires or otherwise); and originated then reduced or extinguished and then afterwards increased or reinstated.

If Lender presently holds one or more guaranties, or hereafter receives additional guaranties from Guarantor, Lender's rights under all guaranties shall be cumulative. This Guaranty shall not (unless specifically provided below to the contrary) affect or invalidate any such other guaranties. Guarantor's liability will be Guarantor's aggregate liability under the terms of this Guaranty and any such other unterminted guaranties.

**CONTINUING GUARANTY.** THIS IS A "CONTINUING GUARANTY" UNDER WHICH GUARANTOR AGREES TO GUARANTEE THE FULL AND PUNCTUAL PAYMENT, PERFORMANCE AND SATISFACTION OF THE INDEBTEDNESS OF BORROWER TO LENDER, NOW EXISTING OR HEREFTER ARISING OR ACQUIRED, ON AN OPEN AND CONTINUING BASIS. ACCORDINGLY, ANY PAYMENTS MADE ON THE INDEBTEDNESS WILL NOT DISCHARGE OR DIMINISH GUARANTOR'S OBLIGATIONS AND LIABILITY UNDER THIS GUARANTY FOR ANY REMAINING AND SUCCEEDING INDEBTEDNESS EVEN WHEN ALL OR PART OF THE OUTSTANDING INDEBTEDNESS MAY BE A ZERO BALANCE FROM TIME TO TIME.

**DURATION OF GUARANTY.** This Guaranty will take effect when received by Lender without the necessity of any acceptance by Lender, or any notice to Guarantor or to Borrower, and will continue in full force until all the Indebtedness incurred or contracted before receipt by Lender of any notice of revocation shall have been fully and finally paid and satisfied and all of Guarantor's other obligations under this Guaranty shall have been performed in full. If Guarantor elects to revoke this Guaranty, Guarantor may only do so in writing. Guarantor's written notice of revocation must be mailed to Lender, by certified mail, at Lender's address listed above or such other place as Lender may designate in writing. Written revocation of this Guaranty will apply only to new Indebtedness created after actual receipt by Lender of Guarantor's written revocation. For this purpose and without limitation, the term "new Indebtedness" does not include the Indebtedness which at the time of notice of revocation is contingent, unliquidated, undetermined or not due and which later becomes absolute, liquidated, determined or due. For this purpose and without limitation, "new Indebtedness" does not include all or part of the Indebtedness that is: incurred by Borrower prior to revocation; incurred under a commitment that became binding before revocation; any renewals, extensions, substitutions, and modifications of the Indebtedness. This Guaranty shall bind Guarantor's estate as to the Indebtedness created both before and after Guarantor's death or incapacity, regardless of Lender's actual notice of Guarantor's death. Subject to the foregoing, Guarantor's executor or administrator or other legal representative may terminate this Guaranty in the same manner in which Guarantor might have terminated it and with the same effect. Release of any other guaranty or termination of any other guaranty of the Indebtedness shall not affect the liability of Guarantor under this Guaranty. A revocation Lender receives from any one or more Guarantors shall not affect the liability of any remaining Guarantors under this Guaranty. It is anticipated that fluctuations may occur in the aggregate amount of the Indebtedness covered by this Guaranty, and Guarantor specifically acknowledges and agrees that reductions in the amount of the Indebtedness, even to zero dollars (\$0.00), shall not constitute a termination of this Guaranty. This Guaranty is binding upon Guarantor and Guarantor's heirs, successors and assigns so long as any of the Indebtedness remains unpaid and even though the Indebtedness may from time to time be zero dollars (\$0.00).

**GUARANTOR'S AUTHORIZATION TO LENDER.** Guarantor authorizes Lender, either before or after any revocation hereof, without notice or demand and without lessening Guarantor's liability under this Guaranty, from time to time: (A) prior to revocation as set forth above, to make one or more additional secured or unsecured loans to Borrower, to lease equipment or other goods to Borrower, or otherwise to extend additional credit to Borrower; (B) to alter, compromise, renew, extend, accelerate, or otherwise change one or more times the time for payment or other terms of the Indebtedness or any part of the Indebtedness, including increases and decreases of the rate of interest on the Indebtedness; extensions may be repeated and may be for longer than the original loan term; (C) to take and hold security for the payment of this Guaranty or the Indebtedness, and exchange, enforce, waive, subordinate, fail or decide not to perfect, and release any such security, with or without the substitution of new collateral; (D) to release, substitute, agree not to sue, or deal with any one or more of Borrower's sureties, endorsers, or other guarantors on any terms or in any manner Lender may choose; (E) to determine how, when and what application of payments and credits shall be made on the Indebtedness; (F) to apply such security and direct the order or manner of sale thereof, including without limitation, any nonjudicial sale permitted by the terms of the controlling security agreement or deed of trust, as Lender in its discretion may determine; (G) to sell, transfer, assign or grant participations in all or any part of the Indebtedness; and (H) to assign or transfer this Guaranty in whole or in part.

**GUARANTOR'S REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES.** Guarantor represents and warrants to Lender that (A) no representations or agreements of any kind have been made to Guarantor which would limit or qualify in any way the terms of this Guaranty; (B) this Guaranty is executed at Borrower's request and not at the request of Lender; (C) Guarantor has full power, right and authority to enter into this Guaranty; (D) the provisions of this Guaranty do not conflict with or result in a default under any agreement or other instrument binding upon Guarantor and do not result in a violation of any law, regulation, court decree or order applicable to Guarantor; (E) Guarantor has not and will not, without the prior written consent of Lender, sell, lease, assign, encumber, hypothecate, transfer, or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of Guarantor's assets, or any interest therein; (F) upon Lender's request, Guarantor will provide to Lender financial and credit information in form acceptable to Lender, and all such financial information which currently has been, and all future financial information which will be provided to Lender is and will be true and correct in all material respects and fairly present Guarantor's financial condition as of the dates the financial information is provided; (G) no material adverse change has occurred in Guarantor's financial condition since the date of the most recent financial statements provided to Lender and no event has occurred which may materially adversely affect Guarantor's financial condition; (H) no litigation, claim, investigation, administrative proceeding or similar action (including those for unpaid taxes) against Guarantor is pending or threatened; (I) Lender has made no representation to Guarantor as to the creditworthiness of Borrower; and (J) Guarantor has established adequate means of obtaining from Borrower on a continuing basis information regarding Borrower's financial condition. Guarantor agrees to keep adequately informed from such means of any facts, events, or circumstances which might in any way affect Guarantor's risks under this Guaranty, and Guarantor further agrees that, absent a request for information, Lender shall have no obligation to disclose to Guarantor any information or documents acquired by Lender in the course of its relationship with Borrower.

**GUARANTOR'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.** Guarantor agrees to furnish Lender with the following:

Additional Requirements.



## COMMERCIAL GUARANTY (Continued)

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**Guarantor Business Financial Statements.** As soon as available, but in no event later than 180 days after the end of each fiscal year, Guarantor's balance sheet and income statement for the period then ended, audited by certified public accountant in form satisfactory to Lender.

**Guarantor Business Financial Statements.** As soon as available, but in no event later than 60 days after the end of each quarter, Guarantor's balance sheet and income statement for the period then ended, reviewed by certified public accountant in form satisfactory to Lender.

All financial reports required to be provided under this Guaranty shall be prepared in accordance with GAAP, or other comprehensive basis of accounting acceptable to Lender and designated by Lender in writing, applied on a consistent basis, and certified by Guarantor as being true and correct.

**GUARANTOR'S WAIVERS.** Except as prohibited by applicable law, Guarantor waives any right to require Lender (A) to continue lending money or to extend other credit to Borrower; (B) to make any presentment, protest, demand, or notice of any kind, including notice of any nonpayment of the Indebtedness or of any nonpayment related to any collateral, or notice of any action or nonaction on the part of Borrower, Lender, any surety, endorser, or other guarantor in connection with the Indebtedness or in connection with the creation of new or additional loans or obligations; (C) to resort for payment or to proceed directly or at once against any person, including Borrower or any other guarantor; (D) to proceed directly against or exhaust any collateral held by Lender from Borrower, any other guarantor, or any other person; (E) to give notice of the terms, time, and place of any public or private sale of personal property security held by Lender from Borrower or to comply with any other applicable provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code; (F) to pursue any other remedy within Lender's power; or (G) to commit any act or omission of any kind, or at any time, with respect to any matter whatsoever.

Guarantor also waives any and all rights or defenses based on suretyship or impairment of collateral including, but not limited to, any rights or defenses arising by reason of (A) any "one action" or "anti-deficiency" law or any other law which may prevent Lender from bringing any action, including a claim for deficiency, against Guarantor, before or after Lender's commencement or completion of any foreclosure action, either judicially or by exercise of a power of sale; (B) any election of remedies by Lender which destroys or otherwise adversely affects Guarantor's subrogation rights or Guarantor's rights to proceed against Borrower for reimbursement, including without limitation, any loss of rights Guarantor may suffer by reason of any law limiting, qualifying, or discharging the Indebtedness; (C) any disability or other defense of Borrower, of any other guarantor, or of any other person, or by reason of the cessation of Borrower's liability from any cause whatsoever, other than payment in full in legal tender, of the Indebtedness; (D) any right to claim discharge of the Indebtedness on the basis of unjustified impairment of any collateral for the Indebtedness; (E) any statute of limitations, if at any time any action or suit brought by Lender against Guarantor is commenced, there is outstanding Indebtedness which is not barred by any applicable statute of limitations; or (F) any defenses given to guarantors at law or in equity other than actual payment and performance of the Indebtedness. If payment is made by Borrower, whether voluntarily or otherwise, or by any third party, on the Indebtedness and thereafter Lender is forced to remit the amount of that payment to Borrower's trustee in bankruptcy or to any similar person under any federal or state bankruptcy law or law for the relief of debtors, the Indebtedness shall be considered unpaid for the purpose of the enforcement of this Guaranty.

Guarantor further waives and agrees not to assert or claim at any time any deductions to the amount guaranteed under this Guaranty for any claim of setoff, counterclaim, counter demand, recoupment or similar right, whether such claim, demand or right may be asserted by the Borrower, the Guarantor, or both.

**GUARANTOR'S UNDERSTANDING WITH RESPECT TO WAIVERS.** Guarantor warrants and agrees that each of the waivers set forth above is made with Guarantor's full knowledge of its significance and consequences and that, under the circumstances, the waivers are reasonable and not contrary to public policy or law. If any such waiver is determined to be contrary to any applicable law or public policy, such waiver shall be effective only to the extent permitted by law or public policy.

**RIGHT OF SETOFF.** To the extent permitted by applicable law, Lender reserves a right of setoff in all Guarantor's accounts with Lender (whether checking, savings, or some other account). This includes all accounts Guarantor holds jointly with someone else and all accounts Guarantor may open in the future. However, this does not include any IRA or Keogh accounts, or any trust accounts for which setoff would be prohibited by law. Guarantor authorizes Lender, to the extent permitted by applicable law, to hold these funds if there is a default, and Lender may apply the funds in these accounts to pay what Guarantor owes under the terms of this Guaranty.

**SUBORDINATION OF BORROWER'S DEBTS TO GUARANTOR.** Guarantor agrees that the Indebtedness, whether now existing or hereafter created, shall be superior to any claim that Guarantor may now have or hereafter acquire against Borrower, whether or not Borrower becomes insolvent. Guarantor hereby expressly subordinates any claim Guarantor may have against Borrower, upon any account whatsoever, to any claim that Lender may now or hereafter have against Borrower. In the event of insolvency and consequent liquidation of the assets of Borrower, through bankruptcy, by an assignment for the benefit of creditors, by voluntary liquidation, or otherwise, the assets of Borrower applicable to the payment of the claims of both Lender and Guarantor shall be paid to Lender and shall be first applied by Lender to the Indebtedness. Guarantor does hereby assign to Lender all claims which it may have or acquire against Borrower or against any assignee or trustee in bankruptcy of Borrower; provided however, that such assignment shall be effective only for the purpose of assuring to Lender full payment in legal tender of the Indebtedness. If Lender so requests, any notes or credit agreements now or hereafter evidencing any debts or obligations of Borrower to Guarantor shall be marked with a legend that the same are subject to this Guaranty and shall be delivered to Lender. Guarantor agrees, and Lender is hereby authorized, in the name of Guarantor, from time to time to file financing statements and continuation statements and to execute documents and to take such other actions as Lender deems necessary or appropriate to perfect, preserve and enforce its rights under this Guaranty.

**ENVIRONMENTAL INDEMNIFICATION.** If any part of the Indebtedness is now or hereafter secured by any mortgage or deed of trust granted in favor of Lender on any real property ("Property"), then the provisions in this section shall be applicable. Guarantor hereby (1) acknowledges the representations and warranties of Borrower in the mortgage/deed of trust regarding the environmental condition of the Property and agrees to promptly notify Lender if Guarantor has or obtains actual knowledge that any such representations and warranties are or become materially incorrect; (2) releases and waives any future claims against Lender for indemnity or contribution in the event Borrower and/or Guarantor becomes liable for cleanup or other costs under any such laws; and (3) agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Lender and its directors, officers, agents, representatives, successors and assigns (collectively, "Indemnified Parties") against any and all claims, losses, liabilities, damages, penalties, and expenses, including attorneys' fees, consultants' fees, and costs which the Indemnified Parties may directly or indirectly sustain or suffer (collectively, "Environmental Costs") resulting from the violation of any Environmental Laws or as a consequence of the presence or discovery of any Hazardous Substances in, upon, over, under or emanating from the Property, whether or not Borrower is responsible therefore. Any such Environmental Costs shall be added to and become part of the Indebtedness under this Guaranty. The provisions of this section of the Guaranty, including the obligation to indemnify and defend, shall survive the payment in full of the Indebtedness and the satisfaction or reconveyance of the mortgage or deed of trust, and shall continue for the benefit of any purchaser at a foreclosure sale. For the purposes of this section, the terms "Environmental Laws" and "Hazardous Substances" shall have the definitions given below:

**Environmental Laws.** The words "Environmental Laws" mean any and all state, federal and local statutes, regulations and ordinances relating to the protection of human health or the environment, including without limitation the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. Section 9601, et seq. ("CERCLA"), the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-499 ("SARA"), the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, 49 U.S.C. Section 1801, et seq., the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 6901, et seq., or other applicable state or federal laws, rules, or regulations adopted pursuant thereto, or common law, and shall also include pollutants, contaminants, polychlorinated biphenyls, asbestos, urea formaldehyde, petroleum and petroleum products, and agricultural chemicals.

**Hazardous Substances.** The words "Hazardous Substances" mean materials that, because of their quantity, concentration or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics, may cause or pose a present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly used, treated, stored, disposed of, generated, manufactured, transported or otherwise handled. The words "Hazardous Substances" are used in their very broadest sense and include without limitation any and all hazardous or toxic substances, materials or waste as defined by or listed under the Environmental Laws. The term "Hazardous Substances" also includes, without limitation, petroleum and petroleum by-products or any fraction thereof and asbestos.

**MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.** The following miscellaneous provisions are a part of this Guaranty:

**Amendments.** This Guaranty, together with any Related Documents, constitutes the entire understanding and agreement of the parties as to the matters set forth in this Guaranty. No alteration or amendment to this Guaranty shall be effective unless given in writing and signed by the party or parties sought to be charged or bound by the alteration or amendment.

**Attorneys' Fees; Expenses.** Guarantor agrees to pay upon demand all of Lender's costs and expenses, including Lender's reasonable attorneys' fees and Lender's legal expenses, incurred in connection with the enforcement of this Guaranty. Lender may hire or pay someone else to help enforce this Guaranty, and Guarantor shall pay the costs and expenses of such enforcement. Costs and expenses include Lender's reasonable attorneys' fees and legal expenses whether or not there is a lawsuit, including reasonable attorneys' fees and legal expenses for bankruptcy proceedings (including efforts to modify or vacate any automatic stay or injunction), appeals, and any anticipated post-judgment collection services. Guarantor also shall pay all court costs and such additional fees as may be directed by the court.

**COMMERCIAL GUARANTY  
(Continued)**

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**Caption Headings.** Caption headings in this Guaranty are for convenience purposes only and are not to be used to interpret or define the provisions of this Guaranty.

**Governing Law.** This Guaranty will be governed by federal law applicable to Lender and, to the extent not preempted by federal law, the laws of the State of North Dakota without regard to its conflicts of law provisions.

**Choice of Venue.** If there is a lawsuit, Guarantor agrees upon Lender's request to submit to the jurisdiction of the courts of Cass County, State of North Dakota.

**Integration.** Guarantor further agrees that Guarantor has read and fully understands the terms of this Guaranty; Guarantor has had the opportunity to be advised by Guarantor's attorney with respect to this Guaranty; the Guaranty fully reflects Guarantor's intentions and parol evidence is not required to interpret the terms of this Guaranty. Guarantor hereby indemnifies and holds Lender harmless from all losses, claims, damages, and costs (including Lender's attorneys' fees) suffered or incurred by Lender as a result of any breach by Guarantor of the warranties, representations and agreements of this paragraph.

**Interpretation.** In all cases where there is more than one Borrower or Guarantor, then all words used in this Guaranty in the singular shall be deemed to have been used in the plural where the context and construction so require; and where there is more than one Borrower named in this Guaranty or when this Guaranty is executed by more than one Guarantor, the words "Borrower" and "Guarantor" respectively shall mean all and any one or more of them. The words "Guarantor," "Borrower," and "Lender" include the heirs, successors, assigns, and transferees of each of them. If a court finds that any provision of this Guaranty is not valid or should not be enforced, that fact by itself will not mean that the rest of this Guaranty will not be valid or enforced. Therefore, a court will enforce the rest of the provisions of this Guaranty even if a provision of this Guaranty may be found to be invalid or unenforceable. If any one or more of Borrower or Guarantor are corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, or similar entities, it is not necessary for Lender to inquire into the powers of Borrower or Guarantor or of the officers, directors, partners, managers, or other agents acting or purporting to act on their behalf, and any indebtedness made or created in reliance upon the professed exercise of such powers shall be guaranteed under this Guaranty.

**Notices.** Any notice required to be given under this Guaranty shall be given in writing, and, except for revocation notices by Guarantor, shall be effective when actually delivered, when actually received by telefacsimile (unless otherwise required by law), when deposited with a nationally recognized overnight courier, or, if mailed, when deposited in the United States mail, as first class, certified or registered mail postage prepaid, directed to the addresses shown near the beginning of this Guaranty. All revocation notices by Guarantor shall be in writing and shall be effective upon delivery to Lender as provided in the section of this Guaranty entitled "DURATION OF GUARANTY." Any party may change its address for notices under this Guaranty by giving formal written notice to the other parties, specifying that the purpose of the notice is to change the party's address. For notice purposes, Guarantor agrees to keep Lender informed at all times of Guarantor's current address. Unless otherwise provided or required by law, if there is more than one Guarantor, any notice given by Lender to any Guarantor is deemed to be notice given to all Guarantors.

**No Waiver by Lender.** Lender shall not be deemed to have waived any rights under this Guaranty unless such waiver is given in writing and signed by Lender. No delay or omission on the part of Lender in exercising any right shall operate as a waiver of such right or any other right. A waiver by Lender of a provision of this Guaranty shall not prejudice or constitute a waiver of Lender's right otherwise to demand strict compliance with that provision or any other provision of this Guaranty. No prior waiver by Lender, nor any course of dealing between Lender and Guarantor, shall constitute a waiver of any of Lender's rights or of any of Guarantor's obligations as to any future transactions. Whenever the consent of Lender is required under this Guaranty, the granting of such consent by Lender in any instance shall not constitute continuing consent to subsequent instances where such consent is required and in all cases such consent may be granted or withheld in the sole discretion of Lender.

**Successors and Assigns.** Subject to any limitations stated in this Guaranty on transfer of Guarantor's interest, this Guaranty shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties, their successors and assigns.

**Waive Jury.** Lender and Guarantor hereby waive the right to any jury trial in any action, proceeding, or counterclaim brought by either Lender or Guarantor against the other.

**Counterparts and Electronic Transmission.** This document, and any related documents, may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which, when so executed, shall be deemed an original, and all such counterparts, when taken together, shall constitute one and the same document. This document, and any related documents, may be delivered by facsimile or PDF or other electronic transmission, and if delivered by facsimile or PDF or other electronic transmission, shall constitute and be admissible as original documents and evidence of the signer's execution of the documents.

**DEFINITIONS.** The following capitalized words and terms shall have the following meanings when used in this Guaranty. Unless specifically stated to the contrary, all references to dollar amounts shall mean amounts in lawful money of the United States of America. Words and terms used in the singular shall include the plural, and the plural shall include the singular, as the context may require. Words and terms not otherwise defined in this Guaranty shall have the meanings attributed to such terms in the Uniform Commercial Code:

**Borrower.** The word "Borrower" means STERLING PROPERTIES, LLLP and includes all co-signers and co-makers signing the Note and all their successors and assigns.

**GAAP.** The word "GAAP" means generally accepted accounting principles.

**Guarantor.** The word "Guarantor" means everyone signing this Guaranty, including without limitation STERLING REAL ESTATE TRUST, and in each case, any signer's successors and assigns.

**Guaranty.** The word "Guaranty" means this guaranty from Guarantor to Lender.

**Indebtedness.** The word "Indebtedness" means Borrower's indebtedness to Lender as more particularly described in this Guaranty.

**Lender.** The word "Lender" means BELL BANK, its successors and assigns.

**Note.** The word "Note" means and includes without limitation all of Borrower's promissory notes and/or credit agreements evidencing Borrower's loan obligations in favor of Lender, together with all renewals of, extensions of, modifications of, refinancings of, consolidations of and substitutions for promissory notes or credit agreements.

**Related Documents.** The words "Related Documents" mean all promissory notes, credit agreements, loan agreements, environmental agreements, guaranties, security agreements, mortgages, deeds of trust, security deeds, collateral mortgages, and all other instruments, agreements and documents, whether now or hereafter existing, executed in connection with the Indebtedness.

**EACH UNDERSIGNED GUARANTOR ACKNOWLEDGES HAVING READ ALL THE PROVISIONS OF THIS GUARANTY AND AGREES TO ITS TERMS. IN ADDITION, EACH GUARANTOR UNDERSTANDS THAT THIS GUARANTY IS EFFECTIVE UPON GUARANTOR'S EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THIS GUARANTY TO LENDER AND THAT THE GUARANTY WILL CONTINUE UNTIL TERMINATED IN THE MANNER SET FORTH IN THE SECTION TITLED "DURATION OF GUARANTY". NO FORMAL ACCEPTANCE BY LENDER IS NECESSARY TO MAKE THIS GUARANTY EFFECTIVE. THIS GUARANTY IS DATED JUNE 20, 2024.**

**GUARANTOR:**

**STERLING REAL ESTATE TRUST**

By: /s/ Luke B. Swenson

LUKE B. SWENSON, Chief Investment Officer of  
**STERLING REAL ESTATE TRUST**





## COMMERCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT

Principal	Loan Date	Maturity	Loan No	Call / Coll	Account	Officer	Initials
\$10,000,000.00	06-20-2024	12-20-2024	2391615	410 / 205	0001300362	NLA01	
References in the boxes above are for Lender's use only and do not limit the applicability of this document to any particular loan or item. Any item above containing "****" has been omitted due to text length limitations.							

**Borrower:** STERLING PROPERTIES, LLLP  
4340 18TH AVE S STE 200  
FARGO, ND 58103

**Lender:** BELL BANK  
CENTER OFFICE  
3100 13th Ave South  
PO Box 10877  
Fargo, ND 58106-0877  
(701) 298-1500

**Grantor:** STERLING REAL ESTATE TRUST  
4340 18TH AVE S STE 200  
FARGO, ND 58103

THIS COMMERCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT dated June 20, 2024, is made and executed among STERLING REAL ESTATE TRUST ("Grantor"); STERLING PROPERTIES, LLLP ("Borrower"); and BELL BANK ("Lender").

**GRANT OF SECURITY INTEREST.** For valuable consideration, Grantor grants to Lender a security interest in the Collateral to secure the Indebtedness and agrees that Lender shall have the rights stated in this Agreement with respect to the Collateral, in addition to all other rights which Lender may have by law.

**COLLATERAL DESCRIPTION.** The word "Collateral" as used in this Agreement means the following described property, whether now owned or hereafter acquired, whether now existing or hereafter arising, and wherever located, in which Grantor is giving to Lender a security interest for the payment of the Indebtedness and performance of all other obligations under the Note and this Agreement:

All inventory, equipment, vehicles, accounts (including but not limited to all health-care-insurance receivables), chattel paper, instruments (including but not limited to all promissory notes), letter-of-credit rights, letters of credit, documents, deposit accounts, investment property, money, other rights to payment and performance, and general intangibles (including but not limited to all software and all payment intangibles); all oil, gas and other minerals before extraction; all oil, gas, other minerals and accounts constituting as-extracted collateral; all fixtures; all timber to be cut; all attachments, accessions, accessories, fittings, increases, tools, parts, repairs, supplies, and commingled goods relating to the foregoing property, and all additions, replacements of and substitutions for all or any part of the foregoing property; all insurance refunds relating to the foregoing property; all good will relating to the foregoing property; all records and data and embedded software relating to the foregoing property, and all equipment, inventory and software to utilize, create, maintain and process any such records and data on electronic media; and all supporting obligations relating to the foregoing property; all whether now existing or hereafter arising, whether now owned or hereafter acquired or whether now or hereafter subject to any rights in the foregoing property; and all products and proceeds (including but not limited to all insurance payments) of or relating to the foregoing property.

In addition, the word "Collateral" also includes all the following, whether now owned or hereafter acquired, whether now existing or hereafter arising, and wherever located:

- (A) All accessions, attachments, accessories, tools, parts, supplies, replacements of and additions to any of the collateral described herein, whether added now or later.
- (B) All products and produce of any of the property described in this Collateral section.
- (C) All accounts, general intangibles, instruments, rents, monies, payments, and all other rights, arising out of a sale, lease, consignment or other disposition of any of the property described in this Collateral section.
- (D) All proceeds (including insurance proceeds) from the sale, destruction, loss, or other disposition of any of the property described in this Collateral section, and sums due from a third party who has damaged or destroyed the Collateral or from that party's insurer, whether due to judgment, settlement or other process.
- (E) All records and data relating to any of the property described in this Collateral section, whether in the form of a writing, photograph, microfilm, microfiche, or electronic media, together with all of Grantor's right, title, and interest in and to all computer software required to utilize, create, maintain, and process any such records or data on electronic media.

**CROSS-COLLATERALIZATION.** In addition to the Note, this Agreement secures all obligations, debts and liabilities, plus interest thereon, of either Grantor or Borrower to Lender, or any one or more of them, as well as all claims by Lender against Borrower and Grantor or any one or more of them, whether now existing or hereafter arising, whether related or unrelated to the purpose of the Note, whether voluntary or otherwise, whether due or not due, direct or indirect, determined or undetermined, absolute or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated, whether Borrower or Grantor may be liable individually or jointly with others, whether obligated as guarantor, surety, accommodation party or otherwise, and whether recovery upon such amounts may be or hereafter may become barred by any statute of limitations, and whether the obligation to repay such amounts may be or hereafter may become otherwise unenforceable.

**BORROWER'S WAIVERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.** Except as otherwise required under this Agreement or by applicable law, (A) Borrower agrees that Lender need not tell Borrower about any action or inaction Lender takes in connection with this Agreement; (B) Borrower assumes the responsibility for being and keeping informed about the Collateral; and (C) Borrower waives any defenses that may arise because of any action or inaction of Lender, including without limitation any failure of Lender to realize upon the Collateral or any delay by Lender in realizing upon the Collateral; and Borrower agrees to remain liable under the Note no matter what action Lender takes or fails to take under this Agreement.

**GRANTOR'S REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES.** Grantor warrants that: (A) this Agreement is executed at Borrower's request and not at the request of Lender; (B) Grantor has the full right, power and authority to enter into this Agreement and to pledge the Collateral to Lender; (C) Grantor has established adequate means of obtaining from Borrower on a continuing basis information about Borrower's financial condition; and (D) Lender has made no representation to Grantor about Borrower or Borrower's creditworthiness.

**GRANTOR'S WAIVERS.** Grantor waives all requirements of presentment, protest, demand, and notice of dishonor or non-payment to Borrower or Grantor, or any other party to the Indebtedness or the Collateral. Lender may do any of the following with respect to any obligation of any Borrower, without first obtaining the consent of Grantor: (A) grant any extension of time for any payment, (B) grant any renewal, (C) permit any modification of payment terms or other terms, or (D) exchange or release any Collateral or other security. No such act or failure to act shall affect Lender's rights against Grantor or the Collateral.

**RIGHT OF SETOFF.** To the extent permitted by applicable law, Lender reserves a right of setoff in all Grantor's accounts with Lender (whether checking, savings, or some other account). This includes all accounts Grantor holds jointly with someone else and all accounts Grantor may open in the future. However, this does not include any IRA or Keogh accounts, or any trust accounts for which setoff would be prohibited by law. Grantor authorizes Lender, to the extent permitted by applicable law, to charge or setoff all sums owing on the Indebtedness against any and all such accounts, and, at Lender's option, to administratively freeze all such accounts to allow Lender to protect Lender's charge and setoff rights provided in this paragraph.

**GRANTOR'S REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE COLLATERAL.** With respect to the Collateral, Grantor represents and promises to Lender that:

**Perfection of Security Interest.** Grantor agrees to take whatever actions are requested by Lender to perfect and continue Lender's security interest in the Collateral. Upon request of Lender, Grantor will deliver to Lender any and all of the documents evidencing or constituting the Collateral, and Grantor will note Lender's interest upon any and all chattel paper and instruments if not delivered to Lender for possession by Lender. This is a continuing Security Agreement and will continue in effect even though all or any part of the Indebtedness is paid in full and even though for a period of time Borrower may not be indebted to Lender.

**Notices to Lender.** Grantor will promptly notify Lender in writing at Lender's address shown above (or such other addresses as Lender may designate from time to time) prior to any (1) change in Grantor's name; (2) change in Grantor's assumed business name(s); (3) change in the trustees of the trust Grantor; (4) change in the authorized signer(s); (5) change in Grantor's state of organization; (6) conversion

**COMMERCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT  
(Continued)**

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of Grantor to a new or different type of business entity; or (7) change in any other aspect of Grantor that directly or indirectly relates to any agreements between Grantor and Lender. No change in Grantor's name or state of organization will take effect until after Lender has received notice.

**No Violation.** The execution and delivery of this Agreement will not violate any law or agreement governing Grantor or to which Grantor is a party.

**Enforceability of Collateral.** To the extent the Collateral consists of accounts, chattel paper, or general intangibles, as defined by the Uniform Commercial Code, the Collateral is enforceable in accordance with its terms, is genuine, and fully complies with all applicable laws and regulations concerning form, content and manner of preparation and execution, and all persons appearing to be obligated on the Collateral have authority and capacity to contract and are in fact obligated as they appear to be on the Collateral. At the time any account becomes subject to a security interest in favor of Lender, the account shall be a good and valid account representing an undisputed, bona fide indebtedness incurred by the account debtor, for merchandise held subject to delivery instructions or previously shipped or delivered pursuant to a contract of sale, or for services previously performed by Grantor with or for the account debtor. So long as this Agreement remains in effect, Grantor shall not, without Lender's prior written consent, compromise, settle, adjust, or extend payment under or with regard to any such Accounts. There shall be no setoffs or counterclaims against any of the Collateral, and no agreement shall have been made under which any deductions or discounts may be claimed concerning the Collateral except those disclosed to Lender in writing.

**Location of the Collateral.** Except in the ordinary course of Grantor's business, Grantor agrees to keep the Collateral (or to the extent the Collateral consists of intangible property such as accounts or general intangibles, the records concerning the Collateral) at Grantor's address shown above or at such other locations as are acceptable to Lender. Upon Lender's request, Grantor will deliver to Lender in form satisfactory to Lender a schedule of real properties and Collateral locations relating to Grantor's operations, including without limitation the following: (1) all real property Grantor owns or is purchasing; (2) all real property Grantor is renting or leasing; (3) all storage facilities Grantor owns, rents, leases, or uses; and (4) all other properties where Collateral is or may be located.

**Removal of the Collateral.** Except in the ordinary course of Grantor's business, including the sales of inventory, Grantor shall not remove the Collateral from its existing location without Lender's prior written consent. To the extent that the Collateral consists of vehicles, or other titled property, Grantor shall not take or permit any action which would require application for certificates of title for the vehicles outside the State of North Dakota, without Lender's prior written consent. Grantor shall, whenever requested, advise Lender of the exact location of the Collateral.

**Transactions Involving Collateral.** Except for inventory sold or accounts collected in the ordinary course of Grantor's business, or as otherwise provided for in this Agreement, Grantor shall not sell, offer to sell, or otherwise transfer or dispose of the Collateral. While Grantor is not in default under this Agreement, Grantor may sell inventory, but only in the ordinary course of its business and only to buyers who qualify as a buyer in the ordinary course of business. A sale in the ordinary course of Grantor's business does not include a transfer in partial or total satisfaction of a debt or any bulk sale. Grantor shall not pledge, mortgage, encumber or otherwise permit the Collateral to be subject to any lien, security interest, encumbrance, or charge, other than the security interest provided for in this Agreement, without the prior written consent of Lender. This includes security interests even if junior in right to the security interests granted under this Agreement. Unless waived by Lender, all proceeds from any disposition of the Collateral (for whatever reason) shall be held in trust for Lender and shall not be commingled with any other funds; provided however, this requirement shall not constitute consent by Lender to any sale or other disposition. Upon receipt, Grantor shall immediately deliver any such proceeds to Lender.

**Title.** Grantor represents and warrants to Lender that Grantor holds good and marketable title to the Collateral, free and clear of all liens and encumbrances except for the lien of this Agreement. No financing statement covering any of the Collateral is on file in any public office other than those which reflect the security interest created by this Agreement or to which Lender has specifically consented. Grantor shall defend Lender's rights in the Collateral against the claims and demands of all other persons.

**Repairs and Maintenance.** Grantor agrees to keep and maintain, and to cause others to keep and maintain, the Collateral in good order, repair and condition at all times while this Agreement remains in effect. Grantor further agrees to pay when due all claims for work done on, or services rendered or material furnished in connection with the Collateral so that no lien or encumbrance may ever attach to or be filed against the Collateral.

**Inspection of Collateral.** Lender and Lender's designated representatives and agents shall have the right at all reasonable times to examine and inspect the Collateral wherever located.

**Taxes, Assessments and Liens.** Grantor will pay when due all taxes, assessments and liens upon the Collateral, its use or operation, upon this Agreement, upon any promissory note or notes evidencing the indebtedness, or upon any of the other Related Documents. Grantor may withhold any such payment or may elect to contest any lien if Grantor is in good faith conducting an appropriate proceeding to contest the obligation to pay and so long as Lender's interest in the Collateral is not jeopardized in Lender's sole opinion. If the Collateral is subjected to a lien which is not discharged within fifteen (15) days, Grantor shall deposit with Lender cash, a sufficient corporate surety bond or other security satisfactory to Lender in an amount adequate to provide for the discharge of the lien plus any interest, costs, reasonable attorneys' fees or other charges that could accrue as a result of foreclosure or sale of the Collateral. In any contest Grantor shall defend itself and Lender and shall satisfy any final adverse judgment before enforcement against the Collateral. Grantor shall name Lender as an additional obligee under any surety bond furnished in the contest proceedings. Grantor further agrees to furnish Lender with evidence that such taxes, assessments, and governmental and other charges have been paid in full and in a timely manner. Grantor may withhold any such payment or may elect to contest any lien if Grantor is in good faith conducting an appropriate proceeding to contest the obligation to pay and so long as Lender's interest in the Collateral is not jeopardized.

**Compliance with Governmental Requirements.** Grantor shall comply promptly with all laws, ordinances, rules and regulations of all governmental authorities, now or hereafter in effect, applicable to the ownership, production, disposition, or use of the Collateral, including all laws or regulations relating to the undue erosion of highly-erodible land or relating to the conversion of wetlands for the production of an agricultural product or commodity. Grantor may contest in good faith any such law, ordinance or regulation and withhold compliance during any proceeding, including appropriate appeals, so long as Lender's interest in the Collateral, in Lender's opinion, is not jeopardized.

**Hazardous Substances.** Grantor represents and warrants that the Collateral never has been, and never will be so long as this Agreement remains a lien on the Collateral, used in violation of any Environmental Laws or for the generation, manufacture, storage, transportation, treatment, disposal, release or threatened release of any Hazardous Substance. The representations and warranties contained herein are based on Grantor's due diligence in investigating the Collateral for Hazardous Substances. Grantor hereby (1) releases and waives any future claims against Lender for indemnity or contribution in the event Grantor becomes liable for cleanup or other costs under any Environmental Laws, and (2) agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Lender against any and all claims and losses resulting from a breach of this provision of this Agreement. This obligation to indemnify and defend shall survive the payment of the indebtedness and the satisfaction of this Agreement.

**Maintenance of Casualty Insurance.** Grantor shall procure and maintain all risks insurance, including without limitation fire, theft and liability coverage together with such other insurance as Lender may require with respect to the Collateral, in form, amounts, coverages and basis reasonably acceptable to Lender and issued by a company or companies reasonably acceptable to Lender. Grantor, upon request of Lender, will deliver to Lender from time to time the policies or certificates of insurance in form satisfactory to Lender, including stipulations that coverages will not be cancelled or diminished without at least thirty (30) days' prior written notice to Lender and not including any disclaimer of the insurer's liability for failure to give such a notice. Each insurance policy also shall include an endorsement providing that coverage in favor of Lender will not be impaired in any way by any act, omission or default of Grantor or any other person. In connection with all policies covering assets in which Lender holds or is offered a security interest, Grantor will provide Lender with such loss payable or other endorsements as Lender may require. If Grantor at any time fails to obtain or maintain any insurance as required under this Agreement, Lender may (but shall not be obligated to) obtain such insurance as Lender deems appropriate, including if Lender so chooses "single interest insurance," which will cover only Lender's interest in the Collateral.

**Application of Insurance Proceeds.** Grantor shall promptly notify Lender of any loss or damage to the Collateral, whether or not such casualty or loss is covered by insurance. Lender may make proof of loss if Grantor fails to do so within fifteen (15) days of the casualty. All proceeds of any insurance on the Collateral, including accrued proceeds thereon, shall be held by Lender as part of the Collateral. If Lender consents to repair or replacement of the damaged or destroyed Collateral, Lender shall, upon satisfactory proof of expenditure, pay or reimburse Grantor from the proceeds for the reasonable cost of repair or restoration. If Lender does not consent to repair or replacement of the Collateral, Lender shall retain a sufficient amount of the proceeds to pay all of the indebtedness, and shall pay the balance to Grantor. Any proceeds which have not been disbursed within six (6) months after their receipt and which Grantor has not committed to the repair or restoration of the Collateral shall be used to prepay the indebtedness.

**Insurance Reserves.** Lender may require Grantor to maintain with Lender reserves for payment of insurance premiums, which reserves shall be created by monthly payments from Grantor of a sum estimated by Lender to be sufficient to produce, at least fifteen (15) days before the premium due date, amounts at least equal to the insurance premiums to be paid. If fifteen (15) days before payment is due, the reserve funds are insufficient, Grantor shall upon demand pay any deficiency to Lender. The reserve funds shall be held by Lender as a general deposit and shall constitute a non-interest-bearing account which Lender may satisfy by payment of the insurance premiums required to be

**COMMERCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT  
(Continued)**

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paid by Grantor as they become due. Lender does not hold the reserve funds in trust for Grantor, and Lender is not the agent of Grantor for payment of the insurance premiums required to be paid by Grantor. The responsibility for the payment of premiums shall remain Grantor's sole responsibility.

**Insurance Reports.** Grantor, upon request of Lender, shall furnish to Lender reports on each existing policy of insurance showing such information as Lender may reasonably request including the following: (1) the name of the insurer; (2) the risks insured; (3) the amount of the policy; (4) the property insured; (5) the then current value on the basis of which insurance has been obtained and the manner of determining that value; and (6) the expiration date of the policy. In addition, Grantor shall upon request by Lender (however not more often than annually) have an independent appraiser satisfactory to Lender determine, as applicable, the cash value or replacement cost of the Collateral.

**Financing Statements.** Grantor authorizes Lender to file a UCC financing statement, or alternatively, a copy of this Agreement to perfect Lender's security interest. At Lender's request, Grantor additionally agrees to sign all other documents that are necessary to perfect, protect, and continue Lender's security interest in the Property. Grantor will pay all filing fees, title transfer fees, and other fees and costs involved unless prohibited by law or unless Lender is required by law to pay such fees and costs. Grantor irrevocably appoints Lender to execute documents necessary to transfer title if there is a default. Lender may file a copy of this Agreement as a financing statement. Grantor will promptly notify Lender of any change to Grantor's name or the name of any individual Grantor, any individual who is a partner for a Grantor, and any individual who is a trustee or settlor or trustor for a Grantor under this Agreement. Grantor will also promptly notify Lender of any change to the name that appears on the most recently issued, unexpired driver's license or state-issued identification card, any expiration of the most recently issued driver's license or state-issued identification card for Grantor or any individual for whom Grantor is required to provide notice regarding name changes.

**GRANTOR'S RIGHT TO POSSESSION AND TO COLLECT ACCOUNTS.** Until default and except as otherwise provided below with respect to accounts, Grantor may have possession of the tangible personal property and beneficial use of all the Collateral and may use it in any lawful manner not inconsistent with this Agreement or the Related Documents, provided that Grantor's right to possession and beneficial use shall not apply to any Collateral where possession of the Collateral by Lender is required by law to perfect Lender's security interest in such Collateral. Until otherwise notified by Lender, Grantor may collect any of the Collateral consisting of accounts. At any time and even though no Event of Default exists, Lender may exercise its rights to collect the accounts and to notify account debtors to make payments directly to Lender for application to the Indebtedness. If Lender at any time has possession of any Collateral, whether before or after an Event of Default, Lender shall be deemed to have exercised reasonable care in the custody and preservation of the Collateral if Lender takes such action for that purpose as Grantor shall request or as Lender, in Lender's sole discretion, shall deem appropriate under the circumstances, but failure to honor any request by Grantor shall not of itself be deemed to be a failure to exercise reasonable care. Lender shall not be required to take any steps necessary to preserve any rights in the Collateral against prior parties, nor to protect, preserve or maintain any security interest given to secure the Indebtedness.

**LENDER'S EXPENDITURES.** If any action or proceeding is commenced that would materially affect Lender's interest in the Collateral or if Grantor fails to comply with any provision of this Agreement or any Related Documents, including but not limited to Grantor's failure to discharge or pay when due any amounts Grantor is required to discharge or pay under this Agreement or any Related Documents, Lender on Grantor's behalf may (but shall not be obligated to) take any action that Lender deems appropriate, including but not limited to discharging or paying all taxes, liens, security interests, encumbrances and other claims, at any time levied or placed on the Collateral and paying all costs for insuring, maintaining and preserving the Collateral. All such expenditures incurred or paid by Lender for such purposes will then bear interest at the rate charged under the Note from the date incurred or paid by Lender to the date of repayment by Grantor. All such expenses will become a part of the Indebtedness and, at Lender's option, will (A) be payable on demand; (B) be added to the balance of the Note and be apportioned among and be payable with any installment payments to become due during either (1) the term of any applicable insurance policy; or (2) the remaining term of the Note; or (C) be treated as a balloon payment which will be due and payable at the Note's maturity. The Agreement also will secure payment of these amounts. Such right shall be in addition to all other rights and remedies to which Lender may be entitled upon the occurrence of any Event of Default.

**DEFAULT.** Each of the following shall constitute an Event of Default under this Agreement:

**Payment Default.** Borrower fails to make any payment when due under the Indebtedness.

**Other Defaults.** Borrower or Grantor fails to comply with or to perform any other term, obligation, covenant or condition contained in this Agreement or in any of the Related Documents or to comply with or to perform any term, obligation, covenant or condition contained in any other agreement between Lender and Borrower or Grantor.

**Default in Favor of Third Parties.** Borrower, any guarantor or Grantor defaults under any loan, extension of credit, security agreement, purchase or sales agreement, or any other agreement, in favor of any other creditor or person that may materially affect any of Borrower's, any guarantor's or Grantor's property or ability to perform their respective obligations under this Agreement or any of the Related Documents.

**False Statements.** Any warranty, representation or statement made or furnished to Lender by Borrower or Grantor or on Borrower's or Grantor's behalf under this Agreement or the Related Documents is false or misleading in any material respect, either now or at the time made or furnished or becomes false or misleading at any time thereafter.

**Defective Collateralization.** This Agreement or any of the Related Documents ceases to be in full force and effect (including failure of any collateral document to create a valid and perfected security interest or lien) at any time and for any reason.

**Insolvency.** The dissolution or termination of Borrower's or Grantor's existence as a going business or the death of any partner, the insolvency of Borrower or Grantor, the appointment of a receiver for any part of Borrower's or Grantor's property, any assignment for the benefit of creditors, any type of creditor workout, or the commencement of any proceeding under any bankruptcy or insolvency laws by or against Borrower or Grantor.

**Creditor or Forfeiture Proceedings.** Commencement of foreclosure or forfeiture proceedings, whether by judicial proceeding, self-help, repossession or any other method, by any creditor of Borrower or Grantor or by any governmental agency against any collateral securing the Indebtedness. This includes a garnishment of any of Borrower's or Grantor's accounts, including deposit accounts, with Lender. However, this Event of Default shall not apply if there is a good faith dispute by Borrower or Grantor as to the validity or reasonableness of the claim which is the basis of the creditor or forfeiture proceeding and if Borrower or Grantor gives Lender written notice of the creditor or forfeiture proceeding and deposits with Lender monies or a surety bond for the creditor or forfeiture proceeding, in an amount determined by Lender, in its sole discretion, as being an adequate reserve or bond for the dispute.

**Events Affecting Guarantor.** Any of the preceding events occurs with respect to any Guarantor of any of the Indebtedness or Guarantor dies or becomes incompetent or revokes or disputes the validity of, or liability under, any Guaranty of the Indebtedness.

**Adverse Change.** A material adverse change occurs in Borrower's or Grantor's financial condition, or Lender believes the prospect of payment or performance of the Indebtedness is impaired.

**Insecurity.** Lender in good faith believes itself insecure.

**RIGHTS AND REMEDIES ON DEFAULT.** If an Event of Default occurs under this Agreement, at any time thereafter, Lender shall have all the rights of a secured party under the North Dakota Uniform Commercial Code. In addition and without limitation, Lender may exercise any one or more of the following rights and remedies:

**Accelerate Indebtedness.** Lender may declare the entire Indebtedness, including any prepayment penalty which Borrower would be required to pay, immediately due and payable, without notice of any kind to Borrower or Grantor.

**Assemble Collateral.** Lender may require Grantor to deliver to Lender all or any portion of the Collateral and any and all certificates of title and other documents relating to the Collateral. Lender may require Grantor to assemble the Collateral and make it available to Lender at a place to be designated by Lender. Lender also shall have full power to enter upon the property of Grantor to take possession of and remove the Collateral. If the Collateral contains other goods not covered by this Agreement at the time of repossession, Grantor agrees Lender may take such other goods, provided that Lender makes reasonable efforts to return them to Grantor after repossession.

**Sell the Collateral.** Lender shall have full power to sell, lease, transfer, or otherwise deal with the Collateral or proceeds thereof in Lender's own name or that of Grantor. Lender may sell the Collateral at public auction or private sale. Unless the Collateral threatens to decline speedily in value or is of a type customarily sold on a recognized market, Lender will give Grantor, and other persons as required by law, reasonable notice of the time and place of any public sale, or the time after which any private sale or any other disposition of the Collateral is to be made. However, no notice need be provided to any person who, after Event of Default occurs, enters into and authenticates an agreement waiving that person's right to notification of sale. The requirements of reasonable notice shall be met if such notice is given at least ten (10) days before the time of the sale or disposition. All expenses relating to the disposition of the Collateral, including without limitation the expenses of retaking, holding, insuring, preparing for sale and selling the Collateral, shall become a part of the Indebtedness secured by this Agreement and shall be payable on demand, with interest at the Note rate from date of expenditure until repaid.

**COMMERCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT  
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**Appoint Receiver.** Lender shall have the right to have a receiver appointed to take possession of all or any part of the Collateral, with the power to protect and preserve the Collateral, to operate the Collateral preceding foreclosure or sale, and to collect the rents from the Collateral and apply the proceeds, over and above the cost of the receivership, against the Indebtedness. The receiver may serve without bond if permitted by law. Lender's right to the appointment of a receiver shall exist whether or not the apparent value of the Collateral exceeds the Indebtedness by a substantial amount. Employment by Lender shall not disqualify a person from serving as a receiver.

**Collect Revenues, Apply Accounts.** Lender, either itself or through a receiver, may collect the payments, rents, income, and revenues from the Collateral. Lender may at any time in Lender's discretion transfer any Collateral into Lender's own name or that of Lender's nominee and receive the payments, rents, income, and revenues therefrom and hold the same as security for the Indebtedness or apply it to payment of the Indebtedness in such order of preference as Lender may determine. Insofar as the Collateral consists of accounts, general intangibles, insurance policies, instruments, chattel paper, choses in action, or similar property, Lender may demand, collect, receipt for, settle, compromise, adjust, sue for, foreclose, or realize on the Collateral as Lender may determine, whether or not Indebtedness or Collateral is then due. For these purposes, Lender may, on behalf of and in the name of Grantor, receive, open and dispose of mail addressed to Grantor; change any address to which mail and payments are to be sent; and endorse notes, checks, drafts, money orders, documents of title, instruments and items pertaining to payment, shipment, or storage of any Collateral. To facilitate collection, Lender may notify account debtors and obligors on any Collateral to make payments directly to Lender.

**Obtain Deficiency.** If Lender chooses to sell any or all of the Collateral, Lender may obtain a judgment against Borrower for any deficiency remaining on the Indebtedness due to Lender after application of all amounts received from the exercise of the rights provided in this Agreement. Borrower shall be liable for a deficiency even if the transaction described in this subsection is a sale of accounts or chattel paper.

**Other Rights and Remedies.** Lender shall have all the rights and remedies of a secured creditor under the provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code, as may be amended from time to time. In addition, Lender shall have and may exercise any or all other rights and remedies it may have available at law, in equity, or otherwise.

**Election of Remedies.** Except as may be prohibited by applicable law, all of Lender's rights and remedies, whether evidenced by this Agreement, the Related Documents, or by any other writing, shall be cumulative and may be exercised singularly or concurrently. Election by Lender to pursue any remedy shall not exclude pursuit of any other remedy, and an election to make expenditures or to take action to perform an obligation of Grantor under this Agreement, after Grantor's failure to perform, shall not affect Lender's right to declare a default and exercise its remedies.

**COUNTERPARTS AND ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION.** This document, and any related documents, may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which, when so executed, shall be deemed an original, and all such counterparts, when taken together, shall constitute one and the same document. This document, and any related documents, may be delivered by facsimile or PDF or other electronic transmission, and if delivered by facsimile or PDF or other electronic transmission, shall constitute and be admissible as original documents and evidence of the signer's execution of the documents.

**MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.** The following miscellaneous provisions are a part of this Agreement:

**Amendments.** This Agreement, together with any Related Documents, constitutes the entire understanding and agreement of the parties as to the matters set forth in this Agreement. No alteration of or amendment to this Agreement shall be effective unless given in writing and signed by the party or parties sought to be charged or bound by the alteration or amendment.

**Attorneys' Fees; Expenses.** Grantor agrees to pay upon demand all of Lender's costs and expenses, including Lender's reasonable attorneys' fees and Lender's legal expenses, incurred in connection with the enforcement of this Agreement. Lender may hire or pay someone else to help enforce this Agreement, and Grantor shall pay the costs and expenses of such enforcement. Costs and expenses include Lender's reasonable attorneys' fees and legal expenses whether or not there is a lawsuit, including reasonable attorneys' fees and legal expenses for bankruptcy proceedings (including efforts to modify or vacate any automatic stay or injunction), appeals, and any anticipated post-judgment collection services. Grantor also shall pay all court costs and such additional fees as may be directed by the court.

**Caption Headings.** Caption headings in this Agreement are for convenience purposes only and are not to be used to interpret or define the provisions of this Agreement.

**Governing Law.** This Agreement will be governed by federal law applicable to Lender and, to the extent not preempted by federal law, the laws of the State of North Dakota without regard to its conflicts of law provisions. This Agreement has been accepted by Lender in the State of North Dakota.

**Choice of Venue.** If there is a lawsuit, Grantor agrees upon Lender's request to submit to the jurisdiction of the courts of Cass County, State of North Dakota.

**Joint and Several Liability.** All obligations of Borrower and Grantor under this Agreement shall be joint and several, and all references to Grantor shall mean each and every Grantor, and all references to Borrower shall mean each and every Borrower. This means that each Borrower and Grantor signing below is responsible for all obligations in this Agreement.

**No Waiver by Lender.** Lender shall not be deemed to have waived any rights under this Agreement unless such waiver is given in writing and signed by Lender. No delay or omission on the part of Lender in exercising any right shall operate as a waiver of such right or any other right. A waiver by Lender of a provision of this Agreement shall not prejudice or constitute a waiver of Lender's right otherwise to demand strict compliance with that provision or any other provision of this Agreement. No prior waiver by Lender, nor any course of dealing between Lender and Grantor, shall constitute a waiver of any of Lender's rights or of any of Grantor's obligations as to any future transactions. Whenever the consent of Lender is required under this Agreement, the granting of such consent by Lender in any instance shall not constitute continuing consent to subsequent instances where such consent is required and in all cases such consent may be granted or withheld in the sole discretion of Lender.

**Notices.** Any notice required to be given under this Agreement shall be given in writing, and shall be effective when actually delivered, when actually received by telefacsimile (unless otherwise required by law), when deposited with a nationally recognized overnight courier, or, if mailed, when deposited in the United States mail, as first class, certified or registered mail postage prepaid, directed to the addresses shown near the beginning of this Agreement. Any party may change its address for notices under this Agreement by giving formal written notice to the other parties, specifying that the purpose of the notice is to change the party's address. For notice purposes, Grantor agrees to keep Lender informed at all times of Grantor's current address. Unless otherwise provided or required by law, if there is more than one Grantor, any notice given by Lender to any Grantor is deemed to be notice given to all Grantors.

**Power of Attorney.** Grantor hereby appoints Lender as Grantor's irrevocable attorney-in-fact for the purpose of executing any documents necessary to perfect, amend, or to continue the security interest granted in this Agreement or to demand termination of filings of other secured parties. Lender may at any time, and without further authorization from Grantor, file a carbon, photographic or other reproduction of any financing statement or of this Agreement for use as a financing statement. Grantor will reimburse Lender for all expenses for the perfection and the continuation of the perfection of Lender's security interest in the Collateral.

**Severability.** If a court of competent jurisdiction finds any provision of this Agreement to be illegal, invalid, or unenforceable as to any circumstance, that finding shall not make the offending provision illegal, invalid, or unenforceable as to any other circumstance. If feasible, the offending provision shall be considered modified so that it becomes legal, valid and enforceable. If the offending provision cannot be so modified, it shall be considered deleted from this Agreement. Unless otherwise required by law, the illegality, invalidity, or unenforceability of any provision of this Agreement shall not affect the legality, validity or enforceability of any other provision of this Agreement.

**Successors and Assigns.** Subject to any limitations stated in this Agreement on transfer of Grantor's interest, this Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties, their successors and assigns. If ownership of the Collateral becomes vested in a person other than Grantor, Lender, without notice to Grantor, may deal with Grantor's successors with reference to this Agreement and the Indebtedness by way of forbearance or extension without releasing Grantor from the obligations of this Agreement or liability under the Indebtedness.

**Survival of Representations and Warranties.** All representations, warranties, and agreements made by Grantor in this Agreement shall survive the execution and delivery of this Agreement, shall be continuing in nature, and shall remain in full force and effect until such time as Borrower's Indebtedness shall be paid in full.

**Time is of the Essence.** Time is of the essence in the performance of this Agreement.

**DEFINITIONS.** The following capitalized words and terms shall have the following meanings when used in this Agreement. Unless specifically stated to the contrary, all references to dollar amounts shall mean amounts in lawful money of the United States of America. Words and terms used in the singular shall include the plural, and the plural shall include the singular, as the context may require. Words and terms not otherwise defined in this Agreement shall have the meanings attributed to such terms in the Uniform Commercial Code.

**Agreement.** The word "Agreement" means this Commercial Security Agreement, as this Commercial Security Agreement may be amended



**COMMERCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT  
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or modified from time to time, together with all exhibits and schedules attached to this Commercial Security Agreement from time to time.

**Borrower.** The word "Borrower" means STERLING PROPERTIES, LLLP and includes all co-signers and co-makers signing the Note and all their successors and assigns.

**Collateral.** The word "Collateral" means all of Grantor's right, title and interest in and to all the Collateral as described in the Collateral Description section of this Agreement.

**Environmental Laws.** The words "Environmental Laws" mean any and all state, federal and local statutes, regulations and ordinances relating to the protection of human health or the environment, including without limitation the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. Section 9601, et seq. ("CERCLA"), the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-499 ("SARA"), the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, 49 U.S.C. Section 1801, et seq., the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 6901, et seq., or other applicable state or federal laws, rules, or regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

**Event of Default.** The words "Event of Default" mean any of the events of default set forth in this Agreement in the default section of this Agreement.

**Grantor.** The word "Grantor" means STERLING REAL ESTATE TRUST.

**Guarantor.** The word "Guarantor" means any guarantor, surety, or accommodation party of any or all of the Indebtedness.

**Guaranty.** The word "Guaranty" means the guaranty from Guarantor to Lender, including without limitation a guaranty of all or part of the Note.

**Hazardous Substances.** The words "Hazardous Substances" mean materials that, because of their quantity, concentration or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics, may cause or pose a present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly used, treated, stored, disposed of, generated, manufactured, transported or otherwise handled. The words "Hazardous Substances" are used in their very broadest sense and include without limitation any and all hazardous or toxic substances, materials or waste as defined by or listed under the Environmental Laws. The term "Hazardous Substances" also includes, without limitation, petroleum and petroleum by-products or any fraction thereof and asbestos.

**Indebtedness.** The word "Indebtedness" means the indebtedness evidenced by the Note or Related Documents, including all principal and interest together with all other indebtedness and costs and expenses for which Borrower is responsible under this Agreement or under any of the Related Documents. Specifically, without limitation, Indebtedness includes all amounts that may be indirectly secured by the Cross-Collateralization provision of this Agreement.

**Lender.** The word "Lender" means BELL BANK, its successors and assigns.

**Note.** The word "Note" means the Note dated June 20, 2024 and executed by STERLING PROPERTIES, LLLP in the principal amount of \$10,000,000.00, together with all renewals of, extensions of, modifications of, refinancings of, consolidations of, and substitutions for the note or credit agreement.

**Property.** The word "Property" means all of Grantor's right, title and interest in and to all the Property as described in the "Collateral Description" section of this Agreement.

**Related Documents.** The words "Related Documents" mean all promissory notes, credit agreements, loan agreements, environmental agreements, guaranties, security agreements, mortgages, deeds of trust, security deeds, collateral mortgages, and all other instruments, agreements and documents, whether now or hereafter existing, executed in connection with the Indebtedness.

**BORROWER AND GRANTOR HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD ALL THE PROVISIONS OF THIS COMMERCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT AND AGREE TO ITS TERMS. THIS AGREEMENT IS DATED JUNE 20, 2024.**

**GRANTOR:**

STERLING REAL ESTATE TRUST

By: /s/ Luke B. Swenson  
LUKE B. SWENSON, Chief Investment Officer of  
STERLING REAL ESTATE TRUST

**BORROWER:**

STERLING PROPERTIES, LLLP

STERLING REAL ESTATE TRUST, General Partner of STERLING PROPERTIES, LLLP

By: /s/ Luke B. Swenson  
LUKE B. SWENSON, Chief Investment Officer of  
STERLING REAL ESTATE TRUST

**ADDENDUM TO PROMISSORY NOTE ND COMMERCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT**

**THIS ADDENDUM TO PROMISSORY NOTE AND COMMERCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT** ("Addendum") is entered into and effective as of June 19, 2024, by and between STERLING PROPERTIES, LLLP, whose address is 4340 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue S, Suite 200, Fargo, ND 58103 ("Borrower") and BELL BANK ("Lender") and modifies and amends (a) that certain Promissory Note dated of even date herewith, made payable by Borrower to the order of Lender ("Note") and (b) that certain Commercial Security Agreement dated as of the date hereof by Sterling Real Estate Trust ("Grantor") in favor of Lender ("Security Agreement"), each with respect to loans made by Lender to Borrower pursuant to the Loan Agreement.

**RECITALS:**

**WHEREAS**, Borrower and Lender desire to modify and amend certain terms and provisions of the Note and Security Agreement as provided in this Addendum.

**AGREEMENT:**

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual agreements contained herein and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, Borrower and Lender agree as follows:

1. Definitions. Capitalized terms that are used and not otherwise defined in this Addendum shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in the Note. The Note and Security Agreement and all ancillary transaction documents are collectively referred to as the "Loan Documents."
2. Amendments to Note. The Note is hereby amended as follows:
  - a. In the section titled "DEFAULT":
    - i. In the subsection titled "Default in Favor of Third Parties," the phrase: "any of Borrower's property or" is hereby deleted.
    - ii. In the subsection titled "Death or Insolvency," the phrase "or the death of any partner" is hereby deleted.
    - iii. In the subsection titled "Events Affecting Guarantor," the phrase: "dies or becomes incompetent, or" is hereby deleted.
    - iv. In the subsection titled "Events Affecting General Partner of Borrower," the phrase: "or any general partner dies or becomes incompetent" is hereby deleted.
3. Amendments to Security Agreement. The Security Agreement is hereby amended as follows:
  - a. In the section titled "GRANTOR'S REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE COLLATERAL:"
    - i. In the subsection titled "Notices to Lender," item (3) is deleted in its entirety.
    - ii. In the subsection titled "Location of Collateral," the following provision is deleted in its entirety: "Upon Lender's request, Grantor will deliver to Lender in form satisfactory to Lender a schedule of real properties and Collateral locations relating to Grantor's operations, including without limitation the following: (1) all real property Grantor owns or is purchasing; (2) all real property Grantor is renting or leasing; (3) all storage facilities Grantor owns, rents, leases or uses; and (4) all other properties where Collateral is or may be located."



- iii. In the subsection titled "Maintenance of Casualty Insurance," sentence 3 is hereby deleted in its entirety.
  - iv. In the subsection titled "Application of Insurance Proceeds," the first sentence is hereby deleted and replaced with the following: "Grantor shall promptly notify Lender of loss or damage to the Collateral, for which Grantor makes proof of loss under any insurance." The following phrase is hereby added to the beginning of the third sentence: "If the estimated loss or damage to the Property exceeds three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00)".
- b. In the section titled "DEFAULT":
- i. In the subsection titled "Default in Favor of Third Parties," the phrase: "any of any guarantor's or Grantor's property or" is hereby deleted.
  - ii. In the subsection titled "Insolvency," the phrase "or the death of any partner," is hereby deleted.
  - iii. In the subsection titled "Events Affecting Guarantor," the phrase: "dies or becomes incompetent, or" is hereby deleted.
  - iv. The subsection titled "Insecurity" is hereby deleted in its entirety.
4. No Other Modifications; Incorporation. Except as otherwise modified by this Addendum, all other terms and conditions of the Loan Documents remain unchanged. This Addendum is hereby incorporated into and made a part of the Loan Documents.
5. Governing Law. This Addendum shall be construed in accordance with, and governed by, the laws of the State of North Dakota.
6. Severability. It is intended that each paragraph of this Addendum shall be viewed as separate and divisible, and in the event that any paragraph shall be held to be invalid, the remaining paragraphs shall continue to be in full force and effect.
7. Provisions Binding. The provisions of this Addendum shall be binding on, and inure to the benefit of, the Parties and their respective legal representatives, successors, heirs and assigns.
8. Further Actions. Each party to this Addendum agrees to perform any further acts and sign and deliver any further documents that may be reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of this Addendum.
9. Counterparts. This Addendum may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed to be an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.
10. Modifications. All modifications to this Addendum shall be in writing and signed by all parties hereto or their successors, assigns or representatives.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties have executed this Addendum as of the date first above written.

**THE FOLLOWING PAGE IS THE SIGNATURE PAGE**

**BORROWER:**

STERLING PROPERTIES, LLLP

By: STERLING REAL ESTATE TRUST  
Its: General Partner

By: /s/ Luke B. Swenson  
Luke B. Swenson, Chief Investment Officer

**GRANTOR:**

STERLING REAL ESTATE TRUST

By: /s/ Luke B. Swenson  
Luke B. Swenson, Chief Investment Officer

**LENDER:**

BELL BANK

By: /s/ Nicole Aarestad  
Nicole Aarestad, Vice President