

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

NIFA Approves Restructuring of NFIA and County Debt Providing \$435 Million in Relief in Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022

\$100 million in present value savings to be realized over the next 15 years

January 22, 2021—The Nassau County Interim Finance Authority (NIFA) recently approved the largest refinancing in the County’s history, which will provide \$435 million of budget relief in fiscal years 2021 and 2022. This action, together with other county actions, will allow the county to balance its budget given the unpredicted impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, this transaction will ultimately provide Nassau County taxpayers more than \$100 million in present value savings until the bond reaches maturity in 2035.

“Unprecedented times call for unprecedented actions,” said NIFA Chairman Adam Barsky. “This step means the County will get some much-needed breathing room to get through the pandemic while simultaneously being better positioned for a more favorable economic outlook in the future. It saves the County, and therefore, its residents, from massive property tax increases or significant impacts and potential disruptions to mission-critical services.”

At the beginning stages of the pandemic, Nassau County Executive requested a declaration of need to balance its budget from the County Legislature. In April 2020, the New York State Legislature and Governor Andrew Cuomo approved legislation that amended the NIFA Act, allowing for the refinancing to occur to specifically help the County address the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This bond issue is not new borrowing, but, rather, a restructuring of existing debt that enables the County to take advantage of NIFA’s affirmed AAA bond rating to provide the County with a historically low interest cost—less than two percent.

“By taking advantage of NIFA’s AAA bond rating, the County can retire existing bonds with higher interest rates for new bonds at the lowest cost in the County’s history,” Barsky added. “No new debt is incurred by this action, which means savings for Nassau taxpayers.”

Approximately 52 percent of the underwriting team participating in this transaction are Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) as well as Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses (SDVOB). More specifically, approximately 24 percent of the underwriting team are MWBE, approximately 24 percent are SDVOB and approximately five percent are a combination of the two.

There will be a retail preorder period making the bonds available for the public to purchase. Residents interested in purchasing County-issued bonds are encouraged to contact their broker.