Thomas R. Slome, Esq. Jil Mazer-Marino, Esq. MEYER, SUOZZI, ENGLISH & KLEIN, P.C. 990 Stewart Avenue, Suite 300 P.O. Box 9194 Garden City, New York 11530-9194 Telephone: (516) 741-6565 Facsimile: (516) 741-6706 **Hearing Date and Time**: 6/30/09 at 9:45 a.m., Or, As May Be Determined By The Court **Objection Deadline**: 6/15/09

and

Russell R. Johnson III, Esq. John M. Merritt, Esq. Law Firm Of Russell R. Johnson III, PLC 2258 Wheatlands Drive Manakin-Sabot, Virginia 23103 Telephone: (804) 749-8861 Facsimile: (804) 749-8862

Co-Counsel for Suez/VWNA/DEGS of Lansing, LLC

## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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	:	
In re:	:	Chapter 11
	:	
GENERAL MOTORS CORP., et al.,	:	Case No. 09-50026 (REG)
	:	
Debtors.	:	(Jointly Administered)
	:	

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# OBJECTION OF SUEZ/VWNA/DEGS OF LANSING, LLC TO DEBTORS' NOTICE OF (I) DEBTORS' INTENT TO ASSUME AND ASSIGN CERTAIN EXECUTORY CONTRACTS, UNEXPIRED LEASES OF PERSONAL PROPERTY, AND UNEXPIRED LEASES OF NONRESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY AND (II) CURE AMOUNTS <u>RELATED THERETO</u>

Suez/VWNA/DEGS of Lansing, LLC ("Lansing"), by and through their undersigned

counsel, for its Objection (the "Objection") to Debtors' Notice Of (I) Debtors' Intent To Assume

And Assign Certain Executory Contracts, Unexpired Leases Of Personal Property, And

*Unexpired Leases Of Nonresidential Real Property And (II) Cure Amounts Related Thereto* (the "Assumption and Assignment Notice"), respectfully represents as follows:

#### FACTS

#### **Procedural Facts**

1. On June 1, 2009 (the "Petition Date"), General Motors Corporation and certain of its subsidiaries (the "Debtors") commenced their cases (the "Bankruptcy Cases") that are now pending in this Court by filing voluntary petitions for relief under Chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C §§ 101 *et seq.* (the "Bankruptcy Code"). The Debtors continue to operate their business and manage their properties as debtors in possession pursuant to Bankruptcy Code sections 1107(a) and 1108.

2. On the Petition Date, the Debtors filed *Debtors' Motion Pursuant To 11 U.S.C. §§* 105, 363(b), (f), (k), And (m), And 365 And Fed. R. Bankr. P. 2002, 6004, And 6006, To (I) Approve (A) The Sale Pursuant To The Master Sale And Purchase Agreement With Vehicle Acquisition Holdings LLC, A U.S. Treasury-Sponsored Purchaser, Free And Clear Of Liens, Claims, Encumbrances, And Other Interests; (B) The Assumption And Assignment Of Certain Executory Contracts And Unexpired Leases; And (C) Other Relief; And (II) Schedule Sale Approval Hearing (the "Sale Motion"). In the Sale Motion, the Debtors seek approval from the Court for certain procedures governing the sale of substantially all of the Debtors' assets (the "363 Transaction") to Vehicle Acquisition Holdings, LLC (the "Purchaser") – a purchaser sponsored by the United States Department of the Treasury. Further, and as part of the 363 Transaction, Debtors seek authority from the Court to assume and assign certain executory contracts to the Purchaser.

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3. On June 2, 2009, the Court entered the Order Pursuant To 11 U.S.C. §§ 105, 363 And 365 And Fed. R. Bankr. P. 2002, 6004, And 6006 (I) Approving Procedures For Sale Of Debtors' Assets Pursuant To Master Sale And Purchase Agreement With Vehicle Acquisition Holdings LLC, A U.S. Treasury-Sponsored Purchaser; (II) Scheduling Bid Deadline And Sale Hearing Date; (III) Establishing Assumption And Assignment Procedures; And (IV) Fixing Notice Procedures And Approving Form Of Notice (the "Sale Procedures Order").

4. In the Sale Procedures Order, the Court, *inter alia*, approved the Sale Motion and scheduled the Sale Hearing on June 30, 2009, at 9:45 a.m. Further, the Court approved the form of the Assumption and Assignment Notice attached as *Exhibit E* to the Sale Motion and ordered that any objections by a non-Debtor counter-party to the proposed assumable executory contract as set forth in the Assumption and Assignment Notice, including disputes concerning the applicable cure amount, must be filed and served by the Contract Objection Deadline which is defined as no later than ten (10) days after the date of the Assumption and Assignment Notice (the "Contract Objection"). The Court also ordered that if required, the Court shall resolve any timely filed Contract Objection either at the Sale Hearing or such other date as determined by the Court. Finally, as to the Debtors' proposal in the Sale Motion concerning the adequate assurance of future performance requirements of Section 365(f)(2)(B), the Court ruled that in the event the Purchaser is not the successful bidder then non-Debtor parties to an executory contract, assumed and assigned as part of the 363 Transaction, may raise their objections to adequate assurance of future performance at the Sale Hearing.

## Facts Regarding Debtors' Assumption and Assignment Notice

5. The facts surrounding the Debtors' Assumption and Assignment Notice in relation

to Lansing are as follows:

- A. Lansing and the Debtors are parties to a contract titled *First Amended And Restated Utility Services Agreement Among Trigen/Cinergy-USFOS of Lansing, LLC, City of Lansing Board of Water and Light, And General Motors Corporation, Worldwide Facilities Group, Lansing Grand River Assembly Plant,* dated August 12, 2004, by and between Trigen/Cinergy-USFOS of Lansing, LLC and General Motors Corporation and ancillary documents (the "Lansing Agreement") (Trigen/Cinergy-USFOS of Lansing, LLC was the predecessor to Lansing).
- B. Members of Lansing received an Assumption and Assignment Notice from the Debtors addressed to Trigen-Cinergy Solutions, LLC. In addition, Members of Lansing have received other Assumption and Assignment Notices from the Debtors, but it is not clear from the Assumption and Assignment Notices or the website that is referenced in the notices what contract(s) the Debtors are proposing to assume and assign to the proposed purchaser.
- C. Through various communications exchanged between representatives of the Debtors and Lansing, Debtors have communicated to Lansing their intentions to assume and assign the Lansing Agreement as part of the 363 Transaction.
- D. The Debtors, however, have not provided Lansing with the Debtors' proposed Cure Amount for the assumption and assignment of the Lansing Agreement as part of the 363 Transaction.
- 6. Accordingly and for the reasons that follow, Lansing files this Objection in order to

preserve all of its rights and interests in the Lansing Agreement pursuant to, but without

limitation, Section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code.

## **Facts Regarding The Lansing Agreement**

7. As set forth above, the Debtors and Lansing are parties to the Lansing Agreement.

Under the Lansing Agreement, Lansing has provided pre-petition and continues to provide post-

petition utility services, as further defined under the Lansing Agreement, to the Debtors' assembly facility located in Lansing, Michigan. Further, the Lansing Agreement became effective on November 11, 1999, and terminates as of 11:59 p.m. on November 30, 2014. The Parties agreed, however, that the terms of the Lansing Agreement would automatically continue and extend thereafter on a month-to-month basis unless terminated by either party upon at least 180 days written notice and/or the Parties agreed to terms of a specific extension.

8. The facts relevant to the Debtors' cure amount of the Lansing Agreement are as

follows:

- A. Debtors' unpaid pre-petition amount due under the Lansing Agreement is \$213,637.43; and,
- B. At this time, there is no post-petition amount currently due under the Lansing Agreement. Under Lansing's billing schedule for the Lansing Agreement, Lansing will issue the first post-petition bill on or after July 1, 2009.

## **DISCUSSION**

# A. DEBTORS' PROPOSED ASSUMPTION AND ASSIGNMENT OF THE LANSING AGREEMENT MUST BE DENIED FOR DEBTORS' FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 365 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE.

Under the Bankruptcy Code, a debtor-in-possession may assign an executory contract in

accordance with Section 365(f) which provides, in pertinent part, as follows:

(2) The trustee may assign an executory contract . . . of the debtor only if–

(A) the trustee assumes such contract . . . in accordance with the provisions of this section; and

(B) adequate assurance of future performance by the assignee of such contract . . . is provided, whether or not there has been a default in such contract.

Therefore, Debtors may assign the Lansing Agreement only if the Debtors have first assumed the contract and provided adequate assurance of future performance by the assignee. To assume the Lansing Agreement, Debtors must satisfy the following three requirements of assumption under Section 365(b)(1) that are summarized, in pertinent part, as follows: (A) curing, or providing adequate assurance that the Debtors will promptly cure, such default; (B) compensate Lansing for any actual pecuniary loss resulting from Debtors' default; and, (C) provide adequate assurance of future performance under the Lansing Agreement.

In accordance with the foregoing, Debtors may not maintain the uninterrupted and continuous supply of utility services under the Lansing Agreement following the Closing Date of the 363 Transaction without first assuming and assigning the Lansing Agreement in accordance with Section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code. Debtors' failure to provide Lansing with a Cure Amount concerning the Lansing Agreement in accordance with Section 365(b)(1)(A) of the Bankruptcy Code is the primary basis for this Objection. As to Section 365(b)(1)(B), Lansing is currently reviewing all of its account information and other business records pertinent to the Lansing Agreement. Accordingly, Lansing hereby expressly reserves all of its rights to supplement this Objection for purposes of enforcing Debtors' obligation to compensate Lansing for any actual pecuniary loss resulting from Debtors' defaults under the Lansing Agreement. As to Section 365(b)(1)(C), Lansing agrees to abide by the Court's ruling under the Sale Procedures Order and as set forth herein.

WHEREFORE, and for the foregoing reasons, Lansing respectfully requests that this Court enter an order:

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1. Requiring the Debtors as a condition to their assumption and assignment of the Lansing Agreement to comply with the requirements of Sections 365(b)(1) and (f)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code by: (a) promptly paying Lansing the amounts owing under the Lansing Agreement including all unpaid pre-petition services and all unpaid post-petition services provided by Lansing to the Debtors through the Closing Date of the 363 Transaction; and, (b) compensating Lansing for any actual pecuniary loss resulting from Debtors' default under the Lansing Agreement; and,

2. Providing such other and further relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

Dated: Garden City, New York June 15, 2009

#### MEYER, SUOZZI, ENGLISH & KLEIN, P.C.

By: /s/ Jil Mazer-Marino Thomas R. Slome (TS-0957) Jil Mazer-Marino (JM-6470)

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