To: All partners of National Investments

From: David Piatt, IT department

Date: September 10, 2020

Subject: Database proposal

A database stores data, which our organization has in abundance. Not only does it store this data, it maintains relationships between the data and information about the data. A database will help National Investments with processing transactions, such as client and portfolio acquisitions, sale of portfolio assets, and product licenses. It will also help National Investments with providing analytical services, simplifying end of month, quarter, and fiscal year reporting for clients and regulatory authorities.

I have identified Microsoft SQL Server as the Database Management System that best meets our enterprise needs. National Investments is not the only company transitioning from spreadsheets to a cloud-based data service. Microsoft SQL Server is the leading enterprise Database Management System. It integrates with all of Microsoft’s cloud-based services to provide even more value.

Database maintenance and security is conducted according to a shared responsibility model. Microsoft will host our data. That means they provide the hardware, processing power, ensure power supply, and security of the database facility. We are responsible for implementing best security practices for a web-based database. This offers National Investments several benefits. Our database can scale as needed; we only pay for what we use. If we need more resources then we simply pay Microsoft for them, no more maintaining our own equipment. This allows us to have a fixed cost database budget. It also allows us to be more agile and elastic in our data management practices. We can respond to increased use and size without needing to purchase more hardware or hire more contractors.

As National Investments grows and acquires more clients and team members so will our data management need grow. We’ve already read above how Microsoft’s services will allow us to grow while maintaining fiscally responsibility, but how will they help us deliver more value and insights to our customers? Since our data will already be managed and hosted by Microsoft, we will have access to all of their Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning products. These services are available 24/7, affordable, and we only pay for what we use. We can leverage these services to identify patterns in our data, patterns that might affect client profitability, or help us predict and prevent losses in capital that could translate to client losses.

Not only are these services powerful, they support an everchanging business environment. They allow all of our team members the same unfettered access to their data, licenses, and resources no matter their location. This is especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic and the rise in popularity of remote work and work from home solutions.

National Investments has achieved so much success due to its agility, diversity, and expertise. Let’s take advantage of the full power and capabilities of the cloud by utilizing Microsoft SQL server. Leveraging Microsoft’s services will demonstrate to our peers and partners our commitment to provide insight and value as well as maintain security and responsibility.