**MEDIATION OPENING STATEMENT**

**Mediator:**

Good morning/afternoon,

I want to begin by expressing my gratitude to all the parties involved for their willingness to engage in this mediation process. Mediation provides a unique opportunity for us to come together and resolve our differences in a collaborative and constructive manner.

As the mediator, my role is to guide the discussions, facilitate effective communication, and help navigate towards a mutually acceptable resolution. I am neutral and impartial, and my primary objective is to assist all parties in finding common ground and reaching a satisfactory outcome.

During this mediation, each party will have the opportunity to express their perspectives, concerns, and interests. We will engage in active listening, empathy, and open dialogue to gain a deeper understanding of the underlying issues and explore potential solutions.

Confidentiality is of utmost importance in mediation. What is shared during this process will be kept confidential, fostering an environment of trust and encouraging open communication. This confidentiality allows all parties to freely express their thoughts and feelings, knowing that the information shared will not be used against them outside of this mediation.

We will utilize a structured process that ensures everyone has an equal opportunity to speak and be heard. I will facilitate productive discussions and encourage respectful interactions. It is important to approach this mediation with a willingness to listen, be open to alternative perspectives, and engage in constructive problem-solving.

Please keep in mind that the outcome of this mediation is not imposed by any party, including myself as the mediator. Instead, the resolution reached will be a voluntary agreement that reflects the shared interests and needs of all parties involved.

I encourage all participants to focus on the future rather than dwelling on past conflicts. Together, we can find creative solutions, rebuild relationships, and forge a path towards resolution and, hopefully, a stronger and more positive future.

Thank you for your commitment to this mediation process. Let us work together to find common ground, foster understanding, and reach a resolution that benefits all parties involved.