STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

RST LODGES AT PINELLAS PARK, LP.

FHFC CASE NO.: 2009-068UC APPLICATION NO. 2009-79C

Petitioner.

v.

FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION.

Respondent.

FINAL ORDER

This cause came before the Board of Directors of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation for consideration and final agency action on February 26, 2010. RST Lodges at Pinellas Park, L.P., ("Petitioner") timely submitted its 2009 Universal Cycle Program Application (the "Application") to Florida Housing Finance Corporation ("Florida Housing") to compete for funding from the 2009 Universal Cycle Program. Subsequently, Petitioner timely filed its petition for an informal hearing, pursuant to Sections 120.569 and 120.57(2), Florida Statutes, challenging Florida Housing's scoring on parts of the Application. Prior to the informal hearing, Petitioner and Respondent entered into a Consent Agreement. A true and correct copy of the Consent Agreement is attached hereto as "Exhibit A." Pursuant to the Consent Agreement, Petitioner and Respondent recommend that:

FILED WITH THE CLERK OF THE FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

Dula M Harrel /DATE. 2/26/10

1. Florida Housing enter a Final Order concluding that the Petitioner met all threshold requirements, and that its application receive a total score of 70 points, 6 ability to proceed tie-breaker points and 7.50 proximity tie-breaker points.

RULING ON THE CONSENT AGREEMENT

The Stipulated Findings of Fact and Stipulated Conclusions of Law of the Consent Agreement are supported by competent substantial evidence.

ORDER

In accordance with the foregoing, it is hereby **ORDERED**:

- 1. The Stipulated Findings of Fact of the Consent Agreement are adopted as Florida Housing's Findings of Fact and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth in this Order.
- 2. The Stipulated Conclusions of Law of the Consent Agreement are adopted as Florida Housing's Conclusions of Law and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth in this Order.

Based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law stated above,

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Petitioner's application is scored as having met all threshold requirements, and that its application receives a score of 70 points, 6 ability to proceed tie-breaker points and 7.50 proximity tie-breaker points.

DONE and ORDERED this 26th day of February, 2010.



FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

Copies to:

Matt Sirmans Assistant General Counsel Florida Housing Finance Corporation 337 North Bronough Street, Suite 5000 Tallahassee, FL 32301

Kevin Tatreau
Director of Multifamily Development Programs
Florida Housing Finance Corporation
337 North Bronough Street, Suite 5000
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Michael P. Donaldson Carlton Fields, P.A. 215 S. Monroe Street, Suite 500 Tallahassee, Florida 32302

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW

A PARTY WHO IS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THIS FINAL ORDER IS ENTITLED TO JUDICIAL REVIEW PURSUANT TO SECTION 120.68, FLORIDA STATUTES. REVIEW PROCEEDINGS ARE GOVERNED BY THE FLORIDA RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE. SUCH PROCEEDINGS ARE COMMENCED BY FILING ONE COPY OF A NOTICE OF APPEAL WITH THE AGENCY CLERK OF THE FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION, 227 NORTH BRONOUGH STREET, SUITE 5000, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32301-1329, AND A SECOND COPY, ACCOMPANIED BY THE FILING FEES PRESCRIBED BY LAW, WITH THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL, FIRST DISTRICT, 300 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., BLVD., TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-1850, OR IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL IN THE APPELLATE DISTRICT WHERE THE PARTY RESIDES. THE NOTICE OF APPEAL MUST BE FILED WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF RENDITION OF THE ORDER TO BE REVIEWED.

STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

TOWN PARK CROSSING, I	L.P.
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Petitioner,

vs.

FHFC No. 2009-064 UC Application No. 2009-255C 2009 Universal Cycle

FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION,

Respondent.	

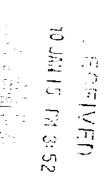
CONSENT AGREEMENT

Petitioner Town Park Crossing, L.P., ("TPC") and Respondent, Florida Housing Finance Corporation ("Florida Housing"), by and through undersigned counsel, hereby present the following Consent Agreement:

APPEARANCES

For Petitioner:

Michael P. Donaldson Florida Bar No.: 0802761 Carlton Fields, P.A. 215 S. Monroe Street, Suite 500 Tallahassee, Florida 32302 850-224-1585 (phone) 850-222-0398 (facsimile)



For Respondent:

Matthew A. Sirmans, Assistant General Counsel

Florida Bar No.: 0961973

Florida Housing Finance Corporation

227 N. Bronough Street, Suite 5000

Tallahassee, Florida 32301-1329

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

On or before August 20, 2009, TPC submitted an Application to Florida Housing for

funding through the 2009 Universal Cycle. On December 3, 2009, Florida Housing notified TPC

of the results of scoring its Application and provided TPC with a Notice of Rights pursuant to

Section 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes. TPC timely filed a Petition for Review

("Petition") challenging the finding that TPC consisted of "scattered sites" and therefore failed

threshold requirements and was not entitled to 70 total points and 6 ability to proceed tie-hreaker

Florida Housing determined that the utility easement did not divide the TPC points.

Development site within the meaning of the "scattered sites" definition of Rule 67-48.002(106).

Thus, TPC is entitled to 70 total points, 6 ability to proceed tie-breaker points, and 7.50

proximity tie-breaker points. Additionally, TPC has satisfied all threshold requirements.

Upon issuance of a Final Order adopting the terms of this Consent Agreement, TPC

agrees to dismiss its Petition with prejudice. The parties waive all right to appeal this Consent

Agreement or the Final Order to be issued in this ease, and each party shall bear his own costs

and attorney's fees. This Consent Agreement is subject to the approval of the Board of Directors

of Florida Housing ("The Board"). If the Board does not approve this Consent Agreement, no

Final Order will be issued and this Consent Agreement shall be null and void as if it were never

executed.

STIPULATED FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. TPC is a Florida for-profit limited partnership with its address at 8380 Resource Drive, West Palm Beach, Fl, 33404, and is in the business of providing affordable rental housing units.
- 2. Florida Housing is a public corporation, organized to provide and promote the public welfare by administering the governmental function of financing and refinancing housing and related facilities in the State of Florida. § 420.504. Fla. Stat.; Rule Chapter 67-48, Fla. Admin. Code.
- 3. The Low Income Housing Tax Credit ("Tax Credit") program is created within the Internal Revenue Code, and awards a dollar for dollar credit against federal income tax liability in exchange for the acquisition and substantial rehabilitation or new construction of rental housing units targeted at low and very low income population groups. Developers sell, or syndicate, the Tax Credits to generate a substantial portion of the funding necessary for construction of affordable housing development.
- 4. Florida Housing is the designated "housing credit agency" responsible for the allocation and distribution of Florida's Tax Credits to applicants for the development of rental housing for low income and very low income families.
- 5. Florida Housing uses a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP), the Universal Application and a scoring process for the award of Tax Credits, as outlined in Rule 67-48.004, Florida Administrative Code. The provisions of the QAP are adopted and incorporated by reference in Rule 67-48.002(95), Florida Administrative Code. Pursuant to the QAP, Tax Credits are apportioned among the most populated counties, medium populated counties, and

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least populated counties. The QAP also establishes various set-asides and special targeting goals.

- 6. The 2009 Universal Cycle Application is adopted as Form UA1016 (Rev. 5-09) by Rule 67-48.004(1)(a), Fla. Administrative Code, and consists of Parts I through V and Instructions, some of which are not applicable to every Applicant.
- 7. Florida Housing's scoring process for 2009, found at Rules 67-48.004-.005, Florida Administrative Code, involves the following:
 - a. the publication and adoption by rule of an application package;
 - b. the completion and submission of applications by developers;
 - c. Florida Housing's preliminary scoring of applications;
 - d. an initial round of administrative challenges in which an applicant may take issue with Florida Housing's scoring of another application by filing a Notice of Possible Scoring Error ("NOPSE");
 - e. Florida Housing's consideration of the NOPSEs submitted, with notice to applicants of any resulting change in their preliminary scores;
 - f. an opportunity for the applicant to submit additional materials to Florida Housing to "cure" any items for which the applicant received less than the maximum score;
 - g. a second round of administrative challenges whereby an applicant may raise scoring issues arising from another applicant's cure materials by filing a Notice of Alleged Deficiency ("NOAD"):
 - h. Florida Housing's consideration of the NOADs submitted, with notice to applicants of any resulting change in their scores;
 - i. an opportunity for applicants to challenge, via informal or formal administrative proceedings, Florida Housing's evaluation of any item for which the applicant received less than the maximum score; and
 - j. final scores, ranking, and allocation of funding to successful applicants, as well as those who successfully appeal through the adoption of final orders.

- 8. The 2009 Universal Cycle Application offers a maximum score of 70 points. In the event of the tie between competing applications, the Universal Cycle Application Instructions provide for a series of tie-breaking procedures to rank such applications for funding priority including the use of lottery numbers (randomly assigned during the application process).
- 9. On or about August 20, 2009, TPC and others submitted applications for financing in Florida Housing's 2009 funding cycle. TPC (Application #2009-255C) applied for \$1,735,993 of Tax Credit equity funding to help finance the construction of a 100-unit affordable apartment complex in Davie, Broward County, Florida.
- 10. TPC received notice of Florida Housing's initial scoring of the Application on or about September 21, 2009, at which time TPC was awarded a preliminary score of 66 points out of a possible 70 points, and 7.5 of 7.5 possible "tie breaker" points (awarded for geographic proximity to certain services and facilities), and 6 of 6 possible ability to proceed tie-breaker points. Florida Housing also concluded that the TPC application bad not passed all threshold requirements.
- 11. On or about October 1, 2009, Florida Housing received a NOPSE in connection with TPC's application. On or about October 23, 2009, Florida Housing sent TPC NOPSEs relating to its application submitted by other applicants, Florida Housing's position on any NOPSEs, and the effect the NOPSEs may have had on the applicant's score.
- 12. On or before November 3, 2009, TPC timely submitted its cure materials to Florida Housing.
- 13. On or about November 12, 2009. Florida Housing received a NOAD in connection with TPC's application. Florida Housing issued its final scores on December 3, 2009.

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14. At the conclusion of the NOPSE, cure review and NOAD processes, Florida Housing awarded the TPC Application a score of 47 points. The basis for the score was:

2S	As a cure to item 1T, the Applicant provided an amended legal description and sketch of the property. Sased on information provided by a NOAD, it appears that the Development site is divided by one or more easements and thus meets the celebration of Scattered Sites (see subsection 67-48.002(106), F.A.C.). The Applicant failed to commit to locate each selected feature and amenity that is not unit-specific on each of the Scattered Sites, or no more than 1116.	
}	mile from the site with the most units, or a combination of both. As a result, points were awarded only for those selected features and amenibes that are unit-specific	

5S	As a cure to item 17, the Applicant provided an amended legal description and sketch of the property. Based on information provided by a NOAD, it appears that the Development site is divided by one or more easements and thus meets the definition of Scattered Sites (see subsection 67-48.002(100), F.A.C.). Therefore, the Development Eccation on the Applicant Notification to Special Needs Household Referral Agency form should reflect all of the Scattered Sites. Because the form is incomplete, the proposed Development is not eligible for Special Needs points.	Fin≆
¹ 10S	As a cure to item 1T, the Applicant provided an amended legal description and stretch of the property. Based on information provided by a NOAD, it appears that the Development site is divided by one or more easements and thus meets the definition of Scattered Sites (see subsection 67-48.002(108), F.A.C.). Therefore, the Development Location on the Local Government Verification of Contribution - Loan form (Exhibits 45) should reflect all of the Scattered Sites. Because the form is incomplete, the Applicant was not eligible for points for this contribution. No other Local Government Verification of Contribution forms were provided and the Application is not esgible for automatic points.	Firsal
115	As a cure to item 17, the Applicant provided an amended legal description and sketch of the property. Based on information provided by a NOAD, it appears that the Development site is divided by one or more easements and thus meets the definition of Scattered Sites (see subsection 67-48.002(106), F.A.C.). Therefore, the Development Location on the Local Government Verification of Affordable Housing Incentives forms (Exhibits 47, 48, 48 and 50) should reflect all of the Scattered Sites. Because the forms are incomplete, the proposed Development is not engible for any points for Local Government (incentives.	Finar

15. Florida Housing also determined that the TPC Application failed threshold requirements, stating:

legal description information provided information	Applicant provided an amended fish of the property. Based on a NOAD, it appears that the led by one or more easements iton of Scattered Sites (see 6), F.A.C.). The Applicant failed uestion at Part III.A.2.b. of the
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8T	III	A	2.b	Scattered Sites	As a cure to item 1T, the Applicant provided an amended legal description and sketch of the property. Based on information provided by a NOAD, it appears that the Development site is divided by one or more easements and thus meets the definition of Scattered Sites (see subsection 67-48.002(100), F.A.C.). The Applicant failed to provide the required information for each of the Scattered Sites at Exhibit 20, as required by the 2009 Universal Application instructions.	Fina
9T	:II	C	1	Site Plan Approval) Plat Approval	As a cure to item 1T, the Applicant provided an amended legal description and sketch of the property. Based on information provided by a NOAD, it appears that the Development site is divided by one or more easements and thus meets the definition of Scattered Sites (see subsection 67-48.002(106), F.A.C.). Therefore, the Applicant failed to demonstrate site plan approval for all sites as required by the 2009 Universal Application Instructions.	Fina
IOT		С	3,a	Avazability of Electricity	As a cure to item 1T, the Applicant provided an amended legal description and sketch of the property. Based on information provided by a NOAD, it appears that the Development site is divided by one or more easements and thus meets the definition of Scattered Sites (see subsection 67-48-002) (105; F.A.C.). Therefore, the Applicant failed to demonstrate availability of electricity for all sites as required by the EDOP Universal Application Instructions.	Fina
117	11	c	3.b	Assasability of Water	As a cure to item 1T, the Applicant provided an amended legal description and sketch of the property. Based on information provided by a NOAD, it appears that the Development site is divided by one or more easements and thus meets the definition of Scattered Sites (see subsection 67-48,002(106), F.A.C.). The 2009 Universal Application Instructions require that availability of water be demonstrated for all sites if the proposed Development consists of Scattered Sites. Therefore, the Applicant failed to demonstrate availability of water for all sites as required by the 2009 Universal Application Instructions.	Fina
121		С	3.c	Availability of Sewer	As a cure to item 1T, the Applicant provided an amended legal description and sketch of the property. Based on information provided by a NOAD, it appears that the Development site is divided by one or more easenems and thus meets the definition of Scattered Sites (see subsection 67-48-002(108), F.A.C.). Therefore, the Applicant failed to demonstrate availability of sewer for all sites as required by the 2009 Universic Application Instructions.	Fina
13T	18	С	3.d	Availability of Roads	As a cure to item 17, the Applicant provided an amended legal description and sketch of the property. Based on information provided by a NOAD, it appears that the Development site is divided by one or more easements and thus meets the definition of Scattered Sites (see subsection 87-49.002(106), F.A.C.). Therefore, the Applicant failed to demonstrate availability of roads for all sites as required by the 2009 Universal Application Instructions.	Finai
141	3 [С	4	Zaveng	As a cure to item 17, the Applicant provided an amended legal description and sketch of the property. Based on information provided by a NOAD, it appears that the Development site is divided by one or more easements and thus meets the definition of Scattered Sites (see subsection 67-48,002(106), F.A.C.). Therefore, the Applicant falled to demonstrate appropriate zoring for all sites as required by the 2009 Universal Application.	Fina
157	n;	c	5	Environmental S4e Assessment	As a cure to tem 1T, the Applicant provided an amended legal description and sketch of the property. Based on information provided by a NOAD, it appears that the Development site is divided by one or more easements and thus meets the definition of Scattered Sites (see subsection 67-49.002(108), F.A.C.). Therefore, the Applicant failed to demonstrate that a Phase I ESA has been performed for all sites as required by the 2009 Universal Application Instructions.	Fina

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16. Florida Housing also determined that TPC failed to achieve selected ability to proceed tie-breaker points stating:

1A	The Application is not eligible for 1 Ab- ty to Proceed Tie-Breaker Point for site plan approval. See Item 97 above.	Fina
2A	The Application is not eligible for 1 Ability to Proceed Tie-Breaker Point for availability of electricity. See Nero 10T above.	Fina
3A	The Application is not eligible for 1 Abitity to Proceed Tie-Breaker Point for availability of water See Item 11T above	Fina
4A	The Application is not eligible for 1 Ab. by to Proceed Tie-Breaker Point for availability of sewer. See Item 12T above.	Fina
5A	The Application is not eligible for 1 Ability to Proceed Tie-Breaker Point for availability of roads. See Item 13T above.	Fina
дA	The Application is not eighble for 1 Ability to Proceed T.e-Breaker Point for appropriate zoning and land use. See Item 14T above	Fina:

17. Finally, Florida Housing determined that TPC failed to achieve selected proximity tie-breaker points:

1P	As a cure to item 1T, the Applicant provided an amended legal description and sketch of the property. Based on information provided by a NOAD, it appears that the Development site is cauded by one or more easements and thus meets the definition of Scattared Sites (see subsection 67-48.002 (105), F.A.C.), if a Development consists of Scattered Sites, the Tie-Breaker Measurement Point must be occated in the parcel with the most units. Because the Applicant ad not provide information for each of its scattered sites at Exhibit 20, FHFC is unable to verify that the Tie-Breaker Measurement Point is on the site with the most units and therefore it impossible to measure the distance between it and the other services.	Fina
12	As a cure to item 1T, the Applicant provided an amended legal description and sketch of the property. Based on information provided by a NOAD, it appears that the Development site is divided by one or more easements and thus meets the definition of Scattered Sites (see subsection 67-48.002(106), F.A.C.). The Yes/No box was not checked within the Surveyor Certification form certifying that part of boundary of each parcel of the Scattered Sites is within 1/2 mile of the Tie-Breaker Measurement Point. Therefore, the form could not be scored	Firas
îP	As a cure to item 1T, the Applicant provided an amended legal description and sketch of the property. Based on information provided by a NOAD, it appears that the Development site is divided by one or more easements and thus meets the definition of Scattered Sites (see subsection 67-43 002(106), F.A.C.). The Yes/No box was not checked within the Surveyor Certification form certifying that part of boundary of each parcel of the Scattered Sites is within 12 mile of the Tie-Breaker Measurement Point. Therefore, the form could not be scored.	Fina
2P	As a cure to item 17, the Applicant provided an amended legal description and sketch of the property. Based on information provided by a NOAD, it appears that the Development site is divided by one or more easternerits and thus meets the definition of Scattlered Sites (see subsection 67-48.002(106), F.A.C., It as Development consists of Scattlered Sites, the Tie-Breaker Measurement Point must be located in the purcei with the most units. Because the Applicant did not provide information for each of its scattlered sites at Exhibit 20, FHFC is unable to verify that the Tie-Breaker Measurement Point is on the site with the most units and therefore it impossible to measure the distance between it and the other services.	Final
SP	As a cure to item 1T, the Applicant provided an amended legal description and sketch of the property. Based on information provided by a NOAD, it appears that the Development site is divided by one or more easements and thus meets the definition of Scattered Sites (see subsection 67-48,002(106), F.A.C., i. Per subsection 67-49,002(116), F.A.C., i. a Development consists of Scattered Sites, the Tie-Breaker Measurement Point must be located in the parce with the most units. Because the Applicant did not provide information for each of its scattered sites at Exhibit 20, PHFC is unable to verify that the Tie-Breaker Measurement Point is on the site with the most units and therefore it impossible to measure the distance between it and the other services.	Fina

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5P	As a cure to item 1T, the Applicant provided an amended legal description and sketch of the property. Based on information provided by a NOAD, it appears that the Development site is divided by one or more easements and thus meets the definition of Scattered Sites (see subsection 87-48.002(106), F.A.C.). The Yes/No box was not checked within the Surveyor Certification form pentitying that part of boundary of each parcel of the Scattered Sites is within 1/2 mile of the Tie-Breaker Measurement Point. Therefore, the form could not be spored	Finar
ēР	As a cure to nem 1T, the Applicant provided an amended legal description and sketch of the property. Based on information provided by a NOAD, it appears that the Development site is chided by one or more easements and thus meets the definition of Scattered Sites (see subsection 67-48.002(106), F.A.C.). The Yes/No how was not checked within the Surreyor Certification form certifying that part of boundary of each parcel of the Scattered Sites is within 1/2 mile of the Tile Breaker Measurement Point, Therefore, the form could not be scored.	Fina:
đР	Because the Application does not qualify as an Urban in-Fill Development. (see dem 3C), the Applicant is not eligible for automatic 3.75 proximity points.	Fina
4 B	As a cure to item 1T, the Applicant provided an arrended legal description and sketch of the property. Based on information provided by a NOAD, it appears that the Development site is divided by one or more easements and thus meets the definition of Scattered Sites (see subsection 67-48.002(106), F.A.C.). Per subsection 67-48.002(116), F.A.C., If a Development consists of Scattered Sites, the Tile-Breaker Measurement Point must be located in the parcel with the most units. Because the Applicant old not provide information for each of its scattered sites at Exhibit 2D, FHFC is unable to verify that the Tile-Breaker Measurement Point is on the site with the most units and therefore it impossible to measure the distance between it and the existing Developments on the Proximity List.	Fina-

- 18. On or before December 28, 2009, TPC submitted a Petition for Review pursuant to Sections 120.569 and 120.57(2), Florida Statutes.
- 19. The sole issue raised by the petition was the determination by Florida Housing during the Universal Cycle scoring process that TPC's development site "is divided by one or more easements and thus meets the definition of Scattered Sites" in rule 67-48.002(106). As noted in the charts above, the determination that TPC consists of scattered sites resulted in TPC failing threshold requirements and achieving a total score of 46 with 0 ability to proceed tie-breaker points when final scores were issued on December 3, 2009. Had Florida Housing not found that TPC consisted of scattered sites, all threshold requirements would have been met and TPC would have achieved a total score of 70, and six ability to proceed tie-breaker points, as well as 7.50 proximity tie-breaker points.
- 20. Florida Housing determined that the utility easement did not divide the TPC Development site within the meaning of the "scattered sites" definition of Rule 67-48.002(106). Thus, TPC is entitled to 70 total points, 6 ability to proceed tie-breaker points, and 7.50 proximity tie-breaker points. Additionally, TPC has satisfied all threshold requirements.

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STIPULATED CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to Sections 120.569 and 120.57(2), Florida Statutes, and Florida

Administrative Code Chapter 67-48, the Board has jurisdiction over the parties to this

proceeding.

2. Florida Housing is statutorily authorized to institute a competitive application

process for the allocation of Tax Credits and has done so through Rules 67-48.004 and 67-

48.005, Florida Administrative Code.

3. An agency's interpretation of its own rules will be upheld unless it is clearly

erroneous, or amounts to an unreasonable interpretation. Legal Envil. Assistance Found., Inc., v.

Board of County Comm'rs of Brevard County, 642 So. 2d 1081 (Fla 1994); Miles v. Florida A

and M Univ., 813 So. 2d 242 (Fla. 1st DCA 2002). This is so even if the agency's interpretation

is not the sole possible interpretation, the most logical interpretation, or even the most desirable

interpretation. Golfcrest Nursing Home v. Agency for Health Care Admin., 662 So. 2d 1330 (Fla.

1st DCA 1995).

STIPULATED DISPOSITION

TPC has met all threshold requirements and is entitled to 70 total points, 6 ability to

proceed tie-breaker points, and 7.50 proximity tie-breaker points.

Respectfully submitted this 15th day of January 2010.

By:

Michael P. Donaldson

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