STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

HTG LAKERIDGE GREENS, LTD.,

Petitioner,

FHFC Case No. 2009-071UC Application No. 2009-222C

V.

FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION,

Respondent	ŀ.
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CONSENT AGREEMENT

Petitioner, HTG Lakeridge Green, Ltd. ("HTG") 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, Esquire Florida Bar No. 080276 Carlton Fields, P.a. 215 S. Monroe Street, Suite 500 Tallahassee, FL 32301 850/224-1585 (phone) 850/222-0398 (facsimile)

For Respondent:

Hugh Brown, Deputy General Counsel Florida Bar No. 0003484 Florida Housing Finance Corporation 227 N. Bronough Street, Suite 5000 Tallahassee, FL 32301-1329

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

On or before August 20, 2009, HTG submitted an Application to Florida Housing for funding through the 2009 Universal Cycle. On December 3, 2009, Florida Housing notified HTG of the results of scoring its Application and provided HTG with a Notice of Rights pursuant to Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes. Florida Housing determined that HTG had not provided documentation that one of the purposes of the non-profit entity was to foster low income housing. Based on this, Florida Housing determined that HTG failed threshold requirements and was not entitled to 70 total points and 6 ability to proceed tie-breaker points. Florida Housing has determined that proper documentation has been provided concerning the non-profit entity issue. Thus, HTG is entitled to 70 total points, 6 ability to proceed tie-breaker points, and 7.50 proximity tie-breaker points. Additionally, HTG has satisfied all threshold requirements.

Upon issuance of a Final Order adopting the terms of this Consent Agreement, HTG 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 case, and each party shall bear its 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. HTG is a Florida limited partnership with its address at 3250 Mary Street, Suite 500, Miami, Florida 33133, and is in the business of providing affordable rental housing units.
- 2. Florida Housing is a public eorporation 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 targeting 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 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), Florida 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;
 - 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 t 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, HTG and others submitted applications for financing in Florida Housing's 2009 funding cycle (Application #2009-222C) applied for \$2,110,000 of Tax Credit equity funding to help finance the construction of a 95-unit affordable apartment complex in West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida.
- 10. HTG received notice of Florida Housing's initial scoring of the Application on or about September 21, 2009, at which time HTG 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 5 of 6 possible ability to proceed tie-breaker points. Florida Housing also concluded that the HTG application had not passed all threshold requirements.
- 11. On or about October 1, 2009, Florida Housing received a NOPSE in connection with HTG's application. On or about October 23, 2009, Florida Housing sent HTG NOPSE's 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 seore.
- 12. On or before November 3, 2009, HTG timely submitted its cure materials to Florida Housing.
- 13. At the conclusion of the NOPSE, cure review and NOAD process, Florida Housing awarded the HTG Application a score of 70 points.

14. Florida Housing also determined that the HTG Application failed threshold requirement, stating:

Threshold(s) Failed;

ben S	Part	Section	Subsection	Description	Reason(s)	Cremed as Result of	Rescinded as Result of
IT	il.	A	2. e		The Applicant failed to quality as a Non-Profit because the Articles of incorporation provided in the Application do not demonstrate that one of the purposes of the non-profit.		
					eraty is to hoster low-income housing.		

- 15. On or before December 28, 2009, HTG submitted a Petition for Review pursuant to Sections 120,569 and 120,57(2), Florida Statutes.
- The sole issue raised by the Petition was the determination by Florida Housing during the Universal Cycle scoring process that HTG did not provide adequate documentation as to the purpose of the non-profit entity being to foster low-income housing. Had Florida Housing not found this issue, all threshold requirements would have been met and HTG would have achieved a total score of 70, and 6 ability to proceed tic-breaker points, as well as 7.50 proximity tie-breaker points.
- 17. Florida Housing has determined that adequate documentation has indeed been submitted as to the non-profit entity issue. Thus, HTG is entitled to 70 total points, 6 ability to proceed tic-breaker points, and 7.50 proximity tie-breaker points. Additionally, HTG has satisfied all threshold requirements.

STIPULATED CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 18. 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.
- 19. 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.

STIPULATED DISPOSITION

20. HTG 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 /OH/day of February, 2010.

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