STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

In Re: Sandcastles Foundation, LLC FHFC Case No.: 2023-070VW

_____/

ORDER GRANTING WAIVER OF
RULE 67-48.0072(21)(b), FLA. ADMIN. CODE (2021)

THIS CAUSE came for consideration and final action before the Board of Directors of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (the "Board") on October 27, 2023. On October 3, 2023, Florida Housing Finance Corporation ("Florida Housing") received an Amended Petition for Waiver of Rule 67-48.0072(21)(b) (the "Amended Petition") from Sandcastles Foundation, Inc. The Amended Petition requests to extend the Firm Loan Commitment deadline from October 5, 2023, to January 3, 2024. Notice of the Amended Petition was published October 4, 2023, in Volume 49, Number 193, of the Florida Administrative Register. Florida Housing received no comments regarding the Amended Petition. After careful review of the record and being otherwise fully advised on the premises, the Board hereby finds:

1. The Board has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this case and the parties hereto.

FILED WITH THE CLERK OF THE FLORIDA
HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION
Ms. Glamorus /DATE: 10/30/23

2. Petitioner successfully applied for HOME funding to assist in the construction of Sandcastle Manor, a 22-unit development located in Baker County, Florida (the "Development").

3. Rule 67-48.0072(21)(b), Fla. Admin. Code (2021), states, in relevant part:

> (b) For SAIL, EHCL, and HOME, unless stated otherwise in a competitive solicitation, the firm loan commitment must be issued within twelve (12) months of the Applicant's acceptance to enter credit underwriting. Unless an extension is approved by the Corporation in writing, failure to achieve credit underwriting report approval and issuance of a firm loan commitment by the specified deadline shall result in withdrawal of the preliminary commitment. Applicants may request one (1) extension of up to six (6) months to secure a firm loan commitment. All extension requests must be submitted in writing to the program administrator and contain the specific reasons for requesting the extension and shall detail the time frame to achieve a firm loan commitment. In determining whether to grant an extension, the Corporation shall consider the facts and circumstances of the Applicant's request, inclusive of the responsiveness of the Development team and its ability to deliver the Development timely. The Corporation shall charge non-refundable extension fee of one (1) percent of each loan amount if the request to extend the credit underwriting and firm loan commitment process beyond the initial twelve (12) month deadline is approved. If, by the end of the extension period, the Applicant has not received a firm loan commitment, then the preliminary commitment shall be withdrawn.

4. Petitioner's initial firm loan commitment issuance deadline for the HOME Award was April 5, 2023. On April 11, 2023, the Board granted Petitioner's request for an extension of the firm loan commitment issuance deadline. Petitioner was granted an extension to October 5, 2023.

5. Petitioner now requests a waiver of the Rule for an additional extension of the firm loan commitment deadline from October 5, 2023, to January 3, 2024. As justification for its request, Petitioner states that it is waiting on the issuance of a permit from St. Johns Water Management District, as the Development is Wetlands adjacent. Petitioner states it has been responsive to all requests for information and has not caused the delay.

6. The Board finds that granting the requested waiver will not impact other participants in funding programs administered by Florida Housing, nor will it detrimentally impact Florida Housing.

7. The Board also finds that Petitioner has demonstrated that the waiver is needed because of circumstances beyond its control and that it would suffer a substantial hardship if the waiver is not granted.

8. The Board further finds that Petitioner has also demonstrated that the purpose of the underlying statute, which is to "encourage development of low-income housing in the state," would still be achieved if the waiver is granted. §420.5099, Fla. Stat.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Petitioner's request for a waiver of Rule 67-48.0072(21)(b), Fla. Admin. Code (2021), is hereby **GRANTED** to allow Petitioner to extend its firm loan commitment issuance deadline from October 5, 2023, to January 3, 2024.

DONE and ORDERED this 27th day of October, 2023.

Florida Housing Finance Corporation

By: _____
Chairperson

Copies furnished to:

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Joint Administrative Procedures Committee
Attention: Ms. Yvonne Wood
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NOTICE OF RIGHT TO ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

A PARTY WHO IS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THIS ORDER IS ENTITLED TO ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 120.542(8), 120.569, AND 120.57, FLORIDA STATUTES. SUCH PROCEEDINGS ARE COMMENCED PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 67-52, FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, BY FILING AN ORIGINAL AND ONE (1) COPY OF A PETITION WITH THE AGENCY CLERK OF THE FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION, 227 NORTH BRONOUGH STREET, SUITE 5000, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32301-1329.