STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

In Re: CASA DOLORES HUERTA, LLC

FHFC Case No.: 2022-052VW

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ORDER GRANTING WAIVER
OF RULE 67-48.0072(21)(b), F.A.C.

THIS CAUSE came on for consideration and final action before the Board of Directors of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (the "Board") on September 30, 2022. On August 30, 2022, Florida Housing Finance Corporation ("Florida Housing") received a "Petition for Waiver of Rule 67-48.0072(21)(b)" (the "Petition") from Casa Dolores Huerta, LLC (the "Petitioner"), to allow Petitioner to extend the firm loan commitment issuance deadline. Notice of the Petition was published on August 31, 2022, in Volume 48, Number 170, of the Florida Administrative Register. Florida Housing received no comments regarding the 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.

2. Petitioner successfully applied for State Apartment Incentive Loan ("SAIL") funding in RFA 2021-104 to assist in the construction of a 20-

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unit affordable housing development named Casa Dolores Huerta to be located in Miami-Dade County, Florida (the "Development").

3. Rule 67-48.0072(21)(b), Florida Administrative Code (2020), in relevant part, provides:

> (21) Information required by the Credit Underwriter shall be provided as follows:
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> ...
>
> (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 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 a 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 an approved extension is utilized, Applicants must pay the extension fee not later than seven (7) Calendar Days after the original twelve (12) month deadline. 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 requests a waiver of the above-cited rule to allow Petitioner to extend the firm loan commitment issuance deadline. Petitioner accepted an invitation to credit underwriting on March 29, 2021, which provided a firm loan commitment issuance deadline of March 29, 2022.

5. At the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Corporation (the "Board") on March 4, 2022, the Board granted Petitioner's request to extend the loan commitment issuance deadline to September 29, 2022.

6. Petitioner now requests an additional 180-day firm loan commitment extension, extending the deadline from September 29, 2022, to March 29, 2023.

7. Petitioner asserts that since the initial award of the SAIL financing, construction costs have increased dramatically in Miami-Dade County. As a result thereof, Petitioner applied for and has been initially awarded $500,000 of Federal Home Loan Bank Affordable Housing Program funds. Application for these funds delayed the initial commencement of preparation of plans and drawings for the Development. Since that time, initial plans have been completed; however, Petitioner has not yet been unable to secure a construction contract for the Development, again as a result of increasing construction costs which cause total development costs to exceed available capital sources. Petitioner has undertaken certain steps to value

engineer the Development in order to bring down total development cost to a feasible level, and continues to seek additional capital funding to fill the aforementioned financing gap.

8. Petitioner states the delays have been caused by circumstances outside Petitioner's control. As a result, the delay makes it impossible to meet the September 29, 2022, deadline for issuance of a firm loan commitment.

9. Section 120.542(2), Florida Statutes, provides in pertinent part:

> Variances and waivers shall be granted when the person subject to the rule demonstrates that the purpose of the underlying statute will be or has been achieved by other means by the person and when application of a rule would create a substantial hardship or would violate principles of fairness.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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), Florida Administrative Code (2020), is hereby **GRANTED** to allow Petitioner to extend its firm loan commitment issuance deadline from September 29, 2022, to March 29, 2023.

DONE and ORDERED this 16th day of September 2022.

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.