BEFORE THE FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

TWC THIRTY-FOUR, LTD., (PROJECT NAME: WESLEYAN)

Petitioner,

VS.

Applicant No. 2002-115C

FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION,

Responden	t.
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Issue Summary: Florida Housing Scoring Summary incorrectly indicates a threshold failure when actual Florida Housing position as shown in Cure/NOAD Evaluation Form is that Wesleyan met threshold.

PETITION FOR REVIEW

Pursuant to Section 120.56(4), and .57, *Florida Statutes* ("F.S."), and Rule 67-48.005, *Florida Administrative Code* ("F.A.C."), Petitioner, TWC THIRTY-FOUR, LTD. ("Wesleyan"), requests an administrative hearing to review and contest the FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION's ("FHFC") scoring of Wesleyan's 2002 Universal Application ("Application"). In support of this Petition, Wesleyan provides as follows:

1. Wesleyan is a Florida for-profit limited partnership with its address at 655 North Franklin Street, Suite 2200, Tampa, FL 33602. Wesleyan is in the business of providing affordable rental housing units.

- 2. FHFC is the state agency delegated the authority and responsibility for administering and awarding the Housing Credit ("HC") program in the State of Florida pursuant to Chapter 420, F.S., and Rule 67-48, F.A.C.
- 3. The HC program is a federally funded program, which awards project owners a dollar-for-dollar reduction in income tax liability in exchange for the acquisition and substantial rehabilitation of new construction of law and very low-income rental housing units. FHFC is the designated housing credit agency for the allocation of tax credits in the State of Florida.
- 4. The award of HC funds is made through a competitive process in which project owners apply using a Universal Application.
- 5. The 2002 Universal Application is comprised of numerous forms, which request information of each applicant. FHFC has adopted the forms by reference in Rule 67-48.004(1), F.A.C.
- 6. On April 15, 2002, all applicants, including Wesleyan, submitted Universal Applications to FHFC for review. Wesleyan submitted its Application in an attempt to obtain funding to assist in the construction of a 196-unit affordable housing apartment complex in Sumter County, Florida.
- 7. To review and score the applications, FHFC in Rule 67-48.004, F.A.C., has established a multi-step scoring process, which at least initially allows all applicants to point out errors that FHFC may have missed. Additionally, the process allows applicants to correct errors and omissions made during the preparation of the application. The process concludes with the entry of Final Scores.

- 8. On May 13, 2002, FHFC completed its preliminary review and scoring of Wesleyan's Application. At that time, Wesleyan was awarded a preliminary score of 71 points out of a possible 71 points. However, Wesleyan was deemed to have failed threshold due to deficiencies related to site plan approval and zoning verifications (Items # 1T and 2T).
- 9. Subsequent to the release of FHFC's preliminary scores, each applicant, pursuant to Rule 67-48.004(4), F.A.C., was allowed to submit to FHFC Notice of Possible Scoring Errors ("NOPSE"). The purpose of a NOPSE was to point out errors in FHFC's scoring of applications. At least one NOPSE was filed regarding Wesleyan's application.
- 10. As a result of a NOPSE, Wesleyan's score for local government support-contributions- was reduced from five to zero points (because the local government verification of contribution loan form omitted the last paragraph of the form). As a result of this point reduction, Florida Housing also determined that Wesleyan failed threshold for Item #3T, Part IV, Section A, Exhibit 34 (the verification form), and for Item #4T, Part V, sources versus uses (shortfall in sources due to lack of contribution).
- 11. In response to the NOPSE's and FHFC's preliminary review, applicants were allowed 15 days to submit revised documentation to correct any errors in their applications pursuant to Rule 67-48.004(6), F.A.C. All revised documentation was due to FHFC by June 26, 2002. Wesleyan submitted numerous "cures", including submission of corrected Verification of Status of Site Plan Approval, Local Government

Verification that Development is Consistent with Zoning and Land Use Regulations, and Local Government Verification of Contribution Loan form.

12. Subsequent to the submittal of revised information pursuant to Rule 67-48.004(7), F.A.C., each applicant was allowed the opportunity to provide a Notice of Alleged Deficiency in Scoring ("NOAD") with respect to the revised documentation submitted by other applicants. There were no NOAD's submitted regarding Wesleyan's cures of these items.

Scoring Summary Does Not Accurately Reflect Actual Scoring- Florida Housing

Determined That Threshold Was Met, But Scoring Summary Does Not Reflect

- 13. On July 22, 2002, FHFC finalized its review of the revised documentation submitted and issued Final Scores. Florida Housing accepted all of the cures referenced above, removing the threshold failures related to site plan approval and evidence of appropriate zoning, and increasing Wesleyan's Final Score to 71 out of a possible 71 points. The Final Score was increased because the revised Local Government Verification of Loan Form was accepted by Florida Housing.
- 14. However, in the Universal Scoring Summary (attached as Exhibit 1),
 Florida Housing continued to reflect a threshold failure related to Items #3T and #4T.
 These threshold failures were caused because of the deficiency in the Local
 Government Verification of Loan Form, which had been cured and accepted by Florida
 Housing.
- 15. A public records request showed that in the actual Florida Housing scoring, as reflected in the Cure/NOAD Evaluation Form for Wesleyan (attached as

- Exhibit 2), both of these items were deemed to be properly cured, and that Wesleyan had met threshold for items IVA (#3T) and V (#4T). Therefore, the scoring summary is inaccurate, and does not reflect the actual scoring of Wesleyan.
- 16. Wesleyan's position in the ranking and its ability to be awarded funding is dependent on how FHFC scores its Application. The ability to finance the proposed project will be jeopardized if funding is not obtained; accordingly, Wesleyan's substantial interests are affected by this proceeding. In the instant appeal, Wesleyan challenges Florida Housing's conclusion that Wesleyan failed threshold, as reflected inaccurately in the 2002 Universal Scoring Summary.
- 17. The material issues of fact and conclusions of law in the instant proceeding are as follows:
 - a. Whether FHFC erred in reflecting a threshold failure in the 2002 Universal Scoring Summary, when the Florida Housing Cure/NOAD Evaluation Form showed that threshold had been met.
 - b. Whether Wesleyan's application has satisfied threshold requirements.

WHEREFORE, based on the foregoing, Wesleyan respectfully requests, to the extent the facts are undisputed, a recommended order be entered which finds that the Application has met threshold. To the extent facts are in dispute, Wesleyan requests the right to request a formal administrative hearing to contest those disputed facts.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Bowers

TWC Thirty-Four, Ltd.

655 North Franklin Street, Suite 2200

Tampa, FL 32602

Telephone: (813) 281-8888 Facsimile: (813) 281-5657

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the original of the foregoing has been filed by Hand Delivery with the Agency Clerk, Florida Housing Finance Corporation, 227 N. Bronough Street, Suite 5000, Tallahassee, FL 32301, and a copy furnished by Hand Delivery to Wellington H. Meffert, II, General Counsel, Florida Housing Finance Corporation, 227 N. Bronough St., Suite 5000, Tallahassee, FL 32301, this 13th day of August, 2002.

Chris Bowers



As of: 07/22/2002

2002 Universal Scoring Summary

File # 2002-115C Development Name: Wesleyan

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As of: 07/22/2002

2002 Universal Scoring Summary

File # 2002-115C

Development Name: Wesleyan

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2002 Universal Scoring Summary

As of: 07/22/2002

File# 2002-115C

Development Name: Wesleyan

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Cure/NOAD Evaluation Form
2002 Universal and HOME Rental Cycles

WEGLEYAN

Application No.: 2002-115C

Part V Section A Subsection Exhibit 34

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