### STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

CITY CROSSINGS, LTD

Petitioner,

**FHFC CASE NO.: 2012-049UC** 

VS.

**APPLICATION NO: 2011-090C** 

2011 Universal Cycle

FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE

CORPORATION,

Respondent.

# **CONSENT AGREEMENT**

Petitioner, City Crossings, Ltd. ("City Crossings"), and Respondent, Florida Housing Finance Corporation ("Florida Housing"), by and through undersigned counsel, hereby present the following Consent Agreement:

## STATEMENT OF THE CASE

1. City Crossings timely submitted its application for financing in Florida Housing's 2011 Universal Cycle. City Crossings, pursuant to Application #2011-090C, applied for an allocation of \$2,561,000 in annual federal tax credits to help finance the development of its project, a proposed 103-unit high-rise complex in Miami-Dade County.

- 2. In its final scoring Florida Housing awarded City Crossing's

  Application 79 Total Points, 6 Ability-to-Proceed Tie-Breaker Points and a total of

  36.25 of a possible 37 Proximity Tie-Breaker Points. However, under Florida

  Housing's ranking procedures, City Crossing's application was not among those in
  the funding range in the final rankings adopted by Florida Housing.
- 3. Rule 67-48.005(5), Florida Administrative Code ("F.A.C."), provides an entry point and a procedure pursuant to which an applicant in the Universal Application Cycle may file an administrative petition contesting the final rank or score of a competing applicant, subject to certain conditions. The rule is designed to provide a means of redress to an otherwise eligible universal cycle applicant whose application was not ranked in the funding range in the final ranking adopted by Florida Housing due to an error made by Florida Housing in its scoring of a competing application. The rule requires that the petitioner allege facts in its petition sufficient to demonstrate that "but for" a specifically identified errors(s) made by Florida Housing in scoring or ranking the challenged application, the petitioner's application would have been in the funding range at the time Florida Housing issued its final rankings.
- 4. Joe Moretti Preservation Phase One, LLC, ("Joe Moretti") also submitted an application for financing in Florida Housing's 2011 Universal Cycle. Joe Moretti, pursuant to Application #2011-047C ("Application"), applied for

\$2,316,092 in annual federal tax credits to help finance the redevelopment of its project, a 116-unit high rise complex in Miami-Dade County. In its final scoring Florida Housing awarded Joe Moretti's Application 79 Total Points, 6 Ability-to-Proceed Tie-Breaker points and a total of 36.25 of a possible 37 Proximity Tie-Breaker points.

5. City Crossings timely filed its Petition challenging Florida Housing's scoring and ranking of Joe Moretti's application with regard to its determination that Joe Moretti's application satisfied site control threshold requirements. City Crossings alleged that Florida Housing incorrectly determined: (1) that Joe Moretti's Application demonstrated site control and (2) incorrectly scored Joe Moretti's Application as having met threshold.

#### JOE MORETTI APPLICATION

6. During its initial submission Joe Moretti included within its

Application a ground lease dated December 5, 2011, entered into between MiamiDade County (Landlord) and RUDG, LLC, (Tenant) ("Ground Lease"), which
lease was later assigned to Joe Moretti ("Assignment"). During preliminary
scoring, Florida Housing determined that they had not demonstrated site control as
the Ground Lease submitted stated that the lease and the parties' obligations
are contingent upon the final approval of the lease by the Miami-Dade Board of
County Commissioners and that the Landlord's express written consent is required

for any assignment of the lease. Joe Moretti did not provide evidence that they met these conditions.

- 7. The Joe Moretti development site is encumbered by a Declaration of Trust ("DOT") entered into between the Housing Authority of the City of Miami and the Public Housing Administration<sup>1</sup>, recorded at Deed Book 3377, Page 428 of the Public Records of Miami Dade County, Florida. The Ground Lease is subject to the same encumbrances and further provides Miami-Dade County or Joe Moretti must "obtain a release of the Declaration of Trust in connection with HUD's disposition of the Premises."
- 8. Pursuant to Section 67-48.004 (6), Fla. Admin. Code, as its cure, Joe Moretti resubmitted the Ground Lease and Assignment together with a number of additional documents, including a Consent by Landlord; Amendment No.1 to the Ground Lease Between Miami-Dade County and Joe Moretti Preservation Phase one, LLC ("Amendment 1"); and Amendment No.2 to the Ground Lease Between Miami-Dade County and Joe Moretti Preservation Phase One, LLC ("Amendment 2"). Collective these documents comprise the "Cure" material submitted by Joe Moretti.
- 9. Florida Housing accepted Joe Moretti's cure and rescinded its threshold failure for site control as part of its Final Score. Subsequently, Petitioner

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In 1965 the Public Housing Administration became a part of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

demonstrated through its Petition that the Cure did not remove the contingency of approval by HUD. The DOT prohibits Miami-Dade County from leasing the property without HUD consent or a release by HUD of the DOT. By the Cure deadline, Joe Moretti had not demonstrated that either of these contingencies had occurred, and these contingencies remained in effect.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 10. 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.
- 11. Petitioner has standing to challenge the scoring of the Joe Moretti application pursuant to Rule 67-48.005(5), F.A.C.
- 12. Petitioner's application would have been in the funding range of the 2011 Universal Cycle final ranking but for the determination that Joe Moretti demonstrated site control.

#### STIPULATED DISPOSITION

13. City Crossings has demonstrated that but for the error in scoring and ranking of Joe Moretti's application, its application would have been in the funding range for the 2011 Universal Cycle. Pursuant to Rule 67-48.005(7) Fla. Admin. Code., Florida Housing agrees to allocate to City Crossings, Ltd. \$2,561,000.00 in annual federal tax credits, which allocation shall come from the next available

funding in either the current or subsequent years, subject to credit underwriting standards and Rule Chapter 67-48, Fla. Admin. Code.

#### **BOARD APPROVAL AND FINAL DISPOSITION**

- 14. This Consent Agreement is conditioned upon approval by Florida Housing's Board of Directors, such approval to be evidenced by the Board's issuance of a Final Order adopting the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement. If the Board has not issued such Final Order by November 2, 2012, this Consent Agreement shall be deemed automatically null and void without further notice or action by either party, whereupon Petitioner may pursue its Petition unaffected by this Consent Agreement.
- 15. The adoption of this Consent Agreement by Final Order of the Board shall represent final disposition of all claims made by Petitioner with respect to the matters raised in its Petition. Upon issuance of a Final Order adopting the terms of this Consent Agreement, Petitioner agrees to dismiss its Petition with prejudice.

  The parties waive all right to appeal this Consent Agreement and the Final Order

adopting same, and each party shall bear its own costs and attorney's fees in connection with the matters addressed in this Consent Agreement and the Petition.

Respectfully submitted this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ day of September, 2012.

MICHAEL G. MAIDA

Florida Bar # 0435945

Michael G. Madia, P.A.

1709 Hermitage Blvd.

Suite 210

Tallahassee, FL 32308

850-425-8124(phone)

850-681-0879 (fax)

mike@maidalawpa.com

Attorney for Petitioner

MATHEW SIRMANS

Florida Bar # 0961973

Assistant General Counsel

Florida Housing Finance Corporation

227 North Bronough Street

Suite 5000

Tallahassee, FL 32301-1329

850-224-1585(phone)

850-414-6548 (fax)

Matt.Sirmans@floridahousing.org

Attorney for Respondent