

BEFORE THE FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

LAMSON AVENUE APARTMENTS, LTD.,
a Florida limited partnership,

Petitioner,

vs.

Application No. 2007-035BS
FHFC CASE NO. _____

FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE
CORPORATION,

Respondent.

**PETITION FOR VARIANCE OF
RULE 67-21.008(1)(b), FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (2007)**

LAMSON AVENUE APARTMENTS, LTD., a Florida limited partnership (“Petitioner”), by and through its undersigned counsel and pursuant to Section 120.542, Florida Statutes and Chapter 28-104, Florida Administrative Code (“F.A.C.”), hereby petitions the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (the “Corporation”) for a variance of Rule 67-21.008(1)(b), Florida Administrative Code (2007), which imposes certain conditions on mortgage loans issued by the Corporation under its Multi-Family Mortgage Revenue Bond (“MMRB”) Program. In support, Petitioner states the following:

THE PETITIONER

1. The address, telephone number and facsimile number of the Petitioner is:

Lamson Avenue Apartments, Ltd.
c/o JDF, LLC
340 Pemberwick Road
Greenwich, CT 06831
Phone: (203) 869-0900
Fax: (203) 869-1034

2. The address, telephone number and facsimile number of Petitioner's counsel is:

Maureen McCarthy Daughton, Esq.
Broad and Cassel
Suite 400
215 South Monroe Street (32301)
Post Office Drawer 11300
Tallahassee, Florida 32302
Phone: (850) 681-6810
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THE RULE FROM WHICH VARIANCE IS SOUGHT

3. Petitioner requests variance of Rule 67-21.008(1)(b), F.A.C. (2007), which mandates that each recipient of a mortgage loan shall provide for a fully amortized payment of the loan beginning on the earlier of 36 months after closing, or stabilized occupancy or conversion to permanent financing pursuant to the loan documents.

**STATUTES IMPLEMENTED
BY RULE 67-21.008(1)(b), F.A.C.**

4. Rule 67-21.008(1)(b), F.A.C. (2007), implements Sections 420.507 and 420.508, Florida Statutes. Section 420.507, Florida Statutes, authorizes the Corporation to, among other things, issue bonds for the provision of affordable housing; impose conditions respecting the granting of mortgage loans and make rules to carry out the purposes of and exercise any power granted by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation Act, Part V, of Chapter 420, Florida Statutes.¹ Section 420.508, Florida Statutes, authorizes the Corporation to, among other things, make and participate in the making of mortgage loans for permanent or construction financing of development costs of projects subject to specified conditions, and to establish terms of mortgage loans funded pursuant to Part V of Chapter 420, Florida Statutes. Pursuant to these provisions,

¹ The Florida Housing Finance Corporation Act is set forth in Sections 420.501 through 420.516 of the Florida Statutes.

the Corporation has adopted Rule 67-21.008, F.A.C. (2007), entitled “Terms and Conditions of MMRB Loans.” Rule 67-21.008(1)(b), F.A.C. (2007), provides:

(1) Each Mortgage Loan for a Development made by the Corporation shall:

* * *

(b) Provide for a fully amortized payment of the Mortgage Loan in full beginning on the earlier of 36 months after closing, or stabilized occupancy, or conversion to permanent financing under the loan documents and ending no later than the expiration of the useful life of the property, and in any event, no later than 45 years from the date of the Mortgage Loan;

* * *

**JUSTIFICATION FOR GRANTING
VARIANCE OF RULE 67-21.008(1)(b), F.A.C.**

5. Petitioner applied for MMRB and State Apartment Incentive Loan (“SAIL”) financing in the 2007 Universal Application Cycle (Application Number 2007-035BS), and was awarded an allocation of MMRB and SAIL funds for the acquisition, construction and development of a 160-unit multifamily apartment complex located in Hernando County, Florida (the “Development”). The financing for the Development is structured such that the Petitioner will receive SAIL funds and MMRB funding, which MMRB will be privately placed with Citicorp USA, Inc., or its affiliate. Petitioner has received approval from Citicorp USA Inc. for a nine (9) year interest only period. However, because the Rule requires amortization to commence 36 months after closing, Petitioner seeks a variance from Rule 67-21.008(1)(b), F.A.C. (2007) to delay the start of the fully amortized payment of the mortgage loan to the Corporation for a period of up to an additional 72 months beyond the 36 months after closing of the MMRB financing that is currently allowed under the Rule.

6. The Corporation is authorized by Section 120.54(1), Florida Statutes, and Rule Chapter 28-104, F.A.C., to grant variances to its rule requirements when strict application of such rules would lead to unreasonable, unfair and unintended consequences in particular instances. Variances shall be granted when the person subject to the rule demonstrates that the application of the rule would: (1) create a substantial hardship or violate principles of fairness²; and (2) the purpose of the underlying statute has been or will be achieved by other means by the person. Section 120.542(2), Florida Statutes. The application of this rule will have a material adverse effect on the viability of the Development.

7. In this case, strict application of Rule 67-21.008(1)(b), F.A.C. (2007) will create a substantial hardship for Petitioner. Petitioner has negotiated loan terms with its lender to allow sufficient time for rents to stabilize in today's market prior to servicing the principal on the debt. By stabilizing rents over a longer period of time, Petitioner is ensuring the economic viability of the Development and the ability of the Development to generate sufficient revenue to service the principal, interest, taxes and insurance for MMRB loan. Further, the variance will serve the underlying purpose of the statutes because the variance will ensure the viability of this affordable housing development by allowing Petitioner to proceed with a viable financing structure in a timely manner to acquire and construct the Development and thus continue the Corporation's purpose to provide decent, safe and affordable housing in Florida.

ACTION REQUESTED

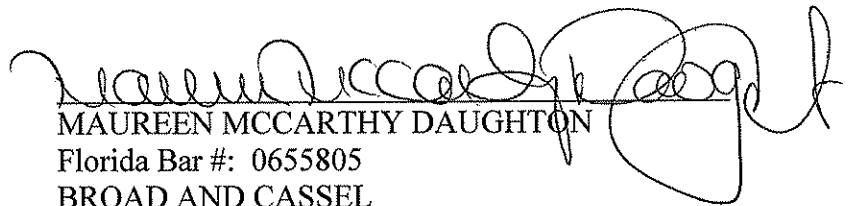
8. For the reasons set forth herein, Petitioner respectfully requests the Corporation to grant the requested variance of Rule 67-21.008(1)(b), F.A.C. (2007), to allow a delay of the start

² "Substantial hardship" means a demonstrated economic, technological, legal, or other type of hardship to the person requesting the variance. "Principles of Fairness" are violated when literal application of a rule affects a particular person in a manner significantly different from the way it affects other similarly situated persons who are subject to the Rule 120.542(2), Florida Statutes.

of payment of the fully amortized mortgage payments for a period of up to an additional 72 months beyond the 36 months after closing of the MMRB financing that is currently allowed under the Rule.

9. A copy of the Petition has been provided to the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee, Room 120, The Holland Building, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300, as required by Section 120.542(5), Florida Statutes.

Respectfully submitted this 21 day of December, 2007.



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Florida Bar #: 0655805

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