

BEFORE THE FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

ELMWOOD TERRACE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP,
a Florida limited partnership,

Petitioner,

vs.

FHFC CASE NO. _____

FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE
CORPORATION.

2008-0611W

Respondent.

FILED
RECEIVED
FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION
JAN 23 2008
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

**PETITION FOR WAIVER OF
RULE 67-48.0075(7)(a)(1), FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (2007)**

ELMWOOD TERRACE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, 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 waiver of that portion of Rule 67-48.0075(7)(a)(1) which requires the principal of a supplemental loan awarded in the 2007 Universal Application Cycle to be forgivable. In support, Petitioner states the following:

THE PETITIONER

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

**Elmwood Terrace Limited Partnership
c/o Beneficial Communities
2206 Jo-An Drive
Sarasota, Florida 34231
Phone: (941) 929-1270
Fax: (941) 929-1271**

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

David F. Leon, L.L.C.
Broad and Cassel

390 North Orange Avenue, Suite 1400
Orlando, Florida 32801
Phone: (407) 839-4276
Fax: (407) 650-0928

THE RULE FROM WHICH WAIVER IS SOUGHT

3. Petitioner requests a waiver of that portion of Rule 67-48.0075(7)(a)(1), F.A.C. (2007) which provides that the principal of a supplemental loan awarded in the 2007 Universal Application Cycle he forgivable provided the units for which the supplemental loan amount is awarded are targeted to Extremely Low Income (“ELI”) Households for at least 15 years.

STATUTES IMPLEMENTED BY RULE 67-48.0075(7)(a)(1), F.A.C.

4. Rule 67-48.0075(7)(a)(1), F.A.C. (2007), implements Sections 420.5099, Florida Statutes, and the provisions of Section 34 of Chapter 2006-69 (H.B. No. 1363). Section 420.5099, Florida Statutes, authorizes the Corporation to, among other things, establish procedures for allocating and distributing low-income housing tax credits and exercise all powers necessary in administering such allocation pursuant to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation Act, Part V, of Chapter 420, Florida Statutes.¹ Section 34 of Chapter 2006-69 (H.B. No. 1363) appropriated funds to assist in the production of housing units for ELI Households. Pursuant to these provisions, the Corporation has adopted Rule 67-48.0075(7)(a)(1), F.A.C. (2007), entitled “Miscellaneous Criteria.”, which provides:

(7) Supplemental loans will be subject to the credit underwriting provisions outlined in Rule 67-48.0072 and the loan provisions outlined below:

(a) The terms and conditions of the supplemental loan shall be as follows: (1) The supplemental loan shall be (i) based on each ELI Set-Aside unit above the minimum ELI-Set Aside threshold requirement in the Universal Application instructions;

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

and (ii) non-amortizing at 0 percent simple interest per annum over the life of the loan, with principal forgivable provided the units for which the supplemental loan amount is awarded are targeted to ELI Households for at least 15 years.

* * *

JUSTIFICATION FOR GRANTING WAIVER OF RULE 67-48.0075(7)(a)(1), F.A.C.

5. Petitioner applied for Competitive Housing Credits and supplemental loan financing in the 2007 Universal Application Cycle (Application Number 2007-1204C), and was awarded an allocation of Competitive Housing Credits and supplemental loan funds for the acquisition, construction and development of a 116-unit multifamily apartment complex located in Lee County, Florida (the "Development"). The financing for the Development is structured such that the Petitioner will receive supplemental loan funds (the "ELI Loan") in addition to a construction loan from Stearns Bank and a loan from a sponsor for Federal Home Loan Bank. In its application, Petitioner agreed to target ELI Households with respect to a specified percentage of units in the Development for at least 15 years. However, the Rule requires that the principal of such loan be forgivable provided the units for which the supplemental loan amount is awarded are targeted to ELI Households for at least 15 years. As a forgivable loan will not only have negative federal income tax consequences for the Petitioner, but also not promote the long-term continuation of the ELI Loan program, Petitioner therefore seeks a waiver of that portion of Rule 67-48.0075(7)(a)(1), F.A.C. (2007) that provides "with principal forgivable provided the units for which the supplemental loan amount is awarded are targeted to ELI Households for at least 15 years". Petitioner requests that the ELI Loan be repaid at the end of the initial 15-year period, and that at the end of the initial 15-year period, Petitioner be given an automatic extension on the maturity date of the ELI Loan for an additional 30 years if the units for which the ELI Loan was awarded were targeted to ELI Households during that initial 15-year period. The Corporation is

authorized by Section 120.542(1), Florida Statutes, and Rule Chapter 28-104, F.A.C., to grant waivers to its rule requirements when strict application of such rules would lead to unreasonable, unfair and unintended consequences in particular instances. Waivers 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 result in a substantial financial burden to the Petitioner.

6. In this case, strict application of Rule 67-48.0075(7)(a)(1), F.A.C. (2007) in this case will create a substantial financial hardship for Petitioner. The designation of the ELI Loan as forgivable may, whether forgiven or not, cause the Internal Revenue Service to consider the loan as “phantom” taxable income, and the Petitioner may be subject to taxes on the ELI Loan even though it has not yet received the benefit of the ELI Loan being forgiven. In addition, the designation of the ELI Loan as forgivable may, whether forgiven or not, cause the full amount of the loan to be deducted from eligible basis, thereby reducing the net tax credit for the Development. Further, the waiver will serve the underlying purpose of the statute because the waiver 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 will also promote the long-term continuation of the ELI Loan program, thus continuing the Corporation’s purpose to provide decent, safe and affordable housing in Florida.

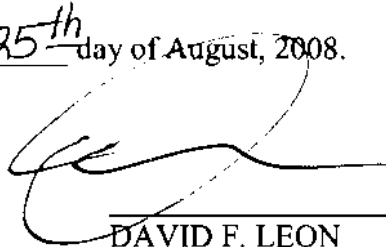
ACTION REQUESTED

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 Rule 120.542(2), Florida Statutes.

7. For the reasons set forth herein, Petitioner respectfully requests the Corporation to grant the requested waiver of that portion of Rule 67-48.0075(7)(a)(1), F.A.C. (2007), to forgo the automatic forgiveness of the supplemental loan's principal balance provided the units for which the supplemental loan amount was awarded were targeted to ELI Households for at least 15 years, and to instead cause the ELI Loan to be repaid at the end of the initial 15-year period, with an automatic extension of the maturity date at the end of the initial 15-year period for an additional 30 years if the units for which the ELI Loan was awarded were targeted to ELI Households during that initial 15-year period.

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

Respectfully submitted this 25th day of August, 2008.



DAVID F. LEON
Florida Bar #: 0053929
BROAD AND CASSEL
390 North Orange Avenue, Suite 1400
Orlando, Florida 32801
Phone: (407) 839-4276
Fax: (407) 650-0928

Counsel for Petitioner
ELMWOOD TERRACE LIMITED
PARTNERSHIP