

ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST LHA	§	BEFORE THE
PARK MEADOWS, LP AND LHA STONE	§	TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF
HOLLOW, LP WITH RESPECT TO	§	HOUSING AND COMMUNITY
PARK MEADOWS VILLAS	§	AFFAIRS
(HTC FILE # 03140 / CMTS # 3354) AND	§	
STONE HOLLOW VILLAGE	§	
(HTC FILE # 04057 / CMTS 4112)	§	

AGREED FINAL ORDER

General Remarks and official action taken:

On this 26th day of March, 2020, the Governing Board (Board) of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA or Department) considered the matter of whether enforcement action should be taken against **LHA PARK MEADOWS, LP**, a Texas limited partnership, and **LHA Stone Hollow, LP**, as Texas limited partnership (collectively, Respondent).

This Agreed Order is executed pursuant to the authority of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), Tex. Gov't Code §2001.056, which authorizes the informal disposition of contested cases. In a desire to conclude this matter without further delay and expense, the Board and Respondent agree to resolve this matter by this Agreed Final Order. The Respondent agrees to this Order for the purpose of resolving this proceeding only and without admitting or denying the findings of fact and conclusions of law set out in this Order.

Upon recommendation of the Enforcement Committee, the Board makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law and enters this Order:

WAIVER

Respondent acknowledges the existence of their right to request a hearing as provided by Tex. Gov't Code §2306.044, and to seek judicial review, in the District Court of Travis County, Texas, of any order as provided by Tex. Gov't Code §2306.047. Pursuant to this compromise and settlement, the Respondent waives those rights and acknowledges the jurisdiction of the Board over Respondent.

FINDINGS OF FACT (FOF)

Jurisdiction:

1. During 2005, LHA Park Meadows, LP (Park Meadows Prior Owner) was awarded an allocation of Low Income Housing Tax Credits by the Board, in an annual amount of \$737,372 to build and operate Park Meadows Villas (Park Meadows) (HTC file No. 03140 / CMTS No. 3354 / LDLD No. 908).
2. During 2006, LHA Stone Hollow, LP (Stone Hollow Prior Owner) was awarded an allocation of Low Income Housing Tax Credits by the Board, in an annual amount of \$845,849 to build and operate Stone Hollow Village (Stone Hollow) (HTC file No. 04057 / CMTS No. 4112 / LDLD No. 909).
3. Park Meadows Prior Owner signed a land use restriction agreement (Park Meadows LURA) regarding the Property. The LURA was effective November 18, 2005, and filed of record at Volume 10299, Page 105 of the Official Public Records of Real Property of Lubbock County, Texas (Records). In accordance with Section 2 of the LURA, the LURA is a restrictive covenant/deed restriction encumbering the Property and binding on all successors and assigns for the full term of the LURA.
4. Stone Hollow Prior Owner signed a land use restriction agreement (Stone Hollow LURA) regarding the Property. The LURA was effective July 1, 2006, and filed of record at Document Number 2006044142 of the Records. In accordance with Section 2 of the LURA, the LURA is a restrictive covenant/deed restriction encumbering the Property and binding on all successors and assigns for the full term of the LURA.
5. THF Park Meadows GP, LLC and THF Stone Hollow GP, LLC, solely owned by THF Housing Development Corporation, assumed the general partnership interests in 2017 and Respondent remains bound to the terms of the LURAs in accordance with Section 2 thereof.
6. Respondent is subject to the regulatory authority of TDHCA.

Compliance Violations¹:

7. On June 17, 2019, TDHCA sent notice of findings of noncompliance identified from Part A of the 2018 Annual Owner's Compliance Report for Park Meadows Villas, for failure to provide Tenant Income Certifications and documentation for units 5104, 5108, 7104, 7202, and 8203, a violation of 10 TAC §10.612 (Tenant File Requirements), which

¹ Within this Agreed Final Order, all references to violations of TDHCA Compliance Monitoring rules at 10 TAC Chapter 10 refers to the versions of the code in effect at the time of the compliance monitoring reviews and/or inspections that resulted in recording each violation. All past violations remain violations under the current code and all interim amendments.

requires mixed income Housing Tax Credit projects to annually recertify each low-income household. The final violation was resolved on January 31, 2020.

8. On June 17, TDHCA sent notice of findings of noncompliance identified from Part A of the 2018 Annual Owner's Compliance Report for Stone Hollow Village, for failure to provide Tenant Income Certifications and documentation for units 222, 616, 718, 824, a violation of 10 TAC §10.612 (Tenant File Requirements), which requires mixed income Housing Tax Credit projects to annually recertify each low-income household. The final violation was resolved on January 31, 2020.
9. An on-site monitoring review of Park Meadows Villas was conducted on May 24, 2019, to determine whether Respondent was in compliance with LURA requirements to lease units to low income households and maintain records demonstrating eligibility. The monitoring review found violations of the LURA and TDHCA rules. Notifications of noncompliance were sent and a September 23, 2019, corrective action deadline was set, however, the following violations were not resolved before the corrective action deadline:
 - a. Respondent failed to provide Tenant Income Certifications and documentation for units 3207 and 7207, a violation of 10 TAC §10.612 (Tenant File Requirements), which requires mixed income Housing Tax Credit projects to annually recertify each low-income household. The final violation was resolved on January 9, 2020.
10. All violations listed above are considered resolved at the time of this Order.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Department has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §§2306.041-.0503, and 10 TAC §2.
2. Respondent is a "housing sponsor" as that term is defined in Tex. Gov't Code §2306.004(14).
3. Pursuant to IRC §42(m)(1)(B)(iii), housing credit agencies are required to monitor for noncompliance with all provisions of the IRC and to notify the Internal Revenue Service of such noncompliance.
4. Respondent violated 10 TAC §10.612, Section 4 of the Park Meadows LURA, and Section 4 of the Stone Hollow LURA, in 2019, by failing to provide Tenant Income Certifications and associated documentation for eleven total units.
5. Because Respondent is a housing sponsor with respect to the Property, and has violated TDHCA rules, the Board has personal and subject matter jurisdiction over Respondent pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §2306.041 and §2306.267.

6. Because Respondent is a housing sponsor, TDHCA may order Respondent to perform or refrain from performing certain acts in order to comply with the law, TDHCA rules, or the terms of a contract or agreement to which Respondent and TDHCA are parties, pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §2306.267.
7. Because Respondent has violated rules promulgated pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §2306.053 and has violated agreements with the Agency to which Respondent is a party, the Agency may impose an administrative penalty pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §2306.041.
8. It is appropriate to assess no administrative penalty in accordance with the policies situated at 10 TAC Chapter 2.

Based upon the foregoing findings of fact and conclusions of law, and an assessment of the factors set forth in Tex. Gov't Code §2306.042 to be considered in assessing such penalties as applied specifically to the facts and circumstances present in this case, the Governing Board of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs orders the following:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Respondent not be assessed an administrative penalty.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent shall follow the requirements of 10 TAC §10.406, a copy of which is included at Exhibit 1, and obtain approval from the Department prior to consummating a sale of either property, if contemplated.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the terms of this Agreed Final Order shall be published on the TDHCA website.

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Approved by the Governing Board of TDHCA on March 26, 2020.

By: /s/ Leslie Bingham-Escareno
Name: Leslie Bingham-Escareno
Title: Vice Chair of the Board of TDHCA

By: /s/ James "Beau" Eccles
Name: James "Beau" Eccles
Title: Secretary of the Board of TDHCA

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
§
COUNTY OF TRAVIS §

Before me, the undersigned notary public, on this 26th day of March, 2020, personally appeared Leslie Bingham, proved to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

(Seal)

/s/ Isido Ceballos Jr
Notary Public, State of Texas

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
§
COUNTY OF TRAVIS §

Before me, the undersigned notary public, on this 26th day of March, 2020, personally appeared James "Beau" Eccles, proved to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

(Seal)

/s/ Leah Sargent Rosas
Notary Public, State of Texas

STATE OF TEXAS §
§
COUNTY OF Burnet §

BEFORE ME, Nancy M. Ross (*notary name*), a notary public in and for the State of Texas, on this day personally appeared Mark Mayfield (*person signing document*), known to me or proven to me through circle one: personally known / driver's license / passport to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that (he/she) executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed, who being by me duly sworn, deposed as follows:

1. "My name is Mark Mayfield, I am of sound mind, capable of making this statement, and personally acquainted with the facts herein stated.
2. I hold the office of President for THF Housing Development Corporation, the managing member for the general partner of Respondent. I am an authorized representative and I am duly authorized to execute this document.
3. Respondent knowingly and voluntarily enters into this Agreed Final Order, and agrees with and consents to the issuance and service of the foregoing Agreed Order by the Governing Board of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs."

RESPONDENT:

LHA Stone Hollow, LP, a Texas limited partnership

THF Stone Hollow GP, LLC, a Texas limited liability company, its general partner

THF Housing Development Corporation, a Texas nonprofit corporation, its managing member

By: /s/ Mark Mayfield
Name: Mark Mayfield
Title: President

Given under my hand and seal of office this 17 day of April, 2020.

/s/ Nancy M. Ross
Signature of Notary Public

Nancy M. Ross
Printed Name of Notary Public

NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR THE STATE OF Texas

My Commission Expires: 12-26-21

Exhibit 1:

Texas Administrative Code

TITLE 10 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
PART 1 TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
CHAPTER 10 UNIFORM MULTIFAMILY RULES
SUBCHAPTER E POST AWARD AND ASSET MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS
RULE §10.406 Ownership Transfers (§2306.6713)

(a) Ownership Transfer Notification. All multifamily Development Owners must provide written notice and a completed Ownership Transfer packet, if applicable, to the Department at least 45 calendar days prior to any sale, transfer, or exchange of the Development or any portion of or Controlling interest in the Development. Except as otherwise provided herein, the Executive Director's prior written approval of any such transfer is required. The Executive Director may not unreasonably withhold approval of the transfer requested in compliance with this section.

(b) Exceptions. The following exceptions to the ownership transfer process outlined herein apply:

(1) A Development Owner shall be required to notify the Department but shall not be required to obtain Executive Director approval when the transferee is an Affiliate of the Development Owner with no new Principals or the transferee is a Related Party who does not Control the Development and the transfer is being made for estate planning purposes.

(2) Transfers that are the result of an involuntary removal of the general partner by the investment limited partner do not require advance approval but must be reported to the Department as soon as possible due to the sensitive timing and nature of this decision. In the event the investment limited partner has proposed a new general partner or will permanently replace the general partner, a full Ownership Transfer packet must be submitted.

(3) Changes to the investment limited partner, non-controlling limited partner, or other non-controlling partners affiliated with the investment limited partner do not require Executive Director approval. A General Partner's acquisition of the interest of the investment limited partner does not require Executive Director approval, unless some other change in ownership is occurring as part of the same overall transaction.

(4) Changes resulting from foreclosure do not require advance approval but acquiring parties must notify the Department as soon as possible of the revised ownership structure and ownership contact information.

(c) General Requirements.

(1) Any new Principal in the ownership of a Development must be eligible under §11.202 of Subchapter C (relating to Ineligible Applicants and Applications). In addition, Principals will be reviewed in accordance with Chapter 1, Subchapter C of this title (relating to Previous Participation and Executive Award Review and Advisory Committee).

(2) Changes in Developers or Guarantors must be addressed as non-material amendments to the application under §10.405 of this subchapter.

(3) To the extent an investment limited partner or its Affiliate assumes a Controlling interest in a Development Owner, such acquisition shall be subject to the Ownership Transfer requirements set forth herein. Principals of the investment limited partner or Affiliate will be considered new Principals and will be reviewed as stated under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(4) Simultaneous transfer or concurrent offering for sale of the General Partner's and Limited Partner's control and interest will be subject to the Ownership Transfer requirements set forth herein and will trigger a Right of First Refusal, if applicable.

(d) Transfer Actions Warranting Debarment. If the Department determines that the transfer, involuntary removal, or replacement was due to a default by the General Partner under the Limited Partnership Agreement, or other detrimental action that put the Development at risk of failure or the Department at risk for financial exposure as a result of non-compliance, staff may make a recommendation to the Board for the

debarment of the entity and/or its Principals and Affiliates pursuant to the Department's debarment rule. In addition, a record of transfer involving Principals in new proposed awards will be reported and may be taken into consideration by the Executive Award and Review Committee, in accordance with Chapter 1, Subchapter C of this title (relating to Previous Participation and Executive Award Review and Advisory Committee), prior to recommending any new financing or allocation of credits.

(e) Transfers Prior to 8609 Issuance or Construction Completion. Prior to the issuance of IRS Form(s) 8609 (for Housing Tax Credits) or the completion of construction (for all Developments funded through other Department programs) an Applicant may request an amendment to its ownership structure to add Principals. The party(ies) reflected in the Application as having Control must remain in the ownership structure and retain Control, unless approved otherwise by the Executive Director. A development sponsor, General Partner or Development Owner may not sell the Development in whole or voluntarily end their Control prior to the issuance of 8609s.

(f) Nonprofit Organizations. If the ownership transfer request is to replace a nonprofit organization within the Development ownership entity, the replacement nonprofit entity must adhere to the requirements in paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection.

(1) If the LURA requires ownership or material participation in ownership by a Qualified Nonprofit Organization, and the Development received Tax Credits pursuant to §42(h)(5) of the Code, the transferee must be a Qualified Nonprofit Organization that meets the requirements of §42(h)(5) of the Code and Tex. Gov't Code §2306.6706, if applicable, and can demonstrate planned participation in the operation of the Development on a regular, continuous, and substantial basis.

(2) If the LURA requires ownership or material participation in ownership by a nonprofit organization or CHDO, the Development Owner must show that the transferee is a nonprofit organization or CHDO, as applicable, that complies with the LURA.

(3) Exceptions to the above may be made on a case by case basis if the Development is past its Compliance Period/Federal Affordability Period, was not reported to the IRS as part of the Department's Nonprofit Set Aside in any HTC Award year, and follows the procedures outlined in §10.405(b)(1) - (5) of this chapter (relating to LURA Amendments that require Board Approval). The Board must find that:

(A) The selling nonprofit is acting of its own volition or is being removed as the result of a default under the organizational documents of the Development Owner;

(B) The participation by the nonprofit was substantive and meaningful during the full term of the Compliance Period but is no longer substantive or meaningful to the operations of the Development; and

(C) The proposed purchaser is an affiliate of the current Owner or otherwise meets the Department's standards for ownership transfers.

(g) Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Organizations. If a HUB is the general partner or special limited partner of a Development Owner and it determines to sell its ownership interest, after the issuance of 8609's, the purchaser of that partnership interest or the general or special limited partner is not required to be a HUB as long as the procedure described in §10.405(b)(1) of this chapter (relating to Non-Material LURA Amendments) has been followed and approved.

(h) Documentation Required. A Development Owner must submit documentation requested by the Department to enable the Department to understand fully the facts and circumstances pertaining to the transfer and the effects of approval or denial. Documentation must be submitted as directed in the Post Award Activities Manual, which includes but is not limited to:

(1) A written explanation outlining the reason for the request;

(2) Ownership transfer information, including but not limited to the type of sale, amount of Development reserves to transfer in the event of a property sale, and the prospective closing date;

(3) Pre and post transfer organizational charts with TINs of each organization down to the level of natural persons in the ownership structure as described in §11.204(13)(A) of Subchapter C;

(4) A list of the names and contact information for transferees and Related Parties;

(5) Previous Participation information for any new Principal as described in §11.204(13)(B) of Subchapter C;

(6) Agreements among parties associated with the transfer;

(7) Owners Certifications with regard to materials submitted further described in the Post Award Activities Manual;

(8) Detailed information describing the organizational structure, experience, and financial capacity of any party holding a controlling interest in any Principal or Controlling entity of the prospective Development Owner;

(9) Evidence and certification that the tenants in the Development have been notified in writing of the proposed transfer at least 30 calendar days prior to the date the transfer is approved by the Department. The ownership transfer approval letter will not be issued until this 30 day period has expired;

(10) Any required exhibits and the list of exhibits related to specific circumstances of transfer or Ownership as detailed in the Post Award Activities Manual.

(i) Once the Department receives all necessary information under this section and as required under the Post Award Activities Manual, staff shall initiate a qualifications review of a transferee, in accordance with Chapter 1, Subchapter C of this title (relating to Previous Participation and Executive Award Review and Advisory Committee), to determine the transferee's past compliance with all aspects of the Department's programs, LURAs and eligibility under this chapter and §11.202 of Subchapter C (relating to Ineligible Applicants and Applications).

(j) Credit Limitation. As it relates to the Housing Tax Credit amount further described in §11.4(a) of this title (relating to Tax Credit Request and Award Limits), the credit amount will not be applied in circumstances described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection:

(1) In cases of transfers in which the syndicator, investor or limited partner is taking over ownership of the Development and not merely replacing the general partner; or

(2) In cases where the general partner is being replaced if the award of credits was made at least five years prior to the transfer request date.

(k) Penalties, Past Due Fees and Underfunded Reserves. The Development Owner must comply with any additional documentation requirements as stated in Subchapter F of this chapter (relating to Compliance Monitoring). The Development Owner, as on record with the Department, will be liable for any penalties or fees imposed by the Department even if such penalty can be attributable to the new Development Owner unless such ownership transfer is approved by the Department. In the event a transferring Development has a history of uncorrected UPCS violations, ongoing issues related to keeping housing sanitary, safe, and decent, an account balance below the annual reserve deposit amount as specified in §10.404(a) (relating to Replacement Reserve Accounts), or that appears insufficient to meet capital expenditure needs as indicated by the number or cost of repairs included in a PCA, the prospective Development Owner may be required to establish and maintain a replacement reserve account or increase the amount of regular deposits to the replacement reserve account by entering into a Reserve Agreement with the Department. The Department may also request a plan and timeline relating to needed repairs or renovations that will be completed by the departing and/or incoming Owner as a condition to approving the Transfer.

(l) Ownership Transfer Processing Fee. The ownership transfer request must be accompanied by the corresponding ownership transfer fee as outlined in §11.901 of this chapter (relating to Fee Schedule, Appeals, and other Provisions).

Source Note: The provisions of this §10.406 adopted to be effective January 5, 2017, 41 TexReg 10569; amended to be effective January 4, 2018, 42 TexReg 7610; amended to be effective December 30, 2018, 43 TexReg 8297