ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST THE DAVID YILMAZ LIVING TRUST WITH RESPECT TO OAK PARK APARTMENTS (LIHTC FILE # 91056 / CMTS # 965) BEFORE THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

AGREED FINAL ORDER

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General Remarks and official action taken:

On this 6th day of December, 2018, 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 **THE DAVID YILMAZ LIVING TRUST** ("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")

<u>Iurisdiction:</u>

- 1. During 1991, Dominion Equity Corporation ("Prior Owner") was awarded an allocation of Low Income Housing Tax Credits by the Board, in an annual amount of \$71,185 to rehabilitate and operate Oak Park Apartments ("Property") (HTC file No. 91056 / CMTS No. 965 / LDLD No. 139).
- 2. Prior Owner signed a land use restriction agreement ("LURA") regarding the Property. The LURA was effective November 7, 1991, and filed of record at Volume 91227, Page 5261 of the Official Public Records of Real Property of Dallas County, Texas. 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.

- 3. Respondent took ownership of the Property on December 30, 2005 and, although an Agreement to Comply was not signed, Respondent is bound to the terms of the LURA in accordance with Section 2 thereof.
- 4. Respondent is subject to the regulatory authority of TDHCA.

Compliance Violations¹:

- 5. Property has a history of violations and previously signed an Agreed Final Order on May 10, 2016, agreeing to submit corrective documentation within thirty days along with a \$500 administrative penalty. The administrative penalty was paid, but no corrective documentation was submitted regarding unit 211 until September 24, 2018, after a new enforcement action was initiated for new violations identified during an onsite review.
- 6. An on-site monitoring review was scheduled to be conducted on November 7, 2017, to determine whether Respondent was in compliance with LURA requirements to lease units to low income households and maintain records demonstrating eligibility. Violations of the LURA and TDHCA rules were identified. Notifications of noncompliance were sent and a March 22, 2018, corrective action deadline was set, however, the following violations were not resolved before the corrective action deadline:
 - a. Respondent failed to allow onsite monitoring on November 7, 2017, a violation of 10 TAC §10.618, which requires Respondent to permit the Department access to the premises and records in order to review all documents supporting compliance with the Housing Tax Credit program. The Department gave reasonable notice of the review on November 6, 2017, as required, and the Legal Division also contacted Respondent by email and telephone on November 1, 2017, as a courtesy reminder to ensure that someone would be present. TDHCA staff was present for the scheduled onsite review at 3pm on November 7, 2017, but a representative for Respondent management did not appear and the Department did not have access to Respondent's records. After intervention by the Enforcement Committee, an onsite review was scheduled and successfully conducted on October 17, 2018, 344 days past the originally scheduled date. Allowing onsite access to the premises and records only resolves the finding for failure to permit onsite monitoring; any findings associated with that new 2018 onsite review will receive a ninety-day corrective action period, with any identified findings to be considered outside of this Agreed Finial Order.
 - b. Respondent failed to submit pre-onsite documentation, a violation of 10 TAC §10.607 and §10.618, which require all developments to submit necessary documentation as requested in preparation for an upcoming monitoring review. Required documentation included an Entrance Interview Questionnaire, a current

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.

and applicable utility allowance, an updated Unit Status Report, an Affirmative Marketing Plan along with evidence of outreach marketing, and written policies and procedures including tenant selection criteria. Partial corrective action has been received, but the following pre-onsite components are incomplete and the finding remains unresolved as a result: Unit Status Report showing implementation of the utility allowance, Affirmative Marketing Plan and associated marketing materials, and written policies and procedures.

- 7. The following violations remain outstanding at the time of this order:
 - a. Pre-onsite documentation violation relating to the utility allowance, Unit Status Report, Affirmative Marketing Plan and associated marketing materials, and written policies and procedures, as further described in FOF #6.b;

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 §10.618 in 2017, by failing to allow onsite monitoring.
- 5. Respondent violated 10 TAC §10.607 and §10.618 in 2017, by not submitting pre-onsite documentation including an Entrance Interview Questionnaire, a current and applicable utility allowance, an updated Unit Status Report, an Affirmative Marketing Plan along with evidence of outreach marketing, and written policies and procedures including tenant selection criteria, in preparation for the monitoring review.
- 6. 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.
- 7. 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.
- 8. 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.
- 9. An administrative penalty of \$96,250 is an appropriate penalty in accordance with 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 is assessed an administrative penalty in the amount of \$96,250, subject to partial deferral as further ordered below.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent shall pay and is hereby directed to pay a \$64,166.67 portion of the assessed administrative penalty by cashier's check payable to the "Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs" on or before March 6, 2019.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent shall fully correct the file monitoring violations as indicated in the exhibits and submit full documentation of the corrections to TDHCA on or before March 6, 2018.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if Respondent timely and fully complies with the terms and conditions of this Agreed Final Order, correcting all violations as required, the satisfactory performance under this order will be accepted in lieu of the remaining assessed administrative penalty in the amount of \$32,093.33, and that remaining amount of the administrative penalty will be deferred and forgiven.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any new findings of noncompliance identified during the onsite monitoring review conducted on October 17, 2018, with the exception of those findings already outlined above that are also associated with the failed November 7, 2017 onsite monitoring review, are not included in this Agreed Final Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if Respondent fails to satisfy any conditions or otherwise violates any provision of this order, or the property is sold before the terms and conditions of this Agreed Final Order have been fully satisfied, then the remaining administrative penalty in the amount of \$32,093.33 shall be immediately due and payable to the Department. Such payment shall be made by cashier's check payable to the "Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs" upon the earlier of (1) within thirty days of the date the Department sends written notice to Respondent that it has violated a provision of this Order, or (2) the property closing date if sold before the terms and conditions of this Agreed Final Order have been fully satisfied.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that corrective documentation must be uploaded to the Compliance Monitoring and Tracking System ("CMTS") by following the instructions at this link: <u>http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/pmcdocs/CMTSUserGuide-AttachingDocs.pdf</u>. After the upload is complete, an email must be sent to Ysella Kaseman at <u>ysella.kaseman@tdhca.state.tx.us</u> to inform her that the documentation is ready for review. If it comes due and payable, the penalty payment must be submitted to the following address:

If via overnight mail (FedEx, UPS):	If via USPS:	
TDHCA	TDHCA	
Attn: Ysella Kaseman	Attn: Ysella Kaseman	
221 E 11 th St	P.O. Box 13941	
Austin, Texas 78701	Austin, Texas 78711	

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent shall follow the requirements of 10 TAC §10.406, a copy of which is included at Exhibit 3, and obtain approval from the Department prior to consummating a sale of the 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 <u>December 6</u>, 2018.

By:/s/ J.B. GoodwinName:J.B. GoodwinTitle:Chair of the Board of TDHCA

By:/s/ James "Beau" EcclesName:James "Beau" EcclesTitle:Secretary of the Board of TDHCA

THE STATE OF TEXAS \$ COUNTY OF TRAVIS \$

Before me, the undersigned notary public, on this <u>6th</u> day of <u>December</u>, 2018, personally appeared <u>J.B. Goodwin</u>, 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)

<u>/s/ Peggy M. Henderson</u> Notary Public, State of Texas

THE STATE OF TEXAS § COUNTY OF TRAVIS §

Before me, the undersigned notary public, on this <u>6th</u> day of <u>December</u>, 2018, personally appeared <u>James "Beau" Eccles</u>, 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)

<u>/s/ Peggy M. Henderson</u> Notary Public, State of Texas

STATE OF <u>California</u>	{
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COUNTY OF <u>San Diego</u>	S

BEFORE ME, Janay Canty , a notary public in and for the State of <u>California</u>, on this day personally appeared <u>David Yilmaz</u>, known to me or proven to me through <u>circle one: personally known / drivers license</u> 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 <u>David Yilmaz</u>, I am of sound mind, capable of making this statement, and personally acquainted with the facts herein stated.
- 2. I hold the office of <u>Trustee</u> for Respondent. I am the authorized representative of Respondent, owner of the Property, which is subject to a Land Use Restriction Agreement monitored by the TDHCA in the State of Texas, and I am duly authorized by Respondent 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:

THE DAVID YILMAZ LIVING TRUST,

By: <u>/s/ David Yilmaz</u>

Name: David Yilmaz

Title: Trustee

Given under my hand and seal of office this <u>2</u> day of <u>January</u>, 2018 <u>2019</u>.

<u>/s/ Janay Canty</u> Signature of Notary Public

Janay Canty Printed Name of Notary Public

NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR THE STATE OF <u>CA</u> My Commission Expires: <u>12/1/22</u>

[A completed California All-Purpose Acknowledgement form was also attached to the signed version of this document, but is omitted from this web version because it is not in an accessible format]

Exhibit 1

File Monitoring Violation Resources and Instructions

Resources:

- Refer to the following link for all references to the rules at 10 TAC §10 that are referenced below: <u>http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=10&pt=1&ch=10&sch=F&rl</u> <u>=Y</u>
- 2. Refer to the following link for copies of forms that are referenced below: http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/pmcomp/forms.htm
- 3. Technical support and training presentations are available at the following links: Utility Allowance: <u>http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/pmcomp/utility-allowance.htm</u> Affirmative Marketing Webinar: <u>http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/pmcomp/presentations.htm</u> Affirmative Marketing Technical Assistance: <u>http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/pmcdocs/AMT-Assistance-Guide.pdf</u> Tenant Selection Criteria Webinar: <u>http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/pmcomp/presentations.htm</u> FAQ's: <u>http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/pmcomp/compFags.htm</u>
- 4. All corrections must be submitted via CMTS: See link for steps to upload documents http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/pmcdocs/CMTSUserGuide-AttachingDocs.pdf.
- 5. Important notes
 - i. Do not backdate any documents listed below.
 - ii. A transfer of a qualified household from another unit is not sufficient to correct any findings. If there is a tenant income certification or household income above limit violation, a transfer from another unit will simply cause the finding to transfer to that unit.

Instructions: Submit the following complete documentation to correct the pre-onsite documentation violation.

6. Written tenant selection criteria – You are required to maintain written policies and procedures, including tenant selection criteria. Respondent submitted written tenant selection criteria, however, the criteria were incomplete.

How to prepare compliant criteria: First watch the webinar presentation is available at: http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/pmcomp/presentations.htm. Then prepare updated written policies and procedures addressing all requirements at 10 TAC §10.610. Staff recommends using that rule as a checklist. Ensure that you include an effective date for the policy. The "10.610 (policy & procedures)" tab of this spreadsheet provides details regarding how TDHCA monitors for this item so that you can check over your work before submission: http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/pmcdocs/OnsiteMonitoringForms.xlsx

<u>What to submit</u>: Upload to CMTS written policies and procedures meeting all requirements of <u>10 TAC</u> <u>§10.610</u>, including but not limited to the technical support items provided above.

7. Utility Allowance – You are required to implement and annually update a utility allowance. This is not an amount that you will charge to tenants; it is an estimate of how much the households are paying toward utilities, to ensure that their total housing expenses are appropriately restricted. When determining the appropriate rent amount, you will ensure that the tenant's rent, plus this utility allowance, plus any housing subsidies, plus any mandatory fees, are below the maximum limits set by TDHCA.

<u>Problems with past submissions:</u> The property has indicated that it is using the Public Housing Authority methodology to calculate a utility allowance. Past submissions were unacceptable because:

- i. You initially submitted a utility allowance from the City of Dallas Housing Authority, however, Oak Park is located in Irving, Texas, so that housing authority is not applicable. The applicable housing authority is the Dallas County Housing Agency.
- ii. On 10/27/2018, you submitted a utility allowance from the Dallas County Housing Agency for the years 2016 and 2017. They have not published an allowance for 2018, so their 2017 allowance remains applicable. You did not calculate the utility allowance properly; you included an allowance for a range and refrigerator, but you provide both appliances and neither should be included in the allowance as a result. Additionally, your Unit Status Report completed on 10/17/2018 did not show that the utility allowance had been implemented.

<u>What to submit</u>: Properly calculate the utility allowances for 2016 and 2017, then submit via CMTS upload. Implement the utility allowance, then submit the development's updated Unit Status Report via CMTS to demonstrate that the 2017 Dallas County Housing Authority's utility allowance has been implemented. Rent will then be tested development-wide once the proper allowance is implemented, and any resulting noncompliance will be cited at that time and provided a separate corrective action period of 90 days. For more information, see http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/pmcomp/utility-allowance.htm.

8. Affirmative marketing plan –

<u>Problems with past submissions:</u> You submitted a plan on 10/27/2018, however, the least likely to apply groups in Section 3b appear to be unsupported, and Section 4c did not include organizations for marketing to the following least likely to apply groups: Asian, Black/African American, and Not Hispanic. Additionally, the outreach marketing letters did not meet minimum requirements.

<u>Technical Support</u>: First read the rule at 10 TAC §10.617, read the technical assistance guide at <u>http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/pmcdocs/AMT-Assistance-Guide.pdf</u>, and watch the webinar at <u>http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/pmcomp/presentations.htm</u>, to gain a general understanding regarding affirmative marketing.

Steps to complete affirmative marketing plan:

- a. Identify the appropriate housing market in which outreach efforts will be made;
- b. Determine the groups that are least likely to apply and mark them in your plan. The Affirmative Marketing Tool referenced at 10 TAC §10.617(d)(5) to determine groups that are least likely to attached Exhibit and is available apply is at 2 online at: http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/pmcomp/forms.htm. Section 3b of your plan submitted on 10/27/2018 marked the following groups: American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Persons with Disabilities, and gays and lesbians. No data was submitted to support these selections. The groups *currently* identified by the Tool are Persons with Disabilities, Black/African American, Not Hispanic, and Asian. If you use this Tool and include a copy with your Plan, you may rely upon its results. Update Section 3b of your plan to include only the groups identified in the Tool. Alternatively, if you do not use the Tool, you may perform your own analysis to determine groups that are least likely to apply, but you must perform and document a reasonable analysis by which those groups were identified, you must always include persons with disabilities, and

populations representing less than 1% of the total population of the County or MSA will not be required in your affirmative marketing. This analysis must be included with the plan.

When the "Not Hispanic" population is identified by the Tool as a group least likely to apply, that group would be marked in part 3b of your plan as "Other" and you would write in "Not Hispanic". Many owners assume that the "Not Hispanic" group identified by the Tool means "White". That is not necessarily the case. The Compliance Division explains the category like this: each household member has a Race *and* an Ethnicity. The Race could be White, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. The Ethnicity could be either Hispanic or Not Hispanic. In other words, a person could be Black/African American and Hispanic. Likewise, a person could be White and Hispanic. In other words, the "Not Hispanic" demographic is literally everyone who is "Not Hispanic."

c. Identify in section 4c of your plan specific organizations, media, and community contacts in the housing market to send marketing outreach materials. The organizations must specifically reach the groups designated as least likely to apply in Section 3b of your plan. Each identified group must have at least one dedicated organization listed in section 4c. You cannot submit one organization for multiple groups. The Tool provides a link to a map that will show which Census tracts may be most beneficial for affirmative marketing. The census tracts provided for outreach consideration represent nearby neighborhoods identified in the U.S. Census as having the greatest number of the groups who are least likely to apply at your development based on its location. The identified neighborhoods may represent a first step for planning meaningful outreach and marketing for your development.

Specific examples:

- i. Least likely to apply population People with disabilities:
 - A. Local Center for Independent Living ("CIL") serve persons with all disability types. Not all counties are covered <u>http://www.txsilc.org/page_CILs.html</u>
 - B. Aging and Disability Resource Center ("ADRC") intake and referral for persons with physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities all counties are covered: <u>https://www.dads.state.tx.us/contact/search.cfm</u>
 - C. Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authority (LIDDA) serves persons with intellectual, or developmental disabilities all counties are covered: https://www.dads.state.tx.us/contact/search.cfm
 - D. Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA) serves persons with Mental Illness and Substance Use disorders - all counties are covered: <u>https://www.dshs.texas.gov/mhservices-search/</u>
 - E. Local non-profits in your area serving people with disabilities
 - F. Call 211 and ask about resources for people with disabilities in your area, reach out to groups serving people with disabilities in your community
- ii. Least likely to apply population Asian:
 - A. Local Asian real estate association
 - B. Local Asian Chamber of Commerce
 - C. Local Asian American Resource Center
 - D. Local organizations serving the Asian community
 - E. Community centers, places of worship, libraries, grocery stores in census tracts with a high concentration of the racial group. In TDHCA's Tool, these areas are listed under "tracts for outreach consideration"

- iii. Least likely to apply population Black/African American:
 - A. Local Black/African American Chamber of Commerce
 - B. Local Black/African American Professionals Social Network
 - C. Weekly Black/African American newspaper / website for a city
 - D. Local community center or YMCA in a historically black/African American neighborhood;
 - E. Community centers, places of worship, libraries, grocery stores in census tracts with a high concentration of the racial group. In TDHCA's Tool, these areas are listed under "tracts for outreach consideration"
- iv. Least likely to apply population Not Hispanic:
 - A. Community centers, places of worship, libraries, grocery stores in census tracts with a high concentration of the racial group. In TDHCA's Tool, these areas are listed under "tracts for outreach consideration"
- d. Complete and execute an affirmative marketing plan using any version of HUD Form 935.2A, including the groups and organizations identified above;
- e. Comply with all requirements of 10 TAC §10.617, which we recommend using as a checklist;
- f. Ensure that your plan includes a section considering how Limited English Proficiency may affect populations least likely to apply, and including ways you plan to mitigate language barriers related to advertising and community outreach. Such information should be included in the Plan as an additional consideration, or as an attachment to the Plan. Some sample information that may be useful for preparation is available at http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/pmcdocs/LAP-Guide.doc;
- g. Send marketing outreach materials to all organizations identified in Section 4c of your plan, ensuring that said marketing materials comply with all requirements of 10 TAC §10.617. Remember that 10 TAC §10.617(f)(5) requires marketing materials to include the Fair Housing Logo and give contact information that prospective tenants can access if reasonable accommodations are needed in order to complete the application process. These were not included in your letters submitted on 10/27/2018. The contact information sentence must include the terms "reasonable accommodation" and must be in English and Spanish for all outreach marketing letters, regardless of the targeted group. Here is a sample of an acceptable sentence recently included in marketing materials from another property: "Individuals who need to request a reasonable accommodation to complete the application process should contact the apartment manager at XXX-XXX-XXXX. Personas con discapacidad que necesitan solicitar un acomodacion razonable para completer el proceso de aplicacion deben comunicarse con el Administrador del apartment al XXX-XXX-XXXX."
- h. Look over the "10.617 (affirmative marketing)" tab of the spreadsheet at the following link, which provides details regarding how TDHCA monitors for this item so that you can check over your work before submission: <u>http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/pmcdocs/OnsiteMonitoringForms.xlsx</u>

What to submit: Once your Affirmative Marketing plan *and* outreach materials are complete, submit both by CMTS upload.

Exhibit 2

[Affirmative Marketing Web Tool intentionally omitted from web version because it is not in an accessible format]

Exhibit 3:

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 to the Department at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to any sale, transfer, or exchange of the Development or any portion of or Controlling interest in the Development. Transfers that are the result of an involuntary removal of the general partner by the investment limited partner must be reported to the Department, as soon as possible due to the sensitive timing and nature of this decision. 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, 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 §1.5 of this title (relating to Previous Participation Reviews), prior to recommending any new financing or allocation of credits.

(b) Requirement. Department approval must be requested for any new member to join in the ownership of a Development. Exceptions include changes to the investment limited partner, non-controlling limited partner, or other partners affiliated with the investment limited partner, or changes resulting from foreclosure wherein the lender or financial institution involved in the transaction is the resulting owner. Any subsequent transfer of the Development will be required to adhere to the process in this section. Furthermore, a Development Owner may not transfer an allocation of tax credits or ownership of a Development supported with an allocation of tax credits to any Person or entity unless the Development Owner obtains the Executive Director's prior, written approval of the transfer. The Executive Director may not unreasonably withhold approval of the transfer requested in compliance with this section. Notwithstanding the foregoing, 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 members or the transferee is a Related Party who does not Control the Development and the transfer is being made for estate planning purposes.

(c) Transfers Prior to 8609 Issuance or Construction Completion. Transfers (other than those that do not require Executive Director approval, as set forth in subsection (b) of this section) will not be approved 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) unless the Development Owner can provide evidence that the need for the transfer is due to a hardship (ex. potential bankruptcy, removal by a partner, etc.). The Development Owner must provide the Department with a written explanation describing the hardship and a copy of any applicable agreement between the parties to the transfer, including any Third-Party agreement.

(d) Non-Profit Organizations. If the ownership transfer request is to replace a non-profit organization within the Development ownership entity, the replacement non-profit 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 Non-Profit Organization, and the Development received Tax Credits pursuant to \$42(h)(5) of the Code, the transferee must be a Qualified Non-Profit Organization that meets the requirements of \$42(h)(5) of the Code and Texas

Government Code §2306.6706.

(2) If the LURA requires ownership or material participation in ownership by a qualified non-profit organization, but the Development did not receive Tax Credits pursuant to \$42(h)(5) of the Code, the Development Owner must show that the transferee is a non-profit organization that complies with the LURA.

(e) Historically Underutilized Business ("HUB") Organizations. If a HUB is the general partner of a Development Owner and it (i) is being removed as the result of a default under the organizational documents of the Development Owner or (ii) determines to sell its ownership interest, in either case, after the issuance of 8609s, the purchaser of that general partnership interest is not required to be a HUB as long as the LURA does not require such continual ownership or a material LURA amendment is approved. Such approval can be obtained concurrent with Board approval described herein. All such transfers must be approved by the Board and require that the Board find that:

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

(2) the participation by the HUB has been substantive and meaningful, or would have been substantial and meaningful had the HUB not defaulted under the organizational documents of the Development Owner, enabling it to realize not only financial benefit but to acquire skills relating to the ownership and operation of affordable housing; and

(3) the proposed purchaser meets the Department's standards for ownership transfers

(f) Documentation Required. A Development Owner must submit documentation requested by the Department to enable the Department to understand fully the facts and circumstances that gave rise to the need for the transfer and the effects of approval or denial. Documentation includes but is not limited to:

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

(2) a list of the names of transferees and Related Parties;

(3) detailed information describing the experience and financial capacity of transferees and related parties holding an ownership interest of 10 percent or greater in any Principal or Controlling entity;

(4) evidence and certification that the tenants in the Development have been notified in writing of the proposed transfer at least thirty (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.

(g) Within five (5) business days after the date the Department receives all necessary information under this section, staff shall initiate a qualifications review of a transferee, in accordance with §1.5 of this title, to determine the transferee's past compliance with all aspects of the Department's programs, LURAs and eligibility under this chapter.

(h) 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 (5) years prior to the transfer request date.

(i) Penalties. 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 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.

(j) Ownership Transfer Processing Fee. The ownership transfer request must be accompanied by corresponding ownership transfer fee as outlined in §10.901 of this chapter (relating to Fee Schedule).

Source Note: The provisions of this §10.406 adopted to be effective December 9, 2014, 39 TexReg 9518