

ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST  
PRESIDIUM GROUP, LLC WITH  
RESPECT TO SPRING HILL  
APARTMENTS (HTC FILE # 70133 /  
CMTS # 2301)

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BEFORE THE  
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF  
HOUSING AND  
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

### **AGREED FINAL ORDER**

#### **General Remarks and official action taken:**

On this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2015, the Governing Board (“Board”) of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (“TDHCA”) considered the matter of whether enforcement action should be taken against **PRESIDIUM GROUP, LLC**, a Texas limited liability company (“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**

##### **Jurisdiction:**

1. During 1990, Springbrook Partners, Ltd (“Prior Owner”) was awarded an allocation of Low Income Housing Tax Credits by the Board, in an annual amount of \$1,611,900 to rehabilitate and operate Spring Hill Apartments (“Property”) (HTC file No. 70133 / CMTS No. 2301 / LDLD No. 224).

2. Prior Owner signed a land use restriction agreement (“LURA”) regarding the Property. The LURA was effective December 4, 1991, and filed of record at Volume 91240, Page 1709 of the Official Public Records of Real Property of Dallas County, Texas (“Records”), as amended. 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 and signed an agreement with TDHCA to assume the duties imposed by the LURA and to comply fully with the terms thereof (Agreement to Comply), effective November 12, 2014, and filed the same in the Records at Document Number 201400291151, thereby further binding Respondent to the terms of the LURA.
4. Respondent is a Texas limited liability company that is qualified to own, construct, acquire, rehabilitate, operate, manage, or maintain a housing development that is subject to the regulatory authority of TDHCA.

Compliance Violations<sup>1</sup>:

5. An on-site monitoring review was conducted on July 10, 2014, 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 May 1, 2015, corrective action deadline was set, however, the following violations were not corrected before the corrective action deadline:
  - a. Respondent failed to provide an affirmative marketing plan, a violation of 10 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §10.617 (Affirmative Marketing), which requires developments to approve and distribute an affirmative marketing plan and to distribute marketing materials to selected marketing organizations that reach groups identified as least likely to apply and to the disabled. An affirmative marketing plan was received in response to an administrative penalty informal conference notice, but the plan omitted the required marketing materials to prove that the development was carrying out marketing to the disabled;
  - b. Respondent failed to properly calculate the utility allowance for the property, a violation of 10 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §10.614 (Utility Allowances), which requires all developments to establish a utility allowance. The violation was resolved on October 15, 2015, after intervention by the Enforcement Committee and 167 days past the deadline;

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<sup>1</sup> Within this Agreed Final Order, all references to violations of TDHCA Compliance Monitoring rules at 10 TEX. ADMIN. CODE, CHAPTERS 10 AND 60 refer 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.

- c. Respondent failed to maintain written tenant selection criteria, a violation of 10 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §10.610 (Tenant Selection Criteria), which requires all developments to establish written tenant selection criteria that meet minimum TDHCA requirements. The violation was resolved on October 15, 2015, after intervention by the Enforcement Committee and 167 days past the deadline;
  - d. Respondent failed to provide documentation that household incomes were within prescribed limits upon initial occupancy for units 1101, 1113, 1115, 1141, 1143, 1149, 2106, 2117, 2121, 2159, and 2166, a violation of 10 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §10.611 (Determination, Documentation and Certification of Annual Income) and Section 4 of the LURA, which require screening of tenants to ensure qualification for the program. The violations were resolved on October 15, 2015, after intervention by the Enforcement Committee and 167 days past the deadline;
6. On May 11, 2015 and July 1, 2015, TDHCA sent notice that Respondent had failed to timely submit their 2014 Annual Owner's Compliance Report which had come due on April 30, 2015, a violation of 10 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §10.607 (Reporting Requirements), which requires each development to submit an Annual Owner's Compliance Report.
- All parts of the report were submitted on November 23, 2015, after intervention by the Enforcement Committee and 207 days past the deadline.
7. The following violations remain outstanding at the time of this order:
- a. Affirmative marketing plan violation described in FOF #5a;

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 1. The Department has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §§2306.041-.0503, 10 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 1.14 and 10 TEX. ADMIN. CODE Chapter 60, both of which were replaced by 10 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §2 as of November 19, 2014.
- 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 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §10.617 in 2014, by failing to provide a complete affirmative marketing plan;
- 5. Respondent violated 10 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §10.614 in 2014 by failing to properly calculate and maintain a utility allowance;
- 6. Respondent violated 10 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §10.610 in 2014, by not maintaining written tenant selection criteria meeting TDHCA requirements;

7. Respondent violated 10 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §10.611 and Section 4 of the LURA in 2014, by failing to provide documentation that household incomes were within prescribed limits upon initial occupancy for the following units: 1101, 1113, 1115, 1141, 1143, 1149, 2106, 2117, 2121, 2159, and 2166;
8. Respondent violated 10 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §10.607 in 2015 by failing to submit the Annual Owner's Compliance Report for the year 2014;
9. Because Respondent is a housing sponsor with respect to the Property, and has violated TDHCA rules and agreements, the Board has personal and subject matter jurisdiction over Respondent pursuant to TEX. GOV'T CODE §2306.041 and §2306.267.
10. 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.
11. Because Respondent has violated rules promulgated pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Chapter 2306 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.
12. An administrative penalty of \$1,500 is an appropriate penalty in accordance with 10 TAC §§60.307 and 60.308, which were in place at the time of the violations. It remains appropriate under the replacement rule at 10 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §2, which became effective on November 19, 2014.

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 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 \$1,500, subject to deferral as further ordered below.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Respondent shall fully correct the file monitoring violations as indicated in Attachment 1 and submit full documentation of the corrections to TDHCA on or before January 18, 2016.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Respondent shall follow the requirements of 10 Tex. Admin. Code 10.406, a copy of which is included at Attachment 2, and obtain approval from the Department prior to consummating a sale of the property, if contemplated.

**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 assessed administrative penalty and the full amount of the administrative penalty will be deferred and forgiven.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that if Respondent fails to satisfy any conditions or otherwise violates any provision of this order, then the full administrative penalty in the amount of \$1,500 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: <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/pmcdocs/CMTSUserGuide-AttachingDocs.pdf>. After the upload is complete, an email must be sent to Ysella Kaseman at [ysella.kaseman@tdhca.state.tx.us](mailto:ysella.kaseman@tdhca.state.tx.us) 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:

| <b>If via overnight mail (FedEx, UPS):</b>  | <b>If via USPS:</b>  |
|---|--|
| TDHCA<br>Attn: Ysella Kaseman<br>221 E 11 <sup>th</sup> St<br>Austin, Texas 78701 | TDHCA<br>Attn: Ysella Kaseman<br>P.O. Box 13941<br>Austin, Texas 78711 |

**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 December 17, 2015.

By: /s/ J. Paul Oxe  
Name: J. Paul Oxe  
Title: 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 17th day of December, 2015, personally appeared J. Paul Oxe, 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/ Peggy Henderson  
Notary Public, State of Texas

**THE STATE OF TEXAS** §  
§  
**COUNTY OF TRAVIS** §

Before me, the undersigned notary public, on this 17th day of December, 2015, 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/ Peggy Henderson  
Notary Public, State of Texas



## Attachment 1

### **File Monitoring Violation Resources and Instructions**

1. **Affirmative marketing plan** – Respondent submitted outreach marketing efforts, however, no plan was submitted for review. In addition, the Affirmative Marketing Web Tool used to determine groups least likely to apply was using very old data and may not have been accurate. The Tool compares census data to data input by the property in the Quarterly Vacancy Report. At the time that the evidence of outreach marketing efforts was submitted, the Quarterly Vacancy Report had not been updated since 2010.

#### Resources:

- a. Video/Audio Training: <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/pmcomp/presentations.htm>
- b. FAQ's: <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/pmcomp/compFaqs.htm>
- c. Rule:  
[http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac\\_view=5&ti=10&pt=1&ch=10&sch=F&rl=Y](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=10&pt=1&ch=10&sch=F&rl=Y)

#### Instructions:

1. Submit delinquent Quarterly Vacancy Reports via CMTS to ensure that data is up to date;
2. Print the Affirmative Marketing Web Tool from <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/pmcomp/forms.htm> to determine groups that are least likely to apply.
3. Prepare an Affirmative Marketing Plan including the groups identified by the Affirmative Marketing Web Tool and following all requirements of 10 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §10.617.
4. Prepare outreach marketing efforts to the groups identified as least likely to apply. When preparing outreach marketing, ensure that the efforts are directed toward organizations that are specifically associated with the identified groups. For example, a local housing authority serves the general public, not a specific demographic; therefore marketing to the housing authority is not considered affirmative marketing. Likewise, marketing in a mainstream newspaper or on Craigslist is not considered affirmative marketing. An example of an acceptable form of marketing to the Hispanic community if they are identified as a group least likely to apply would be to market with a local Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Similarly, local groups that focus on helping the mentally disabled, physically disabled, disabled veterans or the disabled elderly could be ways to market to the disabled community.
5. Submit completed Affirmative Marketing Plan along with the Affirmative Marketing Web Tool and evidence of outreach marketing efforts to groups identified as least likely to apply.

## Attachment 2:

### **Texas Administrative Code**

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| 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)                  |

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(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).

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