

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-106
ESCROW AGREEMENT FOR HOUSING TRUST FUND

This Escrow Agreement made this 6th day of October, 2008, by and between the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) and Township of Aberdeen and Columbia Bank.

WHEREAS, a municipality may impose, collect and spend development fees and establish an affordable housing trust fund that includes, development fees; payments from developers in lieu of constructing affordable units on-site; developer-contributed funds to make ten percent (10%) of the adaptable entrances in a townhouse or other multistory attached development accessible; rental income from municipally operated units; repayments from affordable housing program loans; recapture funds; proceeds from the sale of affordable units; and/or any other funds collected in connection with *Township of Aberdeen's* affordable housing program in accordance with P.L.2008, c.46 (C. 52:27D-329.1 et al) and the regulations of COAH at N.J.A.C. 5:97-8.1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, on 8/27/99 COAH approved the *Township of Aberdeen* Development Fee Ordinance establishing standards for the collection, maintenance and expenditure of development fees consistent with COAH's rules and P.L.2008, c.46 (C. 52:27D-329.1 et al) and requiring that funds shall only be applied directly toward implementation of *Township of Aberdeen's* COAH-certified Fair Share Plan or Court Judgment of Compliance; and

WHEREAS, on 7/12/99 the governing body of *Township of Aberdeen* adopted Ordinance No. 12-1999, the Development Fee Ordinance of *Township of Aberdeen*, amending the Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, COAH has not yet approved a spending plan for Township of Aberdeen, Township of Aberdeen acknowledges that no expenditure of development fees; payments from developers in lieu of constructing affordable units on-site; developer-contributed funds to make ten percent (10%) of the adaptable entrances in a townhouse or other multistory attached development accessible; rental income from municipally operated units; repayments from affordable housing program loans; recapture funds; proceeds from the sale of affordable units; and/or any other funds collected in connection with Township of Aberdeen's affordable housing program in accordance with P.L.2008, c.46 (C. 52:27D-329.1 et al) and the regulations of COAH at N.J.A.C. 5:97-8.1 et seq. may occur prior to COAH's approval of a spending plan; and

WHEREAS, the Development Fee Ordinance requires an interest-bearing housing trust fund to be established for the purpose of receiving collected development fees; payments from developers in lieu of constructing affordable units on-site; developer-contributed funds to make ten percent (10%) of the adaptable entrances in a townhouse or other multistory attached development accessible; rental income from municipally operated units; repayments from affordable housing program loans; recapture funds; proceeds from the sale of affordable units; and/or any other funds collected in connection with *Township of Aberdeen's* affordable housing

program in accordance with P.L.2008, c.46 (C. 52:27D-329.1 et al) and the regulations of COAH at N.J.A.C. 5:97-8.1 et seq. and provides that no money shall be expended from the housing trust fund unless the expenditure conforms to the Development Fee Ordinance, a spending plan approved by COAH and the conditions set out at N.J.A.C. 5:97-8.7-8.9; and

WHEREAS, COAH's approval of the Development Fee Ordinance further requires Township of Aberdeen, within seven days of opening the trust fund account authorized by the ordinance, to enter into an escrow agreement with COAH pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:97-8.2(a) to enable COAH to monitor disbursement of collected development fees; payments from developers in lieu of constructing affordable units on-site; developer-contributed funds to make ten percent (10%) of the adaptable entrances in a townhouse or other multistory attached development accessible; rental income from municipally operated units; repayments from affordable housing program loans; recapture funds; proceeds from the sale of affordable units; and/or any other funds collected in connection with Township of Aberdeen's affordable housing program in accordance with P.L.2008, c.46 (C. 52:27D-329.1 et al) and the regulations of COAH at N.J.A.C. 5:97-8.1 et seq. and to direct the forfeiture of such funds after proper notice if their imposition, collection and/or expenditure are not in conformance with the terms of the approved Development Fee Ordinance, the conditions set out at N.J.A.C. 5:97-8.13(a), the spending plan approved by COAH, and P.L.2008, c.46 (C. 52:27D-329.1 et al); and

WHEREAS, the Development Fee Ordinance further provides that if COAH determines that the imposition, collection, and/or expenditure of development fees are not in conformance with the terms of the approved Development Fee Ordinance, approved spending plan, and P.L.2008, c.46 (C. 52:27D-329.1 et al), COAH may, after a hearing pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq., revoke a Development Fee Ordinance approval and direct the transfer of funds including future collection of non-residential development fees to the New Jersey Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

NOW THEREFORE, COAH, *Township of Aberdeen* and the Bank agree as follows:

1. Designation of Escrow Agent

COAH and *Township of Aberdeen* hereby designate *Columbia Bank* (the Bank) as their escrow agent, upon terms and conditions set forth herein, for the purpose of (a) receiving development fees, payments from developers in lieu of constructing affordable units on-site; developer-contributed funds to make ten percent (10%) of the adaptable entrances in a townhouse or other multistory attached development accessible; rental income from municipally operated units; repayments from affordable housing program loans; recapture funds; proceeds from the sale of affordable units; and/or any other funds collected in connection with Township of Aberdeen's affordable housing program in accordance with P.L.2008, c.46 (C. 52:27D-329.1 et al) and the regulations of COAH at N.J.A.C. 5:97-8.1 et seq. collected by *Township of Aberdeen*, (b) holding such sums in the escrow account hereinafter described, and (c) disbursing the monies upon the direction of the *Finance Director* of Township of Aberdeen consistent with the spending plan approved by COAH.

2. Escrow Account

Township of Aberdeen shall deposit all development fees; payments from developers in lieu of constructing affordable units on-site; developer-contributed funds to make ten percent (10%) of the adaptable entrances in a townhouse or other multistory attached development accessible; rental income from municipally operated units; repayments from affordable housing program loans; recapture funds; proceeds from the sale of affordable units; and/or any other funds collected in connection with Township of Aberdeen's affordable housing program in accordance with P.L.2008, c.46 (C. 52:27D-329.1 et al) and the regulations of COAH at N.J.A.C. 5:97-8.1 et seq. with the escrow agent and said escrow agent shall establish a separate, interest bearing account to be known as *Housing Trust Fund* (the Account) and shall deposit therein such initial funds, as well as all subsequent development fees; payments from developers in lieu of constructing affordable units on-site; developer-contributed funds to make ten percent (10%) of the adaptable entrances in a townhouse or other multistory attached development accessible; rental income from municipally operated units; repayments from affordable housing program loans; recapture funds; proceeds from the sale of affordable units; and/or any other funds collected in connection with Township of Aberdeen's affordable housing program in accordance with P.L.2008, c.46 (C. 52:27D-329.1 et al) and the regulations of COAH at N.J.A.C. 5:97-8.1 et seq. received from Township of Aberdeen. At no time shall the escrow agent co-mingle the funds deposited in the Account with any other funds or accounts held or maintained by the escrow agent, nor shall the escrow agent at any time set off any amount on deposit in the Account against (a) any indebtedness owed to the escrow agent by *Township of Aberdeen* or any other party, (b) any other obligation owed to the escrow agent by *Township of Aberdeen* or any other party, or (c) any claim which the escrow agent may have against *Township of Aberdeen* or any other party.

3. Application of Amounts on Deposit

The funds in the Account shall only be used for eligible affordable housing activities of *Township of Aberdeen* as set forth in a spending plan approved by COAH. The Bank shall disburse funds in the Account upon the direction of the *Finance Director* of *Township of Aberdeen*, unless notified otherwise by COAH.

4. Cessation of Disbursements from Funds and Forfeiture of Funds to the "New Jersey Affordable Housing Trust Fund" established pursuant to section 20 of P.L.1985, c.222 (C.52:27D-320)

COAH shall have the authority to halt disbursements by *Township of Aberdeen* from the Account upon written notice to the Bank and to direct all remaining funds to the New Jersey Affordable Housing Trust Fund. COAH shall have such authority if it determines, after notice to *Township of Aberdeen*, that the municipality is not in compliance with all conditions set out in N.J.A.C. 5:97-8.13(a), the Spending Plan and the Development Fee Ordinance. Upon receipt of written notice to cease disbursements from the Account, the Bank shall immediately halt disbursements by *Township of Aberdeen* until further written notice from COAH. The Bank shall allow the transfer of funds by COAH to the New Jersey Affordable Housing Trust Fund on behalf of *Township of Aberdeen*. COAH shall provide the *Township of Aberdeen* Municipal Clerk and Finance Director with copies of all written notices.

In the event that any of the following conditions, as set out in N.J.A.C. 5:97-8.13(a) occur, COAH shall be authorized on behalf of *Township of Aberdeen* and consistent with its rules and P.L.2008, c.46 (C. 52:27D-329.1 et al), to transfer all development fees; payments from developers in lieu of constructing affordable units on-site; developer-contributed funds to make ten percent (10%) of the adaptable entrances in a townhouse or other multistory attached development accessible; rental income from municipally operated units; repayments from affordable housing program loans; recapture funds; proceeds from the sale of affordable units; and/or any other funds collected in connection with Township of Aberdeen's affordable housing program in accordance with P.L.2008, c.46 (C. 52:27D-329.1 et al) and the regulations of COAH at N.J.A.C. 5:97-8.1 et seq., to the New Jersey Affordable Housing Trust Fund :

- a. Failure to meet deadlines for information required by COAH in its review of a Housing Element and Fair Share Plan, development fee ordinance or plan for spending fees;
- b. Failure to address COAH's conditions for approval of a plan to spend development fees; payments from developers in lieu of constructing affordable units on-site; developer-contributed funds to make ten percent (10%) of the adaptable entrances in a townhouse or other multistory attached development accessible; rental income from municipally operated units; repayments from affordable housing program loans; recapture funds; proceeds from the sale of affordable units; and/or any other funds collected in connection with Township of Aberdeen's affordable housing program within the deadlines imposed by COAH;
- c. Failure to address COAH's conditions for substantive certification within deadlines imposed by COAH;
- d. Failure to submit accurate annual monitoring reports pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:97-8.12(a) within the time limits imposed by COAH;
- e. Failure to implement the Spending Plan and expend the funds within the time schedules specified in the Spending Plan, including the requirement to spend the remaining trust fund balance pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:97-8.10(a)8 and collected fees pursuant to P.L.2008, c.46 (C.52:27D-329.2(8.d) & C.52:27D-329.3(9.b)) within four years;
- f. Expenditure of development fees; payments from developers in lieu of constructing affordable units on-site; developer-contributed funds to make ten percent (10%) of the adaptable entrances in a townhouse or other multistory attached development accessible; rental income from municipally operated units; repayments from affordable housing program loans; recapture funds; proceeds from the sale of affordable units; and/or any other funds collected in connection with Township of Aberdeen's affordable housing program on activities not permitted by COAH;
- g. Revocation of certification; or
- h. Other good cause demonstrating that the revenues are not being used for the approved purpose.

5. Standard of Care; Indemnification

The Bank shall use reasonable care and due diligence in the performance of all of its duties hereunder. *Township of Aberdeen* shall indemnify COAH and hold it harmless from and against all liabilities, losses or damages incurred under COAH with respect to any action

COAH may take under this escrow agreement with the exception of liabilities, losses or damages solely caused by negligent acts, omissions, errors or willful misconduct by COAH.

6. Records and Accounts

The Bank shall keep accurate financial records and accounts of all transactions relating to the Account, including but not limited to all deposits to the Account, disbursements from the Account and interest earned on the Account which shall be made available for inspection by COAH and *Township of Aberdeen*, or their respective designees, at any reasonable time. *Township of Aberdeen* shall provide COAH with reports on a quarterly basis, which set forth the amount, date and description of all activity from the Account as well as other information COAH may require to monitor the Account.

7. Notices

All notices, certificates or other communications hereunder shall be delivered by hand or mailed by certified mail to the parties at the following addresses:

- a. If to COAH: Executive Director
New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing
101 South Broad Street
PO Box 813
Trenton, NJ 08625-0813

- b. If to Municipality: Municipal Clerk and Chief Financial Officer
1 Aberdeen Sq.
Aberdeen, N.J. _____

- c. If to Bank: Columbia Bank
1154 Route 34 _____
Aberdeen, N.J. 07747 _____

Any of the parties may hereby designate different or additional addresses by notice in writing given to the other parties.

8. Further Assistance

The parties hereto shall authorize, execute, acknowledge and deliver such further resolutions, assurances and other instruments as may be necessary or desirable for better assuring, conveying, granting, assigning and confirming the rights and interests granted hereunder.

9. Agreement Subject to the Fair Housing Act

This agreement is subject to the Fair Housing Act, P.L.2008, c.46 (C. 52:27D-329.1 et al) and the rules of COAH set forth at N.J.A.C. 5:97-8.1 et seq., and nothing contained herein shall be interpreted to limit or restrict in any way the discretion and authority vested in COAH by the Act or rules.

10. Amendments

This agreement may not be amended, supplemented or modified except by a written instrument executed by all the parties hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this agreement as of the date set forth above.

Date

Angela Morin, on behalf of Township of Aberdeen

Date

Lucy Vandenberg, Executive Director
on behalf of the New Jersey Council
on Affordable Housing (COAH)

Date

Carol Cutar, on behalf of Columbia Bank