

**HOUSING AUTHORITY OF NEW ORLEANS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 28, 2020**

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-11

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2020 the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) issued PIH Administrative Notice 2020-05. (the “Notice”); and

WHEREAS, the Notice offered to public housing authorities (“PHAs”) the option to accept certain waivers and administrative exceptions to the requirements and deadlines that are normally imposed by HUD on PHAs in regard to their provision of housing and housing assistance; and

WHEREAS, HUD made its offer of waivers and administrative exceptions to PHAs because it recognized that many of the directives and orders that have been issued by various state and local authorities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have limited the ability of PHAs to conduct public meetings, economic activity, and normal office hours; and

WHEREAS, HANO’s activities and office hours have been reduced by the restrictions on public gatherings and economic activities that have been imposed by the Executive Order and Emergency Proclamations of Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards, see, e.g., 33 JBE 2020 and 59 JBE 2020, and New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell, see, Mayoral Proclamation to Promulgate Emergency Orders During the COVID-19 State of Emergency issued March 16, 2020 and Mayoral Proclamation to Further Promulgate Emergency Orders During the State of Emergency Due to COVID-19 issued May 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2020 HANO affirmatively and in writing accepted HUD’s offer made in the Notice by implementing as needed, all of the waivers and administrative exceptions described in the Notice; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of New Orleans hereby ratifies HANO’s May 1, 2020 acceptance and implementation as needed, of all waivers and administrative exceptions described in PIH 2020-05.

Executed this 28th day of May, 2020

APPROVAL:



**DEBRA JOSEPH
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**



May 28, 2020

MEMORANDUM

**To: Board of Commissioners
President Debra Joseph, Vice President Isabel Barrios,
Commissioner Avery Foret, Commissioner Sharon Jasper,
Commissioner Carol Johnson, Commissioner Monika McKay,
Commissioner Hyma Moore, Commissioner Kim Piper and
Commissioner Bill Rouselle**

**Through: Evette Hester
Executive Director**

**Re: HANO's Implementation of Certain Waivers and Administrative Exceptions
to Program Rules and Regulations Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic**

On April 10, 2020 the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") issued PIH Administrative Notice 2020-05 (the "Notice"). In the Notice, HUD offered to public housing authorities ("PHAs") the option to accept certain waivers and administrative exceptions to the requirements and deadlines that are normally imposed by HUD on PHAs in regard to their provision of housing and housing assistance. HUD made its offer of waivers and administrative exceptions to PHAs because it recognized that many of the orders that have been issued by various state and local authorities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have limited the ability of PHAs to conduct public meetings, economic activity, and normal office hours.

The Notice allows PHAs like the Housing Authority of New Orleans ("HANO") to apply the waivers at their discretion. Key waiver provisions include delaying the submission of HUD required documentation for agency plans, for verification of agency performance status, and for verification of agency finances. Under the Notice, PHAs may also elect, at their discretion, to waive or alter various program requirements and regulations in both the Low-Income Public Housing and the Housing Choice Voucher Programs.

In addition, the Notice deems some of the offered waivers and exceptions "short term," with an expiration date of July 31, 2020, and it deems some of the waivers and exceptions "long term" with an expiration date of December 31, 2020. Finally, the Notice requires PHAs to affirmatively and in writing accept HUD's offer by stating which waivers and/or administrative exceptions it will implement. A summary table of HUD waivers and alternative requirements listed in the Notice is attached hereto as Schedule A.

The activities and office hours of HANO have been reduced by the restrictions on public gatherings and economic activities that have been imposed by the Executive Order and Emergency Proclamations of Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards, *see, e.g.*, 33 JBE 2020 and 59 JBE 2020, and New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell, *see, Mayoral Proclamation to Promulgate Emergency Orders During the COVID-19 State of Emergency issued March 16, 2020 and Mayoral Proclamation to Further Promulgate Emergency Orders During the State of Emergency Due to*

COVID-19 issued May 15, 2020. HANO has also reviewed the applicability of the waivers and administrative exceptions to program rules and regulations that are offered by HUD in PIH 2020-05.

As a result of its reduced activities and its review of the Notice, HANO has decided to affirmatively and in writing accept HUD's offer by implementing as needed, all of the waivers and administrative exceptions described in the Notice. HANO Executive Director Evette Hester implemented the waivers and administrative exceptions that have been accepted by HANO on May 1, 2020. The memorandum notice of the Executive Director to the HANO Board of Commissioners of HANO's acceptance and implementation of the waivers is attached hereto as Schedule B.

Therefore, it is requested that the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of New Orleans formally recognize by resolution the acceptance and implementation of the waivers that became effective on May 1, 2020.