STATE OF FLORIDA FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

FHFC CASE NO. 2010 - 023VW

COLONY LAKES PRESERVATION, LP

Petitioner,

Decrandent

VS.

FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION,

respondent.			

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PETITION FOR WAIVER OF RULES 67-48.020(2)(a) and 67-48.020(3), F.A.C.

Colony Lakes Preservation, LP ("Colony Lakes"), petitions Florida Housing Finance Corporation ("Florida Housing") for a waiver of the required annual fixed interest payment for loan financing provided through the HOME Investment Partnerships Program ("HOME Program"). See Rules 67-48.020(2)(a) and 67-48.020(3), F.A.C. (collectively "HOME Rules"). In support of the requested Rule waivers, Colony Lakes states the following:

- 1. Pursuant to Section 120.542, Fla. Stat., and Rule 28-104.002, F.A.C., Colony Lakes petitions for a waiver of the HOME Rules which require an annual fixed rate interest payment to Florida Housing's servicer.
- 2. As an alternative, Colony Lakes requests that its annual interest rate payment be based on Development Cash Flow which is permitted for HOME loans awarded to successful applicants who submitted applications to Florida Housing under its Request for Proposals 2009-06 ("RFP"), p. 11, ¶ 8.

A. THE PETITIONER

3. The name, address, telephone and facsimile numbers for Colony Lakes and its qualified representative are:

Colony Lakes Preservation, LP c/o RAP FL, LLC, its general partner 60 Columbus Circle New York, NY 10023

Attention: Jay L. Reinhard Telephone: 212-801-1078 Facsimile: 212-801-3731

4. For purposes of this Petition, the address, telephone and facsimile numbers of Petitioner's attorneys are:

Brian J. McDonough, Esquire Mimi L. Sall, Esquire

STEARNS WEAVER MILLER WEISSLER STEARNS WEAVER MILLER WEISSLER

ALHADEFF & SITTERSON, P.A.

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B. THE DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDING

5. Colony Lakes Apartments (the "Development"), located in Miami-Dade County, Florida, is a 220-unit rental apartment development. The Development was placed in service in 1995, and serves the Family demographic for extremely low and low income families.

6. The Development was initially financed through (a) equity raised pursuant to tax credits allocated to the Development under Florida Housing's 9% tax credit program; (b) a \$4,800,000 HOME Loan (the "HOME Loan") made by Florida Housing to Homestead III Associates, Ltd. (the "Current Owner"); and (c) a first mortgage loan from City National Bank of Florida in the original principal amount of \$3,690,000.

- 7. Under Rules then in effect, interest on the HOME Loan accrues at 1.95% per annum, and annual interest payments must be made to Florida Housing's servicer. A copy of the Promissory Note for the HOME Loan is attached as Exhibit A.
- 8. Based, in part, upon the age of the Development, substantial rehabilitation is required to update and upgrade the apartment units and facilities.
- 9. Colony Lakes has contracted to purchase the Development from the Current Owner, and, after closing on this acquisition, Colony Lakes will substantially rehabilitate the units and Development facilities.
- 10. Funding for the acquisition and substantial rehabilitation of the Development will be comprised of (a) approximately \$4,683,000 in equity raised through the anticipated syndication of tax credits allocated to Colony Lakes and the Development by Florida Housing; (b) approximately \$10,000,000 in first mortgage tax exempt bond financing funding through the New Issue Bond Program ("NIBP"); and (c) the assumption by Colony Lakes of the current \$4,800,000 HOME Loan.
- 11. The annual interest rate for new HOME Loans that are funded pursuant to RFP 2009-06 will be 1.0% simple interest per annum. See RFP, p. 11, ¶ 8. Moreover, "[p]ayment on the [new] HOME loan shall be based upon the Development Cash Flow, as determined pursuant to the Financial Reporting Form SR-1, ..."Id.
- 12. Colony Lakes has been in communications with Citi Community Capital ("CITI"), the underwriter for Freddie Mac Bond Credit Enhancement required in connection with the issuance of bonds under the NIBP.
- 13. By letter dated April 26, 2010, CITI advised that, without modification of the terms of the existing HOME Loan (the "Sub-Debt") so that debt service payments on the HOME

¹See Rule 9I-ER93-10, for HOME Investment Partnership Program (Disaster Relief). .

Loan are made subject to available cash flow ("Soft Pay"), the Development will be unable to support the amount of senior debt needed to acquire and adequately rehabilitate the Development in a financially feasible manner. A copy of CITI's April 26, 2010 correspondence is attached as Exhibit B.

- 14. As a result, in order to meet CITI's underwriting requirements, a waiver of the HOME Rules is required to allow for an annual interest payment at the fixed rate of 1.95%, as provided in the original Promissory Note, the payment of which will be dependent upon available cash flow.
- 15. The requested waivers will, in essence, provide Colony Lakes with similar terms and conditions for annual interest payments on the assumed HOME Loan as those terms and conditions now available to developers receiving new HOME Loans under RFP 2009-06, i.e., debt service payments based upon available Development Cash Flow. By permitting Colony Lakes to make its loan payments in this manner, it will enable Colony Lakes to leverage federal resources created by the NIBP with the HOME Loan, a state resource funded from a federal program already committed to this Development. *See* RFP 2009-06, at p. 11, ¶8.
- 16. The requested Rule waivers will not adversely impact the Development. A denial of this Petition, however, could (a) prohibit Colony Lakes from obtaining sufficient funding to acquire and substantially rehabilitate the Development; (b) result in significant economic hardship to the Development which is in dire need of substantial rehabilitation; (c) deprive Miami-Dade County of essential, safe and rehabilitated affordable housing units; and (d) violate principles of fairness. § 120.542(2), Fla. Stat. (2009).

- 17. More importantly, without the requested waivers, the Development may no longer be able to provide safe low-income housing units to a market in desperate need of quality affordable housing.
 - 18. The requested Rule waivers are permanent in nature.

C. THE RULES FROM WHICH RELIEF IS REQUESTED AND THE STATUTE IMPLEMENTING THE RULES

- 19. Colony Lakes realleges and incorporated Paragraphs 1 through 18 as though fully set forth herein.
- 20. Colony Lakes requests a waiver of the HOME Rules as more specifically discussed herein.
- 21. Rules currently governing HOME loans do not limit the obligation of the borrower to make annual interest payments on available Development Cash Flow. Instead, interest payments are based on a fixed annual interest rate without reference to available cash flow. Rule 67-48.020(2)(a), F.A.C. Moreover, although "[t]he loans shall be non-amortizing and repayment of principal shall be deferred until maturity[,] [i]nterest payments on the loan shall be paid to the Corporation's servicer annually on the date specified in the Note." Rule 67-48.020(3), F.A.C. (emphasis added).
- 22. In contrast to the HOME Rules, the provisions of RFP 2009-06 specifically provide that "[p]ayment on the HOME loan **shall be** based upon the Development Cash Flow, as determined pursuant to the Financial Reporting Form SR-1, or shall be due annually as determined by Florida Housing's Board of Directors." *Id*.
- 23. The HOME Rules for which the waivers are requested are implementing, among other sections of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation Act (the "Act),² the statute that

² The Act is set forth in Sections 420.501 through 420.516 of the Florida Statutes (2009).

created the HOME Program. § 420.5089, Fla. Stat. The HOME Program recognizes the need to establish a qualified public depository for loans to eligible housing providers through a process that "must incorporate and provide incentives for welfare-to-work transitioning in coordination with applicable state and federal programs." *Id.* Accordingly, the HOME Rules are implementing Florida Housing's statutory authorization to establish the requirements, rules, and procedures for the HOME Program.

24. Moreover, the HOME Program comports with legislative findings concerning the need to provide alternative funding sources to remedy the serious shortage of decent, safe, and sanitary housing to individuals and families with low and moderate income. § 420.502, Fla. Stat.

D. <u>JUSTIFICATION FOR COLONY LAKES' REQUESTED WAIVER</u>

- 25. Colony Lakes realleges and incorporates Paragraphs 1 through 24 as though fully set forth herein.
- 26. Under Section 120.542(1), Fla. Stat., and Chapter 28-104, F.A.C., Florida Housing has the authority to grant waivers to its rule requirements when strict application of these rules would lead to unreasonable, unfair and unintended consequences in particular instances. Waivers shall be granted when the person who is subject to the rule demonstrates that the application of the rule would (1) create a substantial hardship or violate principles of fairness,³ and (2) the purpose of the underlying statute has been or will be achieved by other means by the person. § 120.542(2), Fla. Stat. (2009).
 - 27. In this instance, Colony Lakes meets the standards for Rule waivers.

³ "Substantial hardship" means a demonstrated economic, technological, legal or other type of hardship to the person requesting the variance or waiver. "Principles of Fairness" are violated when literal application of a rule affects a particular person in a manner significantly different from the way it affects other similarly situated persons who are subject to the Rule Section 120.542(2), Florida Statutes (2009).

- 28. The Development was placed in service almost 15 years ago. Today, the Development requires substantial rehabilitation of not only its 220 units and their buildings, but the facilities available to and used by the Development's residents.
- 29. The ability to substantially rehabilitate the Development is dependent upon a significant infusion of funds.
- 30. Colony Lakes has a contract to purchase the Development and has an acquisition and rehabilitation funding package, described in Paragraph 10 above, to accomplish this goal.
- 31. However, without a waiver of the HOME Rules' required annual interest payments, or the ability to pay debt service obligations on the HOME Loan from Development Cash Flow, as now permitted for new HOME Loans to be funded pursuant to RFP 2009.06, it is unlikely that Colony Lakes can proceed with the acquisition and rehabilitation of the Development.
- 32. In fact, CITI, as the underwriter for the NIBP program, specifically recognized that:

If the Sub-Debt [HOME Loan] can be modified so that debt service payments are only made subject to available cash flow ("Soft Pay"), Colony Lakes will ultimately be able to support more senior debt. In addition, Soft Pay Sub-Debt is preferable not only to CITI and Freddie, but also to the Low Income Housing Tax Credit ("LIHTC") investors in the market today, and as you are aware, the universe of LIHTC investors currently interested in investing in Bond financed affordable housing communities is limited.

Exhibit B (emphasis provided in original).

33. Significantly, absent the requested waivers, it is improbable that any otherwise qualified developer could obtain the necessary financing to acquire and substantially rehabilitate the Development.

34. The requested waivers, therefore, would significantly benefit the residents of the Development by enabling Colony Lakes, as the new developer, to acquire the Development and to have sufficient funds for the necessary and substantial rehabilitation of the residents' units and facilities.

E. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

- 35. Controlling statutes and Florida Housing's Rules are designed to allow the flexibility necessary to provide relief from rule requirements when strict application, in particular circumstances, would lead to unreasonable, unfair, or unintended results. Waivers should be granted when the applicant subject to the rule demonstrates that strict application would: (a) create a substantial hardship or violate principles of fairness; and (b) the purpose of the underlying statute has been or will be achieved by other means. § 120.542(2), Fla. Stat. (2009).
- 36. The requested waivers will not adversely impact the Development or Florida Housing, and will ensure that 220 affordable housing units will be substantially rehabilitated and remain available for families and individuals in Miami-Dade County, Florida.
- 37. However, a denial of the requested waivers would result in a substantial hardship for Colony Lakes. Colony Lakes would be unable to obtain sufficient funding to acquire and rehabilitate the Development and consequently would be denied the ability provide decent, safe, and affordable housing units to a market in desperate need of extremely low and low income housing.
- 38. Finally, by granting the requested waivers, Florida Housing would recognize the economic realities and principles of fundamental fairness in the preservation of affordable rental housing. In particular, the requested waivers for this Development would allow for the application of rules to the restructuring of the HOME Loan as will be applied to virtually

identical HOME loans which are to be funded under RFP 2009-06, and, most importantly, would condition the ability to service debt on available Development Cash Flow. This recognition would allow Colony Lakes to meet the purpose of the Act in an economical and efficient manner.

39. Should Florida Housing require additional information, Colony Lakes is available to answer questions and provide all information necessary for consideration of its Petition for Waiver of Rules 67-48.020(2)(a) and 67-48.020(3).

WHEREFORE, Petitioner Colony Lakes Preservation, LP, respectfully requests that Florida Housing Finance Corporation:

- A. Grant the Petition and all the relief requested therein;
- В. Waive the requirement for annual fixed interest rate payments to Florida Housing's servicer, and instead allow annual 1.95% interest payments on the HOME Loan to be made from Development Cash Flow in accordance with RFP 2009-06; and
- C. Grant such further relief as may be deemed appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

STEARNS WEAVER MILLER WEISSLER

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Miami, Florida 33130

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MMAULY Brian J. McDonough

By: MM

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The Original Petition is being served by overnight delivery, with a copy served by electronic transmission, for filing with the Corporation Clerk for Florida Housing Finance Corporation, 227 N. Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301, with copies served by overnight delivery on the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee, Room 120, The Holland Building, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300, this 22 day of June, 2010.

By: Mimi L. Sall

#349283 v1

PROMISSORY NOTE

\$4,800,000.00

Miami, Florida May 20, 1994

FOR VALUE RECEIVED the undersigned, HOMESTRAD III ASSOCIATES, LTD., a Florida limited partnership ("Maker"), promises to pay to the order of the FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY, an agency of the State of Florida, together with any other holder hereof ("Holder"), at Suite 101, 2574 Seagate Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-5026, or such other place as Holder may from time to time designate in writing, the principal sum of Four Hillion Eight Hundred Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$4,800,000.00), together with interest thereon, at the rate expressed as follows:

The outstanding principal balance of this Note shall accrue interest at the rate of One and Ninety-five/Hundredths (1.95%) percent per annum.

Principal and interest hereunder shall be payable in lawful money of the United States of America at the office of the Holder, or at such other place as the Holder hereof may designate in writing, as follows:

- (a) All accrued and unpaid interest hereunder shall be due and payable yearly, commencing on June 30, 1994 and on the 30th day of June of each and every year thereafter until the Due Date.
- (b) Notwithstanding anything in this Note to the contrary, the entire principal balance outstanding hereunder, together with all accrued and unpaid interest, shall be due and payable on May 20, 2014 ("Due Date"), unless extended or accelerated as provided below.

After maturity or acceleration this Note shall bear interest at the Default Interest Rate described below until paid in full.

This Note may be prepaid in whole or in part at any time, without penalty or premium. Any prepayment hereunder shall be applied first to unpaid costs of collection, servicing fees, and late charges, if any, then to accrued, deferred and unpaid interest and the balance, if any, to the principal balance.

All terms hereunder shall be construed and defined as in 24 CFR Part 92 and Chapter 91-40, Florida Administrative Code.

This Note is secured by a Mortgage and Security Agreement, and by a Collateral Assignment of Leases, Rents and Contract Rights, both of even date herewith from Maker in favor of Holder, and is subject to the provisions thereof. The foregoing and all other agreements, instruments and documents delivered in connection therewith and herewith are collectively referred to as the "Loan Documents."

This Note has been executed and delivered in, and is to be governed by and construed under the laws of, the State of Florida, as amended, except as modified by the laws and regulations of the United States of America.

Maker shall have no obligation to pay interest or payments in the nature of interest in excess of the maximum rate of interest allowed to be contracted for by law, as changed from time to time, applicable to this Note (the "Maximum Rate"). Any interest in excess of the Maximum Rate paid by Maker ("excess sum") shall be credited as a payment of principal, or, if Maker so requests in writing, returned to Maker, or, if the indebtedness and other obligations evidenced by this Note have been paid in full, returned to Maker together with interest at the same rate as was paid by Maker during such period. Any excess sum credited to principal shall be credited as of the date paid to Holder. The Maximum Rate

NOTES AND MORTGAGES OWNED BY THE FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY, AN AGENCY OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARE EXEMPT FROM DOCUMENTARY STAMP TAX AND INTANGIBLE TAX.



varies from time to time and from time to time tere may be no specific Maximum Rate. Holder may, without such action constituting a breach of any obligations to Maker, seek judicial determination of the Maximum Rate of interest, and its obligation to pay or credit any proposed excess sum to Maker.

The "Default Interest Rate" and, in the event no specific maximum rate is applicable, the Maximum Rate shall be twenty-five percent (25%) per annum.

Holder shall have the right to declare the total unpaid balance hereof to be immediately due and payable in advance of the Maturity Date upon the failure of Maker to pay when due, taking into account applicable grace periods, any payment of principal or interest or other amount due hereunder; or upon the occurrence of an event of default pursuant to any other Loan Documents now or hereafter evidencing, securing or guaranteeing payment of the indebtedness evidenced by this Note. Exercise of this right shall be without notice to Maker or to any other person liable for payment hereof, notice of such exercise being hereby expressly waived.

Any payment hereunder not paid when due (at maturity, upon acceleration or otherwise) taking into account applicable grace periods shall bear interest at the Default Interest Rate from the due date until paid.

Provided Holder has not accelerated this Note, Maker shall pay Holder a late charge of five percent (5%) of any required payment which is not received by Holder within 15 days of the due date of said payment. The parties agree that said charge is a fair and reasonable charge for the late payment and shall not be deemed a penalty.

Time is of the essence hereunder. In the event that this Note is collected by law or through attorneys at law, or under advice therefrom, Maker agrees to pay all costs of collection, including reasonable attorneys' fees and paralegals' fees, whether or not suit is brought, and whether incurred in connection with collection, trial, appeal, bankruptcy or other creditors' proceedings or otherwise.

Acceptance of partial payments or payments marked "payment in full" or "in satisfaction" or words to similar effect shall not affect the duty of Maker to pay all obligations due hereunder, and shall not affect the right of Holder to pursue all remedies available to it under any Loan Documents.

The remedies of Holder shall be cumulative and concurrent, and may be pursued singularly, successively or together, at the sole discretion of Holder, and may be exercised as often as occasion therefor shall arise. No action or emission of Holder, including specifically any failure to exercise or forbearance in the exercise of any remedy, shall be deemed to be a waiver or release of the same, such waiver or release to be effected only through a written document executed by Holder and then only to the extent specifically recited therein. A waiver or release with reference to any one event shall not be construed as continuing or as constituting a course of dealing, nor shall it be construed as a bar to, or as a waiver or release of, any subsequent remedy as to a subsequent event.

Neither Borrower nor any of its partners shall have any personal liability under this Note. In the event of a default by the Borrower under this Note, Agency's sole remedy hereunder shall be limited to exercising its rights under the Loan Documents, but shall not include a right to obtain a deficiency judgment against the Borrower. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, this paragraph shall not affect or limit any of the Holder's rights or any obligations or liabilities of any guarantors under any guarantees of this Note, or the validity or enforceability of any judgment rendered against any guarantors of this Note under any such guarantees.

Any notice to be given or to be served upon any party hereto in connection with this Note, whether required or otherwise, may be given in any manner permitted under the Loan Documents.

Whenever is context so requires, the neuter includes the feminine and/or masculine, as the case may be, and the singular number includes the plural, and the plural number includes the

Maker and any other person liable for the payment hereof respectively, hereby (a) expressly waive any valuation and appraisal, presentment, demand for payment, notice of dishonor, protest, notice of nonpayment or protest, all other forms of notice whatsoever, and diligence in collection; (b) consent that Holder may, from time to time and without notice to any of them or demand, may, from time to time and without notice to any or them or demand, (i) extend, rearrange, renew or postpone any or all payments, (ii) release, exchange, add to or substitute all or any part of the collateral for this Note, and/or (iii) release Maker (or any comaker) or any other person liable for payment hereof, without in any way modifying, altering, releasing, affecting or limiting their respective liability or the lien of any security instrument; and (c) agree that Holder, in order to enforce payment of this Note against any of them, shall not be required first to institute any suit or to exhaust any of its remedies against Maker (or any comaker) or against any other person liable for payment hereof or to maker) or against any other person liable for payment hereof or to attempt to realize on any collateral for this Note.

BY EXECUTING THIS NOTE, MAKER KNOWINGLY, VOLUNTARILY AND INTENTIONALLY WAIVES ITS RIGHTS OR THE RIGHTS OF ITS HEIRS, ASSIGNS, SUCCESSORS OR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO A TRIAL BY JURY, ASSIGNS, SUCCESSORS OR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO A TRIAL BY JURY, IF ANY, IN ANY ACTION, PROCEEDING OR SUIT, WHETHER ARISING IN CONTRACT, TORT OR OTHERWISE, AND WHETHER ASSERTED BY WAY OF COMPLAINT, ANSWER, CROSSCLAIM, COUNTERCLAIM, AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE OR OTHERWISE, BASED ON, ARISING OUT OF, UNDER OR IN CONNECTION WITH, THIS NOTE OR ANY OTHER INSTRUMENT, DOCUMENT OR AGREEMENT TO BE EXECUTED IN CONNECTION HEREWITH OR WITH THE INDESTRUMESS OR THE RENEWAL, MODIFICATION OR EXTENSION OF ANY OF THE FOREGOING OR ANY FUTURE ADVANCE THEREUNDER. THIS PROVISION IS A MATERIAL INDUCEMENT FOR HOLDER'S EXTENDING CREDIT TO A BORROWER AND NO WAIVER OR LIMITATION OF AGENCY'S RIGHTS HEREUNDER SHALL BE EFFECTIVE UNLESS IN WRITING AND MANUALLY SIGNED ON AGENCY'S BEHALF. IN WRITING AND MANUALLY SIGNED ON AGENCY'S BEHALF.

Maker acknowledges that the above paragraph has been expressly bargained for by Agency as part of the transaction with Borrower and that, but for Maker's agreement thereto, Holder would not have extended the Indebtedness for the terms and at the interest rates provided.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Maker has executed this Note on the day and year first above written.

> HOMESTEAD III ASSOCIATES, LTD., a Florida limited partnership

By: RT Homestead Associates, Ltd., a Florida limited partnership, as sole General Partner

> By: Related Homestead, Inc., a Florida corporation, as General Partner

> > J'Ent By Michael R. Hammon, Vice President

By: Tacolcy Homestead, Inc., Florida corporation, as General Partner

Lorenzo Signions,

President



April 26, 2010

Mr. Jay Reinhard Related Affordable 60 Columbus Circle New York, NY 10023

Re: Colony Lakes Apartments - Homestead, FL

Dear Jay:

As you know, we are currently underwriting Colony Lakes Apartments in response to your request for Freddie Mac Bond Credit Enhancement ("Credit Enhancement") in connection with the allocation of bonds ("Bonds") that you have secured as part of Florida Housing Finance Corp.'s ("FHFC") participation in the New Issue Bond Program ("NIBP").

Freddie Mac's underwriting standards require a minimum combined debt service coverage ratio ("DSCR") of 1.10:1 and a maximum combined Loan to Value ("LTV") ratio of 90% for any Credit Enhancement that has subordinate debt ("Sub-Debt") that requires mandatory payments of debt service ("Hard Pay"). In addition, any Hard Pay Sub-Debt must be fully amortizing or must balloon after the maturity of the senior debt.

The 1.10:1 minimum DSCR will ultimately limit the amount of the Credit Enhancement that Freddie will be able to provide.

If the Sub-Debt can be modified so that debt service payments are only made subject to available cash flow ("Soft Pay"), Colony Lakes will ultimately be able to support more senior debt. In addition, Soft Pay Sub-Debt is preferable not only to CITI and Freddie, but also to the Low Income Housing Tax Credit ("LIHTC") investors in the market today, and as you are aware, the universe of LIHTC investors currently interested in investing in Bond financed affordable housing communities is limited.

With Soft Pay Sub-Debt, there are no minimum DSCR or maximum LTV constraints, however, any payments of debt service on Soft Pay Sub-Debt may not, in aggregate, exceed 75% of surplus cash flow after the payment of operating expenses, Replacement Reserves contributions, contributions to escrows (ie. taxes, insurance, etc.) and debt service on senior debt.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely, Citi Community Capital

Barry Krinsky Director

