

6 Sept 2022

Mr. Harold R. "Trey" Price, Executive Director Florida Housing Finance Corporation  
Ms. Marisa Button, Multifamily Development Programs Florida Housing Finance Corporation

Dear Trey and Marisa,

I am writing this letter to encourage the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to address the growing challenge among Florida Veterans of obtaining attainable housing as part of its development of RFA 9-7-22 Special Demographic General Workshop- Agenda

Florida is home to the third largest population of Veterans, and among major states, we are home to the highest share of its total population who have served our Nation in uniform.

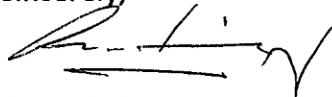
Florida is also home to a booming real estate market -- a market creating intense challenges for many who are not yet in an economic place for homeownership. Veterans are being severely impacted by these trends, for example in communities that have the largest numbers and largest percentages of Veterans – places like the Tampa area and Jacksonville, are also home to some of the highest increases in housing costs (over 20% in the past year alone).

Veterans on both ends of the spectrum are being squeezed. Senior Veterans who have made Florida their home are often living on a fixed income, unable to effectively manage the rising costs of housing – particularly when combined with rapid inflation in every aspect of living. Younger Veterans returning from combat and entering the workforce are also suffering, with many still working through the transition, and haven't reached levels of economic security needed for homeownership.

For both senior and younger Veteran families living in Florida, attainable housing communities provide an opportunity to provide key wrap-around services, such as job training, mental health counseling, proximity to VA and military bases, and transportation – these communities will play an important bridging role to economic independence.

As the son of a Veteran, a father of Veterans, and a Veteran myself, I know the price of freedom. I'm proud to be a Floridian, and I believe we owe our men and women who have served safe, attainable housing and services. It is the least we can do. And it's the right thing to do.

Sincerely,



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