

VAWA LEASE RIDER

Version Date: June 2018

between _____, Landlord,
and _____, Tenant (referred to as "you"),
for Apartment _____ at _____ (the "Apartment")

The above referenced Apartment was assisted under the Low Income Housing Tax Credit ("LIHTC") program and, by reason thereof, is covered by the Violence Against Women Act ("VAWA")¹. This VAWA Lease Rider sets forth certain rights and obligations provided by VAWA.

1. VAWA Notice and Certification.

Attached hereto are (i) a *Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women's Act* and (ii) a *Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking*, in the forms required by VAWA. In addition, the Landlord must provide the VAWA *Notice* and *Certification* together with any notification of eviction from the Apartment.

2. Limitations on Evictions.

VAWA provides that, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the Lease to which this VAWA Lease Rider is attached,

(a) You may not be evicted on the basis or as a direct result of the fact that you are or have been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

(b) You may not be denied tenancy or occupancy rights solely on the basis of criminal activity directly relating to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking if (i) the criminal activity is engaged in by a member of the household of the tenant or any guest or other person under the control of the tenant, and (ii) the tenant or an affiliated individual of the tenant is the victim or threatened victim of such domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking.

(c) The Landlord may not consider incidents of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking as serious or repeated violations of the Lease or other "good cause" for termination of assistance, tenancy or occupancy rights of the victim of abuse.

3. VAWA Claims; Confidentiality.

(a) If you or another individual occupying the Apartment claim to be a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking entitled to the protections or remedies of VAWA, the Landlord may request in writing that you or such other individual submit, within 14 business days, a *Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence or Stalking* or the alternative documentation specified in the VAWA regulations². **Failure to provide the supporting documentation within the specified time may result in loss of protection under VAWA or eviction.**

¹ The Violence Against Women Act can be found at 42 USC 13925 and 42 USC 14043e et seq.. The implementing regulations are codified at 24 CFR Part 5, Subpart L, and 24 CFR 92.359.

² 24 CFR 5.2007(b) permits (i) a statement of a professional, under penalty of perjury, that he or she believes the incident of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking occurred and meets the applicable

(b) The Landlord shall hold any information submitted by tenant or any other individual under VAWA in strict confidence, shall not allow any unauthorized person to have access to such information, shall not enter such information into any shared database or disclose such information without the consent of such individual unless required by law.

4. Remedies.

(a) If you are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and reasonably believe there is a threat of imminent harm if you remain in the Apartment, you may request to be transferred on an emergency basis to a LIHTC Unit which you believe to be safe. If no safe LIHTC Unit is available at the location of the Apartment, the Landlord will provide you with a list of LIHTC Units in other locations. In addition, **you may terminate this Lease without penalty if you are entitled to an emergency transfer.**

(b) In addition to its other remedies, the Landlord may, in accordance with applicable Federal, State, or local law for termination of leases, bifurcate a lease, or remove a household member from a lease in order to evict, remove, terminate occupancy rights, or terminate assistance to such member who engages in criminal activity directly relating to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against an affiliated individual or other individual, whether or not the household member is a signatory to the lease, and without evicting, removing, or otherwise penalizing a victim of such criminal activity who is also a tenant or lawful occupant. If a family living in the Apartment separates under the regulations implementing VAWA, the remaining tenant(s) may remain in the Apartment³.

5. Conflicts.

If there is any conflict or inconsistency between this VAWA Lease Rider and any other provision in the Lease or any other Rider to the Lease, this VAWA Lease Rider shall govern.

6. Term of the VAWA Lease Rider.

This VAWA Lease Rider shall continue in effect for so long as you shall continue to lease the Apartment.

The foregoing is not a complete summary of the federal VAWA regulations, all of which shall apply to you, the Landlord and the Lease.

Date: _____

Tenant: _____

Date: _____

Landlord: _____

definition of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking under §5.2003, or (ii) a record of a federal, state, or local law enforcement agency, court, or administrative agency.

³ Source: 24 CFR 92.359(d)(i), referring to 24 CFR 5.2009(a), which provides that the Landlord may “bifurcate a lease, or remove a household member from a lease ...in order to evict [or] remove ... who engages in criminal activity directly relating to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking”

1]

**Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women Act²
Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program Participants**

To all Tenants and Applicants

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) provides protections for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. VAWA protections are not only available to women, but are available equally to all individuals regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.³ Your Housing Provider (HP), [--], “HP” is required to comply with VAWA in connection with its participation in the U.S. Treasury Department’s Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program (the “LIHTC Program”). This notice explains your rights under VAWA. A certification form is attached to this notice. You can fill out this form to show that you are or have been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and that you wish to use your rights under VAWA.

Protections for Applicants. If you otherwise qualify for assistance under the LIHTC Program, you cannot be denied admission or denied assistance because you are or have been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. For more information, you may request from your HP a “Notice of Rights under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) for Housing Applicants.”

Protections for Tenants. If you are receiving assistance under the LIHTC Program, you may not be denied assistance, terminated from participation, or be evicted from your rental housing because you are or have been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Also, if you or an affiliated individual of yours is or has been the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking by a member of your household or any guest, you may not be denied rental assistance or occupancy rights under the LIHTC Program solely on the basis of criminal activity directly relating to that domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Affiliated individual means your spouse, parent, brother, sister, or child, or a person to whom you stand in the place of a parent or guardian (for example, the affiliated individual is in your care, custody, or control); or any individual, tenant, or lawful occupant living in your household.

Removing the Abuser or Perpetrator from the Household. Your HP may divide (bifurcate) your lease in order to evict the individual or terminate the assistance of the individual who has engaged in criminal activity (the abuser or perpetrator) directly relating to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

If HP chooses to remove the abuser or perpetrator, they may not take away the rights of eligible tenants to the unit or otherwise punish the remaining tenants. If the evicted abuser or perpetrator was the sole tenant to have established eligibility for assistance under the program, HP must allow the tenant who is or has been a victim and other household members to remain in the unit for a period of time, in order to establish eligibility under the program or under another housing program covered by VAWA, or, find alternative housing.

In removing the abuser or perpetrator from the household, HP must follow Federal, State, and local eviction procedures. In order to divide a lease, HP may, but is not required to, ask you for documentation or certification of the incidences of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

¹ The notice uses HP for housing provider but the housing provider should insert its name where HP is used.

² Despite the name of this law, VAWA protection is available regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

³ Housing providers cannot discriminate on the basis of any protected characteristic, including race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability, or age.

Moving to Another Unit. Upon your request, HP may permit you to move to another unit, subject to the availability of other units. In order to approve a request, HP may ask you to provide documentation that you are requesting to move because of an incidence of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. If the request is a request for emergency transfer, the housing provider may ask you to submit a written request or fill out a form where you certify that you meet the criteria for an emergency transfer under VAWA. The criteria are:

(1) You are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. If your housing provider does not already have documentation that you are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, your housing provider may ask you for such documentation, as described in the documentation section below.

(2) You expressly request the emergency transfer. Your housing provider may choose to require that you submit a form, or may accept another written or oral request.

(3) You reasonably believe you are threatened with imminent harm from further violence if you remain in your current unit. This means you have a reason to fear that if you do not receive a transfer you would suffer violence in the very near future.

OR

You are a victim of sexual assault and the assault occurred on the premises during the 90-calendar-day period before you request a transfer. If you are a victim of sexual assault, then in addition to qualifying for an emergency transfer because you reasonably believe you are threatened with imminent harm from further violence if you remain in your unit, you may qualify for an emergency transfer if the sexual assault occurred on the premises of the property from which you are seeking your transfer, and that assault happened within the 90-calendar-day period before you expressly request the transfer.

HP will keep confidential requests for emergency transfers by victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and the location of any move by such victims and their families. HP's emergency transfer plan provides further information on emergency transfers, and HP must make a copy of its emergency transfer plan available to you if you ask to see it.

Documenting You Are or Have Been a Victim of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault or Stalking. HP can, but is not required to, ask you to provide documentation to "certify" that you are or have been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Such request from HP must be in writing, and HP must give you at least 14 business days (Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays do not count) from the day you receive the request to provide the documentation. HP may, but does not have to, extend the deadline for the submission of documentation upon your request.

You can provide one of the following to HP as documentation. It is your choice which of the following to submit if HP asks you to provide documentation that you are or have been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

- A complete certification form (given to you by HP with this notice) that documents an incident of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. The form will ask for your name, the date, time, and location of the incident of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and a description of the incident. The certification form provides for including the name of the abuser or perpetrator if the name of the abuser or perpetrator is known and is safe to provide.
- A record of a Federal, State, tribal, territorial, or local law enforcement agency, court, or administrative agency that documents the incident of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Examples of such records include police reports, protective orders, and restraining orders, among others.
- A statement, which you must sign, along with the signature of an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider, an attorney, a medical professional or a mental health professional (collectively, "professional") from whom you sought assistance in addressing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual

assault, or stalking, or the effects of abuse, and with the professional selected by you attesting under penalty of perjury that he or she believes that the incident or incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking are grounds for protection.

- Any other statement or evidence that HP has agreed to accept.

If you fail or refuse to provide one of these documents within the 14 business days, HP does not have to provide you with the protections contained in this notice. If HP receives conflicting evidence that an incident of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking has been committed (such as certification forms from two or more members of a household each claiming to be a victim and naming one or more of the other petitioning household members as the abuser or perpetrator), HP has the right to request that you provide third-party documentation within thirty 30 calendar days in order to resolve the conflict. If you fail or refuse to provide third-party documentation where there is conflicting evidence, HP does not have to provide you with the protections contained in this notice.

Confidentiality. HP must keep confidential any information you provide related to the exercise of your rights under VAWA, including the fact that you are exercising your rights under VAWA.

HP must not allow any individual administering assistance or other services on behalf of HP (for example, employees and contractors) to have access to confidential information unless for reasons that specifically call for these individuals to have access to this information under applicable Federal, State, or local law.

HP must not enter your information into any shared database or disclose your information to any other entity or individual. HP, however, may disclose the information provided if:

- You give written permission to HP to release the information on a time limited basis.
- HP needs to use the information in an eviction or termination proceeding, such as to evict your abuser or perpetrator or terminate your abuser or perpetrator from assistance under this program.
- A law requires HP or your landlord to release the information.

VAWA does not limit HP's duty to honor court orders about access to or control of the property. This includes orders issued to protect a victim and orders dividing property among household members in cases where a family breaks up.

Reasons a Tenant Eligible for Occupancy Rights under VAWA May Be Evicted or Assistance May Be Terminated. You can be evicted and your assistance can be terminated for serious or repeated lease violations that are not related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking committed against you. However, HP cannot hold tenants who have been victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to a more demanding set of rules than it applies to tenants who have not been victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

The protections described in this notice might not apply, and you could be evicted and your assistance terminated, if HP can demonstrate that not evicting you or terminating your assistance would present a real physical danger that:

- 1) Would occur within an immediate time frame, and
- 2) Could result in death or serious bodily harm to other tenants or those who work on the property.

If HP can demonstrate the above, HP should only terminate your assistance or evict you if there are no other actions that could be taken to reduce or eliminate the threat.

Other Laws. VAWA does not replace any Federal, State, or local law that provides greater protection for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. You may be entitled to additional housing

protections for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking under other Federal laws, as well as under State and local laws.

Non-Compliance with The Requirements of This Notice. You may report a covered housing provider's violations of these rights and seek additional assistance, if needed, by contacting or filing a complaint with the New York City Commission on Human Rights at 212-306-7450.

For Additional Information. You may view a copy of the final VAWA rule at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-11-16/pdf/2016-25888.pdf>

Additionally, HP must make a copy of applicable VAWA regulations available to you if you ask to see them. For questions regarding VAWA, please contact the agency that monitors the property in question:

Either:

New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD):
Ms. Joanna Nanton, HPD Asset Management, 212-863-5087
Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm

Or

New York City Housing Development Corporation (HDC):
HDC Compliance, 212-227-6411
Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

For help regarding an abusive relationship, you may call the **New York City Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-621-4673** or the **National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233** or, for persons with hearing impairments, 1-800-787-3224 (TTY). Additional New York City resources for survivors of intimate partner violence include the **Family Justice Centers**, which provide a variety of information and services:

Bronx Family Justice Center	718-508-1220
Brooklyn Family Justice Center	718-250-5111
Queens Family Justice Center	718-575-4545
Manhattan Family Justice Center	212-602-2800
Staten Island Family Justice Center	718-697-4300

For tenants who are or have been victims of stalking seeking help may visit the **National Center for Victims of Crime's Stalking Resource Center** at <https://www.victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center>.

For help regarding sexual assault, you may contact the **NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault: 212-229-0345** or **Rape Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) at 1-800-656-4673**.

Victims of any crime, including stalking, may contact their local police stations.

Attachment: Certification form HUD-5382

**CERTIFICATION OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,
DATING VIOLENCE,
SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING,
AND ALTERNATE DOCUMENTATION**

Purpose of Form: The Violence Against Women Act (“VAWA”) protects applicants, tenants, and program participants in certain federally-financed programs from being evicted, denied housing assistance, or terminated from housing assistance based on acts of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against them. Despite the name of this law, VAWA protection is available to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

Use of This Optional Form: If you are seeking VAWA protections from your housing provider, your housing provider may give you a written request that asks you to submit documentation about the incident or incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

In response to this request, you or someone on your behalf may complete this optional form and submit it to your housing provider, or you may submit one of the following types of third-party documentation:

- (1) A document signed by you and an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider, an attorney, or medical professional, or a mental health professional (collectively, “professional”) from whom you have sought assistance relating to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, or the effects of abuse. The document must specify, under penalty of perjury, that the professional believes the incident or incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking occurred and meet the definition of “domestic violence,” “dating violence,” “sexual assault,” or “stalking” in federal regulations at 24 CFR 5.2003.
- (2) A record of a Federal, State, tribal, territorial or local law enforcement agency, court, or administrative agency; or
- (3) At the discretion of the housing provider, a statement or other evidence provided by the applicant or tenant.

Submission of Documentation: The time period to submit documentation is 14 business days from the date that you receive a written request from your housing provider asking that you provide documentation of the occurrence of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Your housing provider may, but is not required to, extend the time period to submit the documentation, if you request an extension of the time period. If the requested information is not received within 14 business days of when you received the request for the documentation, or any extension of the date provided by your housing provider, your housing provider does not need to grant you any of the VAWA protections. Distribution or issuance of this form does not serve as a written request for certification.

Confidentiality: All information provided to your housing provider concerning the incident(s) of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking shall be kept confidential and such details shall not be entered into any shared database. Employees of your housing provider are not to have access to these details unless to grant or deny VAWA protections to you, and such employees may not disclose this information to any other entity or individual, except to the extent that disclosure is: (i) consented to by you in writing in a time-limited release; (ii) required for use in an eviction proceeding or hearing regarding termination of assistance; or (iii) otherwise required by applicable law.

**TO BE COMPLETED BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,
DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING**

1. Date the written request is received by victim: _____

2. Name of victim: _____

3. Your name (if different from victim's): _____

4. Name(s) of other family member(s) listed on the lease: _____

5. Residence of victim: _____

6. Name of the accused perpetrator (if known and can be safely disclosed): _____

7. Relationship of the accused perpetrator to the victim: _____

8. Date(s) and times(s) of incident(s) (if known): _____

10. Location of incident(s): _____

In your own words, briefly describe the incident(s):

This is to certify that the information provided on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and recollection, and that the individual named above in Item 2 is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. I acknowledge that submission of false information could jeopardize program eligibility and could be the basis for denial of admission, termination of assistance, or eviction.

Signature _____ Signed on (Date) _____

Public Reporting Burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response. This includes the time for collecting, reviewing, and reporting the data. The information provided is to be used by the housing provider to request certification that the applicant or tenant is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. The information is subject to the confidentiality requirements of VAWA. This agency may not collect this information, and you are not required to complete this form, unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget control number.