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Date: July 28, 2020

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Shanel Dixon, Affordable Housing Director

Subject: HUD Notice PIH 2020-13 COVID19 Waivers (Extension) Port Arthur Housing Authority

PURPOSE:

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act (Public Law 116-136) provides the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with broad authority to waive or establish alternative requirements for numerous statutory and regulatory requirements for the Public Housing program, Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) program, and Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) program.

In Notice PIH 2020-05, published on April 10, 2020, HUD exercised its authority under the CARES Act to establish waivers and administrative flexibilities to provide relief to Public Housing Agencies (PHAs), Indian tribes, and tribally designated housing entities (TDHEs) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In this revision to that Notice, HUD restates the waivers and alternative requirements established previously in Notice PIH 2020-05, provides additional waivers and alternative requirements, extends the periods of availability for previously established waivers and alternative requirements, and issues technical amendments to several of the previously established waivers and alternative requirements. A complete list of revisions is available upon your request.

This Notice also carries forward information on previously specified HUD actions, such as the temporary suspension of the Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS) and the Section Eight Management Assessment Program (SEMAP). With respect to the Public Housing and HCV programs, use of any waiver or alternative requirement established by HUD is at the discretion of the PHA; however, HUD strongly encourages PHAs to utilize any and all waivers and alternative requirements as necessary to keep Public Housing and HCV programs operational to the extent practicable. HUD also encourages PHAs to utilize waivers and alternative requirements to expand housing assistance opportunities, including to families on waiting lists; providing affordable, safe housing during this time assists in addressing issues like homelessness and overcrowding that contribute to risk factors during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The attached is a summary of waivers adopted April 10, 2020 in regards to COVID-19 for numerous statutory and regulatory requirements. Waivers will be implemented within the guidelines established by HUD in the Notice, may be subject to termination at the discretion of PAHA, and may be subject to case-by-case decisions as needed. PAHA intends to return to pre-waiver policies as soon as it is practical and safe to do so as determined by local conditions. The waivers typically are set to expire no later than December 31, 2020 unless otherwise stated.