

**City of St. Petersburg and Pinellas County  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION COVENANT**

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This Covenant is made the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021, by **PETER FORD AND LANI FORD**, (hereinafter referred to as the “Owner”), and in favor of **CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA** (hereinafter referred to as “City”) and **PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA** (hereinafter referred to as “County”), jointly and severally, for the purpose of the restoration, renovation or rehabilitation of a certain property located at 556 Beach Drive Northeast, St. Petersburg, Florida, (hereinafter, the “Property”) which is owned in fee simple by the Owner. The Property is a local historic landmark, known as the Jones-Laughner Residence, listed in the St. Petersburg Register of Historic Places, and a contributing property to the North Shore Historic District listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The areas of significance of this Property, as identified in the local designation report for the Property are: ( **x** ) architecture, ( **x** ) history, ( ) archaeology.

The Property is comprised essentially of the improvements to the following described site:

BAY SHORE REV BLK 10, N 50FT OF LOT 1 & VAC 10FT ALLEY ADJ ON W OF  
SD N 50FT OF LOT 1 TOGETHER WITH W 1/2 OF S 77FT OF VAC ALLEY ADJ  
TO LOT 3

In consideration of the historic preservation property tax exemptions granted by the City and the County resulting from the restoration, renovation, or rehabilitation of the Property by the Owner, the Owner hereby agrees to the following for the period of the tax exemption, which is from January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2030:

1. The Owner agrees to assume the cost of the continued maintenance and repair of said Property so as to preserve the architectural, historical, or archaeological integrity of the same in order to protect and enhance those qualities that made the Property eligible for designation under the provisions of the local preservation ordinance.

2. The Owner agrees that no visual or structural alterations will be made to the Property without prior written permission of the City of St. Petersburg Urban Planning and

Historic Preservation Division (or successor agency thereto) (herein, the “Local Historic Preservation Office”), the address for which is:

**City of St. Petersburg  
Urban Planning and Historic Preservation Division  
Planning and Development Services  
PO Box 2842  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33731  
(727) 892-5451**

3. [Only for properties of archaeological significance] The Owner agrees to ensure the protection of the Property site against willful damage or vandalism. Nothing in this Covenant shall prohibit the Owner from developing the Property site in such a manner that will not threaten or damage the archaeological resource, provided that permission for alteration of the Property site is obtained pursuant to 2., above.

4. The Owner agrees that appropriate representatives of the City and the County, their agents and designees, shall have the right to inspect the Property at all reasonable times in order to ascertain whether or not the conditions of this Covenant are being observed.

5. In the event of non-performance or violation of the maintenance and repair provisions of this Covenant by the Owner or by any successor-in-interest during the term of this Covenant, the Local Historic Preservation Office will follow the procedures set forth in City Code Section 16.30.070.4.F.7. If the City Council makes a determination that that the exemption shall be revoked, the Local Historic Preservation Office shall provide written notice of the decision to the Pinellas County Property Appraiser and Tax Collector who shall take action pursuant to s. 196.1997 (7), F.S. The Owner shall be required to pay the difference between the total amount of taxes which would have been due in March in each of the previous years in which the Covenant was in effect had the Property not received the exemption and the total amount of taxes actually paid in those years, plus interest on the difference calculated as provided in s. 212.12 (3), F.S.

6. If the Property is damaged by accidental or natural causes during the Covenant period, the Owner will inform both the Local Historic Preservation Office and the County in writing of the damage to the Property. Such notification shall include (1) an assessment of the nature and extent of the damage; and (2) an estimate of the cost of restoration or reconstruction work necessary to return the Property to the condition existing at the time of completion of the restoration, renovation, or rehabilitation project for which the Property became eligible for the tax exemption. In order to maintain the tax exemption, the Owner shall complete the restoration or reconstruction work necessary to return the Property to the condition existing at the time of project completion on a time schedule agreed upon by the Owner and the City. Such restoration and reconstruction work shall also be reported to the County.

7. If the Property is destroyed or severely damaged by accidental or natural causes during the Covenant period, such that the historical integrity of the features, materials, appearance, workmanship, and environment, or archaeological integrity which made the Property eligible for designation under the terms of the local preservation ordinance have been lost or so damaged that restoration is not feasible, the Owner will inform both the Local Historic Preservation Office and the County in writing of the loss or damage to the Property. Such notification shall include (1) an assessment of the nature and extent of the loss or damage; and (2) an estimate of the cost of restoration or reconstruction work necessary to return the Property to the condition existing at the time of completion of the restoration, renovation, or rehabilitation project for which the Property became eligible for the tax exemption. In accordance with City Code Section 16.30.070.4.F.7, the City Council shall hold a public hearing to determine whether the exemption shall be revoked. The Local Historic Preservation Office will provide written notice of such proceedings to the owner at least ten days before the public hearing. If the City Council determines that the Property is no longer eligible for tax exemption, the Local Historic Preservation Office will notify the Owner and the Pinellas County Property Appraiser in writing so that the tax exemption may be cancelled for the remainder of the Covenant period. In such cases, no penalty or interest shall be assessed against the Owner.

8. If it appears that the historical integrity of the features, materials, appearance, workmanship, and environment, or archaeological integrity which made the Property eligible for designation under the terms of the local preservation ordinance have been lost or damaged deliberately or through gross negligence of the Owner, the Local Historic Preservation Office shall notify the Owner in writing. For the purpose of this Covenant, “gross negligence” means the omission of care which even inattentive and thoughtless persons never fail to take of their own property. The Owner shall have 30 days to respond indicating any circumstances which show that the damage was not deliberate or due to gross negligence. If the Owner cannot show such circumstances, the Owner shall develop a plan for restoration of the Property and a schedule for completion of the restoration. In order to maintain the tax exemption, the Owner shall complete the restoration work necessary to return the Property to the condition existing at the time of project completion on a time schedule agreed upon by the Owner and the Local Historic Preservation Office. If the Owner does not complete the restoration work on the agreed upon time schedule, the Local Historic Preservation Office will follow the procedures set forth in City Code Section 16.30.070.4.F.7. If the City Council makes a determination that that the exemption shall be revoked, the Local Historic Preservation Office shall provide written notice of the decision to the County, the Pinellas County Property Appraiser, and the Pinellas County Tax Collector, who shall take action pursuant to s. 196.1997(7), F.S. The Owner shall be required to pay the differences between the total amount of taxes which would have been due in March in each of the previous years in which the Covenant was in effect had the property not received the exemption and the total amount of taxes actually paid in those years, plus interest on the difference calculated as provided in s. 212.12 (3), F.S.

9. The terms of this Covenant shall be binding on the current Property Owner, transferees, and their heirs, successors, or assigns. This Covenant shall be enforceable in specific performance by a court of competent jurisdiction.

WITNESSES

OWNER

**PETER FORD**

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed or typed name of Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed or typed name of Owner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed or typed name of Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF PINELLAS

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021, by **PETER FORD**, in his capacity as Owner of 556 Beach Drive Northeast, who is personally known to me, or has provided \_\_\_\_\_ as identification.

(Notary Stamp)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Signature)

Commission expires:

WITNESSES

OWNER

**LANI FORD**

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed or typed name of Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed or typed name of Owner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed or typed name of Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF PINELLAS

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021, by **LANI FORD**, in her capacity as Owner of 556 Beach Drive Northeast, who is personally known to me, or has provided \_\_\_\_\_ as identification.

(Notary Stamp)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Notary Signature)

Commission expires: