

PUBLIC HOUSING LEASE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SYLVESTER

1. **PARTIES AND DWELLING UNIT:** The parties to this Lease are The Housing Authority of the City of Sylvester, referred to as Landlord, and, the occupying family, referred to as the Resident. The Landlord leases to the Resident the premises located at ., Sylvester, GA 31791.

The premises leased are for the exclusive use and occupancy of the Resident and the Resident's household consisting of the following named persons who will live in the dwelling unit:

Name	Date of Birth	Social Security Number

Any additions to the household members listed above require the advance written approval of the Landlord and must be reported to the Landlord within ten (10) calendar days. This includes Live-in Aides and foster children or adults, but excludes natural births. The Landlord shall approve the additions if they pass the screening and an appropriate size unit is available. Deletions from the household shall be reported to the Landlord within ten (10) calendar days.

If the Resident is incapable of complying with this Lease, the Landlord should contact the following person: This person's address is , , and phone number is

2. **LEASE TERM:** This Lease shall begin on . The term shall be one year and shall renew automatically for another year, unless terminated as provided by this Lease.
3. **RENTAL PAYMENT:** Resident shall pay monthly rent of . If this Lease begins on a day other than the first day of the month, the first month's rent shall be .

_____ This rent is based on the Authority-determined flat rent for this unit.
 _____ This rent is based on the income and other information reported by the Resident.
 (Check one)

Families may change rent calculation methods at any recertification. Families who have chosen the flat rent option may request a reexamination and change to the income-based

method at any time if the family's income has decreased, their on-going expenses for such purposes as child care and medical care have changed or any other circumstances that create a hardship for the family that would be alleviated by a change.

This amount is due on the first day of each month at the Housing Authority of the City of Sylvester office and shall remain in effect until adjusted in accordance with the provisions of this lease. If a reasonable accommodation on where to pay rent is needed, other arrangements can be made.

If the rent is not paid by 5:30 PM on the tenth of the month, a Termination Notice will be issued to the Resident. In addition, a \$10.00 late charge will be assessed to the Resident. If rent is not paid within 14 days from the date of the Termination Notice, an eviction notice is filed with the magistrate's court and an additional \$76.50, or current court cost, is assessed the Resident for the court costs. If rent is paid by a personal check and the check is returned for insufficient funds, this shall be considered a non-payment of rent and will incur the late charge plus an additional charge of \$25.00 for processing costs.

If a family is paying the minimum rent and its circumstances change creating an inability to pay the rent, the family may request suspension of the minimum rent because of a recognized hardship.

In the event legal proceedings are required to recover possession of the premises, the Resident will be charged with the actual cost of such proceedings.

4. **SECURITY DEPOSIT:** The Resident has paid the amount of to the Landlord as a Security Deposit.

With the approval of the Landlord, the Security Deposit may be made in three payments — one third in advance, one third with their second rent payment, and one third with their third rent payment. The Landlord will hold this security deposit for the period the Resident occupies the dwelling unit. The Landlord shall not use the Security Deposit for rent or other charges while the Resident is living in the dwelling unit.

Within 30 calendar days after the Resident has permanently moved out of the dwelling unit, the Landlord shall return the Security Deposit after deducting whatever amount is needed to pay the cost of:

- a. unpaid rent;
- b. repair of damages that exceed normal wear and tear as listed on the Move-Out Inspection Report; and
- c. other charges due under the Lease.

The Landlord shall provide the Resident with a written list of any charges made against the Security Deposit. If the Resident disagrees with the amounts deducted, the Landlord will meet with the Resident to discuss the charges.

5. **OCCUPANCY:** The Resident shall use the premises as a private dwelling for himself or herself and the persons named in of this Lease, with the exception of minor children born into the household during this tenancy, and shall not permit its use for any other purpose without the written permission of the Landlord.

The Resident shall not:

- a. permit any persons other than those listed above and minor children which are born into the household during this tenancy, to reside in the dwelling unit for more than fourteen (14) days each year without obtaining the prior written approval of the Landlord;
- b. sublet or assign the unit, or any part of the unit;
- c. engage in or permit unlawful activities in the unit, in the common areas, or on the property grounds;
- d. act or allow household members or guests to act in a manner that will disturb the rights or comfort of neighbors;
- e. permit any member of the household, a guest, or another person under the Resident's control to engage in any criminal activity that threatens the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents or Authority employees;
- f. remove any batteries from a smoke detector or fail to notify the Landlord if the smoke detector is inoperable for any reason;
- g. permit any member of the household, a guest, or another person under the Resident's control to engage in any violent or drug-related criminal activity on or off the premises;
- h. be absent from the unit for more than thirty (30) consecutive days without receiving the agreement of the Landlord.

With the written permission of the Landlord, the Resident can incidentally use the premises for legally permissible income producing purposes so long as the business does not infringe on the rights of other Residents. All such business-related uses of the premises must meet all zoning requirements and the Resident must have the proper business licenses.

The Resident has the right to exclusive use and occupancy of the dwelling unit, which includes reasonable accommodation of the Resident's guests, visitors and, with the consent of the Landlord, foster children and/or adults and the live-in care giver of the Resident's family.

6. **CONDITION OF DWELLING:** By signing this Lease and the Unit Inspection Report, the Resident acknowledges that the dwelling unit is safe, clean and in good condition, and that all appliances and equipment in the dwelling unit are in good working order as described on the Move-in Unit Inspection Report. This report, signed by both the Resident and Landlord, is attached to this Lease.

At the time of move out, the Landlord shall complete another inspection of the dwelling unit. When the Resident notifies the Landlord of his or her intent to vacate, the Landlord shall advise the Resident of their opportunity to participate in the move-out inspection.

7. **UTILITIES:** The Resident agrees to pay for the following utilities:

Electricity, natural gas, water, sewer and garbage collection.

The Resident shall pay directly to the utility provider all deposits and charges necessary to secure and maintain services uninterrupted by default of the Resident. Failure of the Resident to furnish uninterrupted service because of non-payment of utilities or other reasons under Resident's control shall be considered a serious violation of the terms and conditions of this lease.

The Utility Allowance Schedule for Resident Paid Utilities and the Schedule of Excess Utility Charges are posted in the Landlord's office. The Resident shall pay any excess utilities consumed in their unit over and above that set forth in the Schedule. Utility allowance revisions based on rate changes shall be effective retroactively to the first day of the month following the month in which the last rate change took place. Revisions based on changes in consumption or other reasons shall become effective at each family's next annual reexamination.

8. **RENT RECERTIFICATIONS:** Each year, by the date specified by the Landlord, Residents who are paying rent based on their income shall provide updated information regarding income, assets, expenses, and family composition. The Landlord shall verify the information supplied by the Resident and use the verified information to establish the amount of the Resident's rent for the next year. At the time of the annual review, the landlord shall advise the Resident of any income that will be excluded from consideration. Increased earnings due to employment shall be excluded during the twelve month period following hire for families whose income has increased because of the employment of a family member who was previously unemployed for one or more years, because of participation in a self-sufficiency program or was assisted by a State TANF program within the last six months.

Income reviews will be held every third year for Residents choosing the flat rent option. Residents who have chosen this option will be notified at the appropriate time for their recertification.

At the time of the review appointment the Resident may elect to change his or her rent choice option.

In cases where annual income cannot be projected for a twelve-month period or the Resident is reporting no income and Resident has chosen the percentage of income rent option, the Landlord will schedule special rent reviews every sixty (60) days. In addition, the Resident may request a change in the rent choice option before the date of the review if the family experiences a decrease in income; their circumstances have changed

increasing their expenses for child care, medical, etc.; or other circumstances create a hardship on the family such that the income method would be more financially feasible for the family.

Residents paying rent based on income may meet with the Landlord to discuss any change in rent resulting from the recertification process; and, if the Resident does not agree with the determination of Resident rent, the Resident may request a hearing in accordance with the landlord's grievance procedures.

9. **INTERIM RENT ADJUSTMENTS:** Residents must promptly report to the Landlord any of the following changes in household circumstances when they occur between Annual Rent Recertifications within ten (10) calendar days of their occurrence:
- a. A member has been added to the family through birth, adoption, or court-awarded custody.
 - b. A household member is leaving or has left the family unit.

In addition, Residents paying rent based on a percentage of income may report the following activities that occur between Annual Rent Recertifications:

- a. A decrease in annual income;
- b. Childcare expenses for children under the age of 13 that are necessary to enable a member of the household to be employed or to go to school;
- c. Handicapped assistance expenses, which enable a family member to work;
- d. Medical expenses of elderly, disabled, or handicapped headed households that are not covered by insurance; or
- e. Other family changes that impact their adjusted income.

Notwithstanding the provisions listed above, a Resident's rent shall not be reduced if the decrease in the family's annual income is caused by a reduction in the welfare or public assistance benefits received by the family that is a result of the Resident's failure to comply with the conditions of the assistance program requiring participation in an economic self-sufficiency program or other work activities. In addition, if the decrease in the family's annual income is caused by a reduction in welfare or public assistance benefits received by the family that is the result of an act of fraud, such decrease in income shall not result in a rent reduction. In such cases, the amount of income to be attributed to the family shall include what the family would have received had they complied with the welfare requirements or had not committed an act of fraud.

For purposes of rent adjustments, the reduction of welfare or public assistance benefits to a family that occurs as a result of the expiration of a time limit for the receipt of assistance will not be considered a failure to comply with program requirements. Accordingly, a Resident's rent will be reduced as a result of such a decrease.

The Landlord shall verify the information provided by the Resident to determine if a decrease in the rent is warranted.

If the Resident receives a letter or notice from HUD concerning the amount or verification of family income the communication shall be brought to the Executive Director or the Executive Director's designee within 30 calendar days.

10. **EFFECTIVE DATE OF RENT CHANGE:** The Landlord shall give the Resident written notice of any change in the Resident's rent. The notice shall be signed by the Landlord, state the new amount the Resident is required to pay, and the effective date of the new rental amount.
 - a. Rent Decreases: The Landlord shall process rent decreases so that the lowered rent amount becomes effective on the first day of the month after the Resident reports the change in household circumstances. This rent change may be made retroactive to the appropriate date if less than five (5) working days have been given to the Landlord to process this change.
 - b. Rent Increases: The Landlord shall process rent increases so that the Resident is given no less than 30 calendar days advance written notice of the amount due.

Once the rental rate is established, it shall remain in effect until the effective date of the next annual review, unless another interim review and change is warranted or the Resident elects to change from the flat rent calculation method.

11. **RESIDENT OBLIGATION TO REPAY:** Residents who pay rent based on income shall reimburse the Landlord for the difference between the rent that was paid and the rent that should have been charged if proper notice of income change had been given and if the following circumstances occur:
 - a. Resident does not submit rent review information by the date specified in the Landlord's request; or
 - b. Resident submits false information at Admission or at annual, special, or interim review.

Resident is not required to reimburse the Landlord for undercharges caused solely by the Landlord's failure to follow U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's procedures for computing rent.

12. **MAINTENANCE:**

The Resident Agrees To:

- a. keep the dwelling unit and any other areas assigned for the Resident's exclusive use in a clean and safe condition;

- b. use all appliances, fixtures and equipment in a safe manner and only for the purposes for which they are intended;
- c. not litter the grounds or common areas of the property;
- d. not undertake, or permit his or her family or guests to undertake any hazardous acts or do anything that will damage the property;
- e. not destroy, deface, damage or remove any part of the dwelling unit, common areas, or property grounds;
- f. give the Landlord prompt notice of any defects in the plumbing, fixtures, appliances, heating equipment or any other part of the unit or related facilities;
- g. not park unregistered or un-licensed vehicles on the property or park any vehicle in an unauthorized location. Resident agrees to park and cause Resident's guest to park, automobiles and other motorized vehicles in designated parking only. Resident specifically agrees to refrain and cause Resident's guests to refrain from parking or driving any motorized vehicles on laws, sidewalks, common areas not designated for parking, such as playgrounds, or any other area other than appropriate streets and driveways. Landlord reserves the right to assign parking space to Resident and Resident agrees to park motor vehicles only in such assigned space. Resident agrees to pay for any damages to premises caused by improper operation or parking of motorized vehicles. Resident's and Resident's guests' motorized vehicles properly parked on Landlord's property shall be in running condition and have fully inflated tires and current license plates. Resident agrees not to change the oil or make major repairs to the vehicle while it is parked on Landlord's property. Resident agrees to pay towing charges for removal of unauthorized motorized vehicles. Landlord will tag the vehicle at least 24 hours prior to towing. Repeated violations of this section constitute good cause for Landlord to terminate this lease.
- h. that Resident and Resident's guests will not discharge or threaten to discharge a firearm or any type, including "B-B" guns, on Landlord's property. Discharging or threatening to discharge a firearm will be considered a serious violation of the terms and conditions of this lease;
- i. that Resident and Resident's guests will not use or threaten to use, a knife, club or any other weapon against any person on Landlord's property. The use of, or the threat to use a knife, club, or any other weapon against any person on Landlord's property will be considered a serious violation of the terms and conditions of this lease.
- j. remove garbage and other waste from the dwelling unit in a clean and safe manner;
- k. not remove any batteries from a smoke detector or fail to notify the Landlord if the smoke detector is inoperable for any reason; and
- l. pay reasonable charges for the repair of damages other than normal wear and tear to the premises, development buildings, facilities or common areas caused by the Resident, his or her household or guests, and to do so within 30 calendar days after the receipt of the Landlord's itemized statement of the repair charges. The Damage and Service Charge Schedule is posted in the Landlord's office. If the item is not listed on the Schedule, the Resident shall be charged the actual cost the Landlord incurred.

The Landlord Agrees To:

- a. maintain the premises and the property in decent and safe condition;
- b. comply with requirements of applicable building codes, housing codes materially affecting health and safety, and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations;
- c. make necessary repairs to the premises;
- d. keep property buildings, facilities and common areas, not otherwise assigned to the Resident for maintenance and upkeep, in a clean and safe condition;
- e. maintain in good and safe working order and condition electrical, plumbing, sanitary, heating, ventilating, and other facilities and appliances, including elevators, supplied or required to be supplied by the Landlord;
- f. provide and maintain appropriate receptacles and facilities for the deposit of garbage, rubbish, and other waste removed from the premises by the Resident; and
- g. supply running water and reasonable amounts of hot water and heat at appropriate times of the year (according to local customs and usage) except where heat or hot water is generated by an installation within the exclusive control of the Resident and supplied by a direct utility connection.

If the dwelling unit is rendered uninhabitable, regardless of cause:

- a. The Resident shall immediately notify the Landlord;
- b. The Landlord shall be responsible for repair of the unit within a reasonable time. If the Resident, household members or guests caused the damage, the reasonable cost of the repairs shall be charged to the Resident.
- c. The Landlord shall offer standard alternative accommodations, if available, when necessary repairs cannot be made within a reasonable time.
- d. The Landlord shall make a provision for rent abatement in proportion to the seriousness of the damage and loss in value if repairs are not made within a reasonable time. No abatement of rent shall occur if the Resident rejects the alternative accommodations or if the Resident, Resident's household, or guests caused the damage.

13. **RESTRICTION ON ALTERATIONS:** The Resident shall not do any of the following without first obtaining the Landlord's written permission:

- a. dismantle, change or remove any part of the appliances, fixtures or equipment in the dwelling unit;
- b. paint or install wallpaper or contact paper in the dwelling unit;
- c. attach awnings or window guards in the dwelling unit;
- d. attach or place any fixtures, signs, or fences on the building(s), the common areas, or the property grounds;

- e. attach any shelves, screen doors, or other permanent improvements in the dwelling unit;
- f. install or alter carpeting, resurface floors or alter woodwork;
- g. install washing machines, dryers, fans, heaters, or air conditioners in an elderly dwelling unit;
- h. place any aerials, antennas or other electrical connections on the dwelling unit;
- i. install additional or different locks or gates on any doors or windows of the dwelling unit; or
- j. operate a business as an incidental use in the dwelling unit.

14. **ACCESS BY LANDLORD:** The Landlord shall provide two (2) calendar days written advance notice to the Resident of his or her intent to enter the dwelling unit for the purpose of performing routine inspections and preventive maintenance, extermination or to show the dwelling unit for re-renting. The notice shall specify the date, time, and purpose for the entry. The Resident shall permit the Landlord, his or her agents, or other persons, when accompanied by the Landlord, to enter the dwelling unit for these purposes. In the event that the Resident and all adult members of the household are absent from the dwelling unit at the time of entry, the Landlord shall leave a card stating the date, time and name of the person entering the dwelling unit and the purpose of the visit.

The Landlord may enter the dwelling unit at any time without advance notice when there is reasonable cause to believe an emergency exists.

15. **SIZE OF DWELLING:** The Resident understands that the Landlord assigns dwelling units according to the Occupancy Standards published in its Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP). The Standards consider the type (such as dwelling units designed for the elderly or handicapped) and size of the dwelling unit required by the number of household members. If the Resident is or becomes eligible for a different type or size dwelling unit and an appropriate dwelling unit under this program and the Landlord's transfer policy becomes available, the Resident shall be given a reasonable period of time to move. This time shall not exceed sixty (60) calendar days unless an unusual hardship condition exists. If the Resident fails to move to the designated dwelling unit within the notice period specified by the Landlord, the Landlord may terminate this lease.

If the Landlord determines that a Resident must transfer to another unit based on family composition, the Landlord shall notify the Resident. The Resident may ask for an explanation stating the specific grounds of the determination, and if the Resident does not agree with the determination, the Resident may request a hearing in accordance with the Landlord's grievance procedures.

16. **LEASE TERMINATION BY LANDLORD:** Any termination of this Lease shall be carried out in accordance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations, State and local law, and the terms of this Lease.

The Landlord shall not terminate or refuse to renew the Lease other than for serious or repeated violation of material terms of the Lease, such as, but not limited to, the following:

- a. nonpayment of rent or other charges due under the Lease (i.e. utilities), or repeated chronic late payment of rent (four times in a twelve month period);
- b. failure to provide timely and accurate statements of income, assets, expenses and family composition at Admission, Interim, Special or Annual Rent Recertifications, to attend scheduled reexamination interviews or to cooperate in the verification process if the Resident has chosen to pay rent based on a percentage of income;
- c. furnishing false or misleading information during the application or review process;
- d. assignment or subleasing of the premises or providing accommodation for boarders or lodgers;
- e. use of the premises for purposes other than solely as a dwelling unit for the Resident and Resident's household as identified in this Lease, or permitting its use for any other purpose without the written permission of the Landlord;
- f. failure to abide by necessary and reasonable rules made by the Landlord for the benefit and well being of the housing development and the Residents;
- g. failure to abide by applicable building and housing codes materially affecting health or safety;
- h. failure to dispose of garbage, waste and rubbish in a safe and sanitary manner;
- i. failure to use electrical, plumbing, sanitary, heating, ventilating, air conditioning and other equipment, including elevators, in a safe manner;
- j. acts of destruction, defacement or removal of any part of the premises, or failure to cause guests to refrain from such acts;
- k. failure to pay reasonable charges for the repair of damages to the premises, property buildings, facilities or common areas;
- l. any activity that threatens the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other Residents, employees of the Authority, or other persons living in the immediate vicinity of the premises by the Resident or a guest of the Resident;
- m. failure to abide by the provisions of the pet policy;
- n. any violent or drug-related criminal activity on or off the premises, not just on or near the premises. This includes any tenant, member of the tenant's household or guest, and any such activity engaged in on the premises by any other person under the tenant's control;
- o. alcohol abuse that the Landlord determines interferes with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents;
- p. failure to perform required community service or be exempted therefrom:

- q. failure to allow inspection of the dwelling unit;
- r. determination that a family member has knowingly permitted an ineligible non-citizen not listed on the lease to permanently reside in their public housing unit;
- s. determination or discovery that a resident is a registered sex offender;
- t. determination that any member of the household has ever been convicted of drug-related criminal activity for manufacture or production of methamphetamine on the premises of federally assisted housing;
- u. determination that a household member is illegally using a drug or when the Landlord determines that a pattern of illegal use of a drug interferes with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents;
- v. if a Resident is fleeing to avoid prosecution, or custody or confinement after conviction of a crime that is a felony; or
- w. any other good cause.

17. **NOTICE OF LEASE TERMINATION:** If the Landlord proposes to terminate this Lease, the Resident shall be given written notice of the proposed termination, as listed below:

- a. for failure to pay rent, at least fourteen (14) days;
- b. for creation or maintenance of a threat to health or safety of other Residents or Landlord's employees, a reasonable time based on the urgency of the situation; or
- c. for all other cases, thirty (30) days, unless State law permits a shorter period.

The Notice to Vacate required by State or local law may be combined with or run concurrently with a Notice of Lease termination required by this lease.

The Notice of Lease Termination from the Landlord shall be either personally delivered to the Resident or to an adult member of the Resident's family residing in the dwelling unit, or sent to the Resident by First Class Mail, properly addressed, postage pre-paid. The notice shall:

- a. specify the date the Lease shall be terminated;
- b. state the grounds for termination with enough detail for the Resident to prepare a defense. The Landlord shall rely solely on the grounds stated in the Notice of Lease Termination in the event eviction action is initiated;
- c. advise the Resident of the right to reply as he or she may wish, to examine the Landlord's documents directly relevant to the termination or eviction, to use the Grievance Policy to contest the termination, and/or to defend the action in court.

18. **LEASE TERMINATION BY RESIDENT:** The Resident shall give the Landlord 30 calendar day's written notice before moving from the dwelling unit. If the Resident does not give the full notice, the Resident shall be liable for rent to the end of the notice period or to the date the dwelling unit is re-rented, whichever date comes first.

19. TERMINATION OF LEASE UPON DEATH OR INCAPACITY OF RESIDENT:

Upon the death of the Resident, or if there is more than one Resident, upon the death of all Residents, either the Landlord or the personal representative of the Resident's estate may terminate this Lease upon 14 calendar days written notice, to be effective on the last day of a calendar month. If full notice is not given, the Resident's estate shall be liable for rent to the end of the notice period or to the date the unit is re-rented, whichever date comes first. The termination of a Lease under this section shall not relieve the Resident's estate from liability either for payment of rent or other amounts owed prior to or during the notice period, or for the payment of amounts necessary to restore the premises to their condition at the beginning of the Resident's occupancy, normal wear and tear excepted.

If during the term of this Lease the Resident, by reason of physical or mental impairment, is no longer able to comply with the material provisions of this Lease and the Landlord cannot make a reasonable accommodation to enable the Resident to comply with the Lease; then action shall be taken. The Landlord will assist the Resident or designated member(s) of the Resident's family to move the Resident to more suitable housing. If there are no family members, the Landlord will work with appropriate agencies to secure suitable housing. This Lease will terminate upon the Resident moving from the unit.

- 20. PROPERTY ABANDONMENT:** In the event the Resident removes or attempts to remove any goods or property from the dwelling unit other than in the ordinary and usual course of continuing occupancy, the dwelling unit may, at the option of the Landlord, be considered abandoned. In such event, the Landlord shall have the right, provided five (5) calendar days written notice is mailed to the Resident's last known address, to store or otherwise dispose of any property left on or about the dwelling unit by the Resident following or pursuant to such abandonment. The Landlord shall also be entitled to store or dispose of any property remaining on or about the dwelling unit after the termination of this lease and any renewal thereof. Any property left on or about the dwelling unit shall be considered to be abandoned.

21. DELIVERY OF NOTICES:

Notice by Landlord: Any notice from the Landlord shall be in writing and either personally delivered to the Resident or to an adult member of the Resident's family residing in the dwelling unit, or sent to the Resident by First Class Mail, properly addressed, postage pre-paid.

Notice by Resident: Any notice to the Landlord shall be in writing, and either personally delivered to the Landlord at the Landlord's Office, or sent to Landlord by first-class mail, postage pre-paid and addressed to: The Housing Authority of the City of Sylvester.

If the Resident is visually impaired, notices shall be in accessible format.

- 22. GRIEVANCES:** All individual grievances or appeals, with the exception of those cases concerning eviction or termination of tenancy which are based upon a Resident's creation

or maintenance of a threat to health or safety of other Residents or Landlord employees, shall be processed under the Grievance Policy. This policy is posted in the Landlord's Office where copies are available upon request.

Before the Landlord shall schedule a Grievance Hearing for any grievance concerning the amount of rent the Landlord claims is due, the Resident must first bring his or her rent account current by paying to the Landlord an amount equal to the amount of rent due and payable as of the first of the month preceding the month in which the act or failure to act took place. After the hearing is scheduled, the Resident shall continue to deposit this same monthly rent amount into the Landlord's escrow account until the complaint is resolved by the decision of the hearing officer or panel.

When the Housing Authority is required to afford the Resident the opportunity for a hearing in accordance with the authority's grievance procedure for a grievance concerning the Lease termination, the tenancy shall not terminate (even if any notice to vacate under State or local law has expired) until the time for the Resident to request a grievance hearing has expired, and (if a hearing was timely requested by the Resident) the grievance process has been completed.

23. **HOUSE RULES:** The Resident agrees to obey any House Rules, which are reasonably related to the safety, care and cleanliness of the building and the safety, comfort and convenience of the Residents. Such rules may be modified by the Landlord from time to time provided that the Resident receives written notice of the proposed change, reasons for the change and an opportunity to submit written comments during a 30 day comment period at least 30 calendar days before the proposed effective date of the change in the Rule. Existing House Rules, if any, are posted in the property and are attached to this Lease.
24. **DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED:** The Landlord shall not discriminate based upon race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age, handicap or disability, familial status, or recipients of public assistance and shall comply with all nondiscrimination requirements of Federal, State and local law.
25. **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT PROTECTIONS:** The Violence Against Women Act provides the following protections to public housing residents.
 - a. The Landlord will not terminate or refuse to renew the Lease and will not evict the Resident or a member of Resident's household from the dwelling unit if the Resident or household member is a victim of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking as those terms are defined by the Admission and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP).
 - b. Under the Violence Against Women Act, the Landlord may bifurcate this Lease in order to evict, remove, or terminate assistance to any person who is a Resident or a lawful occupant under this lease when such person engages in criminal acts of physical violence against family members or others, on or off the premises. Landlord

may take such action without evicting, removing, terminating assistance to, or otherwise penalizing a victim of such violence who is the Resident or is a lawful occupant under this Lease.

- c. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in paragraphs a and b above, the Landlord may terminate the Lease and evict the Resident if the Landlord can demonstrate an actual and imminent threat to other residents or to those employed at or providing goods or services to the site in which the unit is located, if the resident's tenancy is not terminated.
- d. **Nothing in this section** shall prohibit the Landlord from terminating the Lease and evicting the Resident based on any violation of this lease not involving domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking against the Resident or household member provided that the Sylvester Housing Authority does not subject such a tenant to a more demanding standard than other tenants in making the determination whether to evict or to terminate assistance or occupancy rights.

26. **ATTACHMENTS TO THE LEASE:** The Resident certifies that he/she has received a copy of this Lease and the following Attachments to this Lease, and understands that these Attachments are part of this Lease.

Attachments: Grievance Procedure; Declaration of citizenship; Lead-based Paint Warning; Fraud Statement; Preventive Maintenance Entry Form; Maintenance Tenant Charges; Pest Control Schedule; Resident Orientation Handbook; Move-in Rule Review

Signatures:

RESIDENT: 1) _____ Date
2) _____ Date

LANDLORD: _____ Date