

IV. FINE POLICY

1. **Background.** This fine policy is based on the requirements of Sec. 82.102(d) and (e) of TUCA. To establish policies and procedures for fining under TUCA, the declarant adopts this policy for the benefit of the Association, as part of the initial project documentation.
2. **Policy.** The Association uses fines to discourage violations of the Documents, and to encourage compliance when a violation occurs - not to punish violators or generate revenue for the Association. Although a fine may be an effective and efficient remedy for certain types of violations or violators, it is only one of several methods available to the Association for enforcing the Documents. The Association's use of fines does not interfere with its exercise of other rights and remedies for the same violation. Nor may the Association use fines to the exclusion of other remedies.

DRAFTER'S DICTUM

Users of this document should periodically review statutes and court rulings that may modify or nullify provisions of this document or its enforcement, or may create rights or duties not anticipated by this document.

3. **Owner's Liability.** An owner is liable for fines levied by the Association for violations of the Documents by the owner, the residents of the unit, and the relatives, guests, employees, and agents of the owner and residents. Regardless of who performs the violation, the Association will direct its communications to the owner, although the Association may send copies of its notices to the resident.
4. **Violation Notice.** Before levying a fine, the Association will give the owner a written violation notice and an opportunity to be heard. This requirement may not be waived. The Association's written violation notice will contain the following items: (1) the date the violation notice is prepared or mailed; (2) a description of the violation; (3) a reference to the rule or provision that is being violated; (4) a description of the action required to cure the violation; (5) the amount of the fine; (6) a statement that not later than the thirtieth (30th) day after the date of the violation notice, the owner may request a hearing before the Board to contest the fine; and (7) the date the fine attaches or begins accruing (the "Start Date"), subject to the following:
 - a. **New Violation.** If the owner was not given notice and a reasonable opportunity to cure a similar violation within the preceding twelve (12) months, the notice will state a specific date by which the violation must be cured to avoid the fine, if the violation is ongoing or continuous. If the violation is not ongoing, but is instead sporadic or periodic, the notice must state that any future violation of the same rule may result in the levy of a fine.

- b. Repeat Violation. In the case of a repeat violation, the notice will state that, because the owner was given notice and a reasonable opportunity to cure a similar violation within the preceding twelve (12) months, the fine attaches from the date of the violation notice.
4. Violation Hearing. An owner may request in writing a hearing by the Board to contest the fine. To request a hearing before the Board, an owner must submit a written request to the Association's manager within thirty (30) days after the date of the violation notice. Within fifteen (15) days after owner's request for a hearing, the Association will give the owner at least fifteen (15) days' notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing. The hearing will be scheduled to provide a reasonable opportunity for both the Board and the owner to attend. Pending the hearing, the Association may continue to exercise its other rights and remedies for the violation, as if the declared violation were valid. The owner's request for a hearing suspends only the levy of a fine. The hearing will be held in a closed or executive session of the Board. At the hearing, the Board will consider the facts and circumstances surrounding the violation. The owner may attend the hearing in person, or may be represented by another person or written communication. No audio or video recording of the hearing may be made. The minutes of the hearing must contain a statement of the results of the hearing and the fine, if any, imposed. A copy of the violation notice and request for hearing should be placed in the minutes of the hearing. If the owner appears at the meeting, the notice requirements will be deemed satisfied.
5. Levy of Fine. Within thirty (30) days after levying the fine, the Board must give the owner notice of the levied fine. If the fine is levied at the hearing at which the owner is actually present, the notice requirement will be satisfied if the Board announces its decision to the owner at the hearing. Otherwise, the notice must be in writing. In addition to the initial levy notice, the Association will give the owner periodic written notices of an accruing fine or the application of an owner's payments to reduce the fine. The periodic notices may be in the form of monthly statements or delinquency notices.
6. Amount. The Association may set fine amounts on a case by case basis, provided the fine is reasonable in light of the nature, frequency, and effects of the violation. The Association may establish a schedule of fines for certain types of violations. If circumstances warrant a variance from the schedule, the Board will document the reasons for the variance in the minutes of its meeting. The amount and cumulative total of a fine must be reasonable in comparison to the violation, and should be uniform for similar violations of the same provision of the Documents. If the Association allows fines to accumulate, it will establish a maximum amount for a particular fine, at which point the total fine will be capped.
7. Type of Levy. If the violation is ongoing or continuous, the fine may be levied on a periodic basis (such as daily, monthly, or quarterly), beginning on the Start Date. If the violation is not ongoing, but is instead sporadic or periodic, the fine may be levied on a per occurrence basis.

8. Collection of Fines. The Association is not entitled to collect a fine from an owner to whom it has not given notice and an opportunity to be heard. The Association may not foreclose its assessment lien on a debt consisting solely of fines. The Association may not charge interest or late fees for unpaid fines.
9. Amendment of Policy. This policy may be revoked or amended from time to time by the Board. This policy will remain effective until ten (10) days after the Association delivers to an owner of each unit notice of amendment or revocation of this policy. The notice may be published and distributed in an Association newsletter or other community-wide publication.