

DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, AND RESTRICTIONS

for

MARIN WOODS SUBDIVISION

THIS DOCUMENT REGULATES OR PROHIBITS THE DISPLAY OF POLITICAL SIGNS.

Prepared by & return to:

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Submitted electronically by "Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan, L.L.P."
in compliance with North Carolina statutes governing recordable documents
and the terms of the submitter agreement with the Johnston County Register of Deeds.

NORTH CAROLINA

JOHNSTON COUNTY

DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, AND RESTRICTIONS

for

MARIN WOODS SUBDIVISION

THIS DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, AND RESTRICTIONS FOR MARIN WOODS SUBDIVISION is made this 8th day of April, 2024, by **MARIN WOODS, LLC**, a North Carolina limited liability company ("Declarant").

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMUNITY

ARTICLE I

CREATION OF THE COMMUNITY

1.1 Purpose and Intent.

Declarant, as the owner of the real property described on Exhibit A, intends by the recording of this Declaration to create a general plan of development for the planned community known as Marin Woods Subdivision ("Marin Woods"). This Declaration provides a flexible and reasonable procedure for the future expansion of Marin Woods to include additional real property as Declarant deems appropriate and provides for the overall development, administration, maintenance, and preservation of the real property now and hereafter comprising Marin Woods. An integral part of the development plan is the creation of the Marin Woods Homeowners Association, Inc. ("Association"), a planned community owners association with members comprised of all owners of residential property in Marin Woods, to own, operate, and maintain various common areas and community improvements and to administer and enforce this Declaration and the other Governing Documents referred to in this Declaration.

1.2 Binding Effect.

(a) All property described on Exhibit A, and any additional property which is made a part of Marin Woods in the future by Recording of one or more Supplemental Declarations, shall be owned, conveyed and used subject to all of the provisions of this Declaration, which shall run with the title to such property. This Declaration shall be binding upon all Persons having any right, title, or interest in or to any portion of the Properties, their heirs, successors, and assigns.

(b) This Declaration shall be enforceable by Declarant, the Association, any Owner, and their

respective legal representatives, heirs, successors, and assigns, perpetually, from the date this Declaration is Recorded in the Public Records, unless terminated by the agreement of Owners representing at least 90% of the votes in the Association. Nothing in this Section 1.2 shall be construed to permit termination of any easement right, or interest created in this Declaration in favor of Declarant or other third party without the consent of the holder of such easement, right, or interest.

1.3 Governing Documents.

The Governing Documents create a general plan of development for Marin Woods which may be supplemented by additional covenants, restrictions and easements in accordance with their terms and applicable law. In the event of a conflict between or among the Governing Documents and any such additional covenants or restrictions, and/or the provisions of any other articles of incorporation, by-laws, this Declaration shall control.

Nothing in this Section 1.3 shall preclude any Supplemental Declaration or other Recorded covenants applicable to any portion of the Properties Recorded in accordance with this Declaration from containing additional restrictions or provisions which are more restrictive than the provisions of this Declaration.

All provisions of the Governing Documents shall apply to all Owners and to all occupants of their Units, as well as their respective tenants, guests and invitees. Any lease on a Unit shall provide that the lessee and all occupants of the leased Unit shall be bound by the terms of the Governing Documents.

If any provision of this Declaration is determined by judgment or court order to be invalid, or invalid as applied in a particular instance, such determination shall not affect the validity of other provisions or applications.

ARTICLE II

CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

The terms used in the Governing Documents shall generally be given their natural, commonly accepted definitions unless otherwise specified. Capitalized terms shall be defined as set forth below.

“Area of Common Responsibility”: The Common Area, together with such other areas, if any, for which the Association has or assumes responsibility pursuant to the terms of this Declaration, any Supplemental Declaration, resolution of the Board, Covenant to Share Costs, or any other contracts or agreements.

“Association”: Marin Woods Homeowners Association, Inc., a North Carolina nonprofit corporation, its successors or assigns.

“Base Assessment”: Assessments levied on all Units subject to assessment under Article VIII to fund Common Expenses, as determined in accordance with Section 8.1.

“Board of Directors” or “Board”: The body responsible for administration of the Association, selected as provided in the By-Laws.

“Builder”: Any Person who purchases one (1) or more Units for the purpose of constructing improvements for later sale to consumers, or who purchases one or more parcels of land within the Properties for further subdivision, development, and/or resale in the ordinary course of such Person's business.

“By-Laws”: The By-Laws of Marin Woods Homeowners Association, as they may be amended.

“Class B Control Period”: The period of time during which the Class B Member is entitled to appoint a majority of the members of the Board as provided in the By-Laws.

“Common Area”: All real and personal property, including easements, which the Association owns, leases, or otherwise holds possessory or use rights in for the common use and enjoyment of the Owners and such other Persons as may be designated by the Board including, without limitation, any areas designated as “Common Area” on Recorded plats of the Properties.

“Common Expenses”: The actual and estimated expenses incurred, or anticipated to be incurred, by the Association for the general benefit of all Owners, including any reasonable reserve, as the Board may find necessary and appropriate pursuant to the Governing Documents. Common Expenses shall not include any expenses incurred during the Class B Control Period for initial development or other original construction costs unless approved by a majority of the Board of Directors of the Association.

“Community-Wide Standard”: The standard of conduct, maintenance, or other activity generally prevailing at Marin Woods, or the minimum standards established pursuant to the Design & Community Guidelines, Restrictions and Rules, and Board resolutions, whichever is a higher standard, as it may change from time to time. Declarant shall initially establish such standard and it may contain both objective and subjective elements.

“Covenant to Share Costs”: A Recorded Declaration of Easements and Covenant to Share Costs which creates certain easements for the benefit of the Association and the present and future owners of the subject real property. It obligates the Association and such owners to share the costs of maintaining property described in the Covenant to Share Costs.

“Declarant”: Marin Woods, LLC, a North Carolina limited liability company, or any member or manager thereof designated to act on behalf of such company, as well as any successor or assign who takes title to any portion of the property described on Exhibit A for the purpose of development and/or sale and who is designated as Declarant in a Recorded instrument executed by the immediately preceding Declarant.

“Design & Community Guidelines”: The architectural, design, and construction guidelines and review procedures adopted pursuant to Article IV, as they may be amended.

“Governing Documents”: A collective term referring to this Declaration and any applicable Supplemental Declaration, the By-Laws, the Articles, the Design & Community Guidelines, and the Use Restrictions and Rules, as they may be amended.

“Member”: A Person subject to membership in the Association pursuant to Section 6.2.

“Mortgage”: A mortgage, a deed of trust, a deed to secure debt, or any other form of security instrument affecting title to any Unit. A "Mortgagee" shall refer to a beneficiary or holder of a

Mortgage.

“Nonprofit Corporation Act”: The North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act, codified in North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 55A, as the same may be amended.

“Owner”: One (1) or more Persons who hold the record title to any Unit but excluding in all cases any party holding an interest merely as security for the performance of an obligation. If a Unit is sold under a recorded contract of sale, and the contract specifically so provides, the purchaser (rather than the fee owner) will be considered the Owner.

“Person”: A natural person, a corporation, a partnership, a trustee, or any other legal entity.

“Planned Community Act”: The North Carolina Planned Community Act, codified in North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 47F, as the same may be amended.

“Properties” or “Marin Woods” The real property described on Exhibit A, together with such additional property as is subjected to this Declaration in accordance with Article IX.

“Public Records”: The Office of the Register of Deeds of Johnston County, North Carolina.

“Record,” “Recording,” or “Recorded”: The filing of a legal instrument in the Public Records, or such other place as may be designated as the official location for recording deeds, plats, and similar documents affecting title to real estate.

“Special Assessment”: Assessments levied in accordance with Section 8.3.

“Specific Assessment”: Assessments levied in accordance with Section 8.4.

“Supplemental Declaration”: An instrument Recorded in the Public Records pursuant to Article IX which subjects additional property to this Declaration and/or imposes, expressly or by reference, additional restrictions and obligations on the land described in such instrument.

“Unit”: A portion of the Properties, whether improved or unimproved, which may be independently owned and is intended for development, use, and occupancy as an attached or detached residence for a single family. The term shall refer to the land, if any, which is part of the Unit as well as any improvements thereon.

In the case of a parcel of vacant land or land on which improvements are under construction, the parcel shall be deemed to contain a single unit until such time as a subdivision plat is filed of record on all or a portion of the parcel. Thereafter, the portion encompassed by such plat shall contain the number of Units determined as set forth in the preceding paragraph and any portion not encompassed by such plat shall continue to be treated in accordance with this paragraph.

“Use Restrictions and Rules”: The initial use restrictions and rules set forth on Exhibit B as they may be supplemented, modified and repealed pursuant to Article III.

PART TWO: CREATION AND MAINTENANCE OF COMMUNITY STANDARDS

ARTICLE III

USE AND CONDUCT

3.1 Framework for Regulation.

The Governing Documents establish, as part of the general plan of development for the Properties, a framework of affirmative and negative covenants, easements and restrictions which govern the Properties. However, within that framework, the Board and the Members must have the ability to respond to unforeseen problems and changes in circumstances, desires, trends and technology which inevitably will affect Marin Woods, its Owners and residents. Toward that end, this Article establishes procedures for modifying and expanding the initial Use Restrictions and Rules set forth on Exhibit B.

3.2 Rule Making Authority.

(a) Subject to the terms of this Article and the Board's duty to exercise business judgment and reasonableness on behalf of the Association and its Members, the Board may modify, cancel, limit, create exceptions to, or expand the Use Restrictions and Rules. The Board shall provide notice to Owners, by mail, by posting, or by any other reasonable method of broadcast or publication designed to notify Owners of any such proposed action at least five (5) business days prior to the Board meeting at which such action is to be considered. Such action shall become effective, after compliance with subsection 3.2(c), unless disapproved at a meeting by Class A Members representing more than 50% of the total Class A votes in the Association and by the Class B Member, if any. The Board shall have no obligation to call a meeting of the Class A Members to consider disapproval except upon receipt of a petition of the Class A Members as required for special meetings in the By-Laws. Upon such petition of the Class A Members prior to the effective date of any Board action under this subsection 3.2(a), the proposed action shall not become effective until after such meeting is held, and then subject to the outcome of such meeting.

(b) Alternatively, the Class A Members, at an Association meeting duly called for such purpose, may adopt rules which modify, cancel, limit, create exceptions to, or expand the Use Restrictions and Rules by a vote of Class A Members representing more than 50% of the total Class A votes in the Association and the approval of the Class B Member, if any.

(c) At least thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of any action taken under subsections 3.2(a) or 3.2(b), the Board shall send a copy of the new rule or explanation of any changes to the Use Restrictions and Rules to each Owner specifying the effective date. The Association shall provide, without cost, a copy of the Use Restrictions and Rules then in effect to any requesting Member or Mortgagee.

(d) Nothing in this Article shall authorize the Board or Class A Members to modify, repeal or expand the Design & Community Guidelines. In the event of a conflict between the Design & Community Guidelines and the Use Restrictions and Rules, the Design & Community Guidelines shall control.

3.3 Owners' Acknowledgment and Notice to Purchasers.

All Owners are given notice that use of their Units and the Common Area is limited by the Use Restrictions and Rules as they may be amended, expanded and otherwise modified hereunder. Each Owner, by acceptance of a deed, acknowledges and agrees that the use and enjoyment and marketability of his or her Unit can be affected by this provision and that the Use Restrictions and Rules may change from time to time. All purchasers of Units are on notice that changes may have been adopted by the Association. Copies of the current Use Restrictions and Rules may be obtained from the Association.

3.4 Protection of Owners and Others.

No rule shall be adopted in violation of the following provisions, except as may be specifically set forth in this Declaration (either initially or by amendment) or in the initial Use Restrictions and Rules set forth on Exhibit B.

(a) Equal Treatment. Similarly situated Owners shall be treated similarly under this Declaration and all rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

(b) Signs and Displays. The rights of Owners to display religious and holiday signs, symbols, and decorations inside structures on their Units of the kinds normally displayed in dwellings located in single-family residential neighborhoods shall not be abridged, except that the Association may adopt time, place, and manner restrictions with respect to displays visible from outside the dwelling. No rules shall regulate the content of political signs; however, rules may regulate the time, place and manner of posting such signs (including design criteria).

(c) Household Composition. Occupancy of each Unit shall be limited to a single family or, in the alternative, that number of unrelated persons equal to the number of bedrooms in the Unit plus one additional person. For purposes of this subsection 3.4(c), "occupancy" means staying overnight in a Unit for a total of more than thirty (30) days, either consecutive or nonconsecutive, in any calendar year. "Single family" means any number of persons, all of whom are interrelated by blood, adoption, or marriage, and no more than one (1) additional person who is not so related. The phrase "by blood" shall be deemed to encompass only children, grandchildren, grandparents, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, parents, aunts, uncles, and first cousins, and no other degree of kinship.

(d) Activities Within Dwellings. No rule shall interfere with the activities carried on within the confines of dwellings, except that the Association may prohibit activities not normally associated with property restricted to residential use, and it may restrict or prohibit any activities that create monetary costs for the Association or other Owners, that create a danger to the health or safety of occupants of other Units, that generate excessive noise or traffic, that create unsightly conditions visible outside the dwelling, or that create an unreasonable source of annoyance.

(e) Alienation. No rule shall prohibit leasing or transfer of any Unit or require consent of the Association or Board for leasing or transfer of any Unit; *provided, however*, the Association or the Board may require a minimum lease term of up to six (6) months. The Association may require that Owners use lease forms approved by the Association but shall not impose any fee on the lease or transfer of any Unit.

(f) Abriding Existing Rights. If any rule would otherwise require Owners to dispose of personal property which they maintained in or on the Unit prior to the effective date of such rule, or

to vacate a Unit in which they resided prior to the effective date of such rule, and such property was maintained or such occupancy was in compliance with this Declaration and all rules previously in force, such rule shall not apply to any such Owners without their written consent.

(g) Reasonable Rights to Develop. No rule or action by the Association or Board shall unreasonably impede Declarant's right to develop the Properties. The limitations in subsections 3.4(a) through 3.4(g) shall only limit rulemaking authority exercised under Section 3.2; they shall not apply to amendments to this Declaration adopted in accordance with Article XVI.

ARTICLE IV

ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPING

4.1 General.

No structure or thing shall be placed, erected, installed, or posted on the Properties, no modification or alteration visible from the exterior of a Unit shall be made, and no improvements or other work shall take place within the Properties, except in compliance with this Article and the Design & Community Guidelines.

No approval shall be required to repaint, restore, or replace the exterior of a structure in accordance with the originally approved color scheme or to rebuild in accordance with originally approved plans and specifications.

All dwellings constructed on any portion of the Properties shall be designed by and built in accordance with the plans and specifications of a licensed architect or licensed building designer unless otherwise approved by Declarant or its designee in its sole discretion.

This Article shall not apply to the activities of Declarant or any member or affiliate of Declarant, or to activities of the Association during the Class B Control Period.

4.2 Architectural Review.

(a) By Declarant.

- (i) Until 100% of the property described on Exhibit A has been developed and conveyed to Owners other than Builders, Declarant shall have sole authority to review and approve activity within the scope of this Article. Each Owner, by accepting a deed or other instrument conveying any interest in any portion of the Properties, acknowledges that, as the developer of the Properties, Declarant has a substantial interest in ensuring that the improvements within the Properties preserve and promote the desirability of Marin Woods and do not impair Declarant's ability to market, sell, or lease its property. Therefore, each Owner agrees that no activity within the scope of this Article ("**Work**") shall be commenced on such Owner's Unit unless and until the Declarant or its designee has given its prior written approval for such Work, which approval may be granted or withheld in the sole discretion of Declarant or its designee consistent with this Declaration.

- (ii) In reviewing and acting upon any request for approval, Declarant or its designee shall be acting solely in the interest of Declarant and shall owe no duty to any other Person. The rights reserved to Declarant under this Article shall continue so long as Declarant owns any portion of the property described on Exhibit A unless earlier terminated in a written instrument executed by Declarant and recorded in the Public Records. Declarant may, in its sole discretion, designate one (1) or more Persons from time to time to act on its behalf in reviewing applications hereunder.
- (iii) Declarant may from time to time, but shall not be obligated to, delegate all or a portion of its reserved rights under this Article to (i) an architectural review committee appointed by Declarant or the Association's Board of Directors ("**ARC**"), or (ii) a committee comprised of architects, engineers or other persons who may or may not be Members of the Association. Any such delegation shall be in writing, specifying the scope of responsibilities delegated, and shall be subject to (i) the right of Declarant to revoke such delegation at any time and reassume jurisdiction over the matters previously delegated, and (ii) the right of Declarant to veto any decision which Declarant determines, in its sole discretion, to be inappropriate or inadvisable for any reason. So long as Declarant has any rights under this Article, the jurisdiction of the foregoing entities shall be limited to such matters as are specifically delegated to it by Declarant.

(b) Architectural Review Committee. Upon delegation by Declarant or upon assignment of Declarant's rights under this Article, the Association, acting through the ARC, shall assume jurisdiction over architectural matters hereunder. The ARC, when appointed, shall consist of at least three (3), but not more than seven (7), persons who shall serve and may be removed and replaced at the discretion of the Association (or Declarant if Declarant appointed the ARC members). The members of the ARC need not be Members of the Association or representatives of Members, and may, but need not, include architects, engineers or similar professionals, whose compensation, if any, shall be established from time to time by the Board and paid as a Common Expense by the Association.

Unless and until such time as Declarant delegates all or a portion of its reserved rights to the ARC or Declarant's rights under this Article terminate, the Association shall have no jurisdiction over architectural matters.

(c) Fees: Assistance. For purposes of this Article, the entity having jurisdiction in a particular case shall be referred to as the "**Reviewer**." The Reviewer may establish and charge reasonable fees for review of applications hereunder and may require such fees to be paid in full prior to review of any application. Such fees may include the reasonable costs incurred in having any application reviewed by architects, engineers or other professionals. Declarant and the Association may employ architects, engineers, or other persons as deemed necessary to perform the review. The Association shall pay the compensation of such persons as a Common Expense.

4.3 Guidelines and Procedures.

(a) Design & Community Guidelines. Declarant will prepare the initial Design & Community Guidelines, which may contain general provisions applicable to the entire Properties. The Design & Community Guidelines are intended to provide guidance to Owners and Builders regarding matters of particular concern to the Reviewer in considering applications hereunder. The Design & Community

Guidelines are not the exclusive basis for decisions of the Reviewer and compliance with the Design & Community Guidelines does not guarantee approval of any application.

Declarant shall have sole and full authority to amend the Design & Community Guidelines as long as it owns any portion of the Properties or has a right to expand the Properties pursuant to Section 9.1. Upon termination or delegation of Declarant's right to amend, the ARC shall have the authority to amend the Design & Community Guidelines with the consent of the Board. Any amendments to the Design & Community Guidelines shall be prospective only and shall not apply to require modifications to or removal of structures previously approved once the approved construction or modification has commenced. There shall be no limitation on the scope of amendments to the Design & Community Guidelines, provided all amendments are consistent with this Declaration, and such amendments may remove requirements previously imposed or otherwise make the Design & Community Guidelines less restrictive.

The Reviewer shall make the Design & Community Guidelines available to Owners and Builders who seek to engage in development or construction within the Properties. In Declarant's discretion, such Design & Community Guidelines may be recorded in the Public Records, in which event the recorded version, as it may amended from time to time, shall control in the event of any dispute as to which version of the Design & Community Guidelines was in effect at any particular time.

(b) Procedures. Prior to commencing any Work within the scope of this Article, an Owner shall submit to the appropriate Reviewer an application for approval of the proposed Work in such form as the Design & Community Guidelines or the Reviewer may specify. Such application shall include, at a minimum, detailed plans and specifications ("**Plans**") showing site layout, structural design, exterior elevations, exterior materials and colors, landscaping, drainage, exterior lighting, irrigation, and other features of proposed construction, as applicable. The Design & Community Guidelines and the Reviewer may require the submission of such additional information as may be reasonably necessary to consider any application. The Reviewer may, in its sole discretion, designate one (1) or more days per month when applications, Plans and information, will be accepted for consideration.

In reviewing each submission, the Reviewer may consider any factors it deems relevant, including, without limitation, harmony of external design with surrounding structures and environment. Decisions may be based on purely aesthetic considerations. Each Owner acknowledges that determinations as to such matters are purely subjective and opinions may vary as to the desirability and/or attractiveness of particular improvements.

The Reviewer shall, within forty-five (45) days after receipt of a completed application and all required information, respond in writing to the applicant at the address specified in the application. The response may (a) approve the application, with or without conditions; (b) approve a portion of the application and disapprove other portions; or (c) disapprove the application entirely. Any rejection, in whole or in part, shall specify the reasons for such rejection and/or offer suggestions for curing any objections.

In the event that the Reviewer fails to respond in a timely manner, approval shall be deemed to have been given, subject to Declarant's right to veto approval by the ARC pursuant to this section. However, no approval, whether expressly granted or deemed granted pursuant to the foregoing, shall be inconsistent with the Design & Community Guidelines unless a variance has been granted

pursuant to Section 4.5. Notice shall be deemed to have been given at the time the envelope containing the response is deposited with the U. S. Postal Service. Personal delivery of such written notice shall, however, be sufficient and shall be deemed to have been given at the time of delivery to the applicant.

Until expiration of Declarant's rights under this Article, the ARC shall notify Declarant in writing within five (5) days after the ARC has approved any application relating to proposed Work within the scope of matters delegated to the ARC by Declarant. The notice shall be accompanied by a copy of the application and any additional information which Declarant may require. Declarant shall have ten (10) days after receipt of such notice to veto any such action, in its sole discretion, by written notice to the ARC and the applicant.

If construction does not commence on a project for which Plans have been approved within one (1) year after the date of approval, such approval shall be deemed withdrawn and it shall be necessary for the Owner to reapply for approval before commencing the proposed Work. Once construction is commenced, it shall be diligently pursued to completion. All Work shall be completed within one (1) year of commencement unless otherwise specified in the notice of approval or unless the Reviewer grants an extension in writing in the Reviewer's discretion, not to be unreasonably withheld, conditioned, or delayed. If approved Work is not completed within the required time, it shall be considered nonconforming and shall be subject to enforcement action by the Association, Declarant or any aggrieved Owner.

The Reviewer may, by resolution, exempt certain activities from the application and approval requirements of this Article, provided such activities are undertaken in strict compliance with the requirements of such resolution.

4.4 No Waiver of Future Approvals.

Each Owner acknowledges that the persons reviewing applications under this Article will change from time to time and that opinions on aesthetic matters, as well as interpretation and application of the Design & Community Guidelines, may vary accordingly. In addition, each Owner acknowledges that it may not always be possible to identify objectionable features of proposed work until the work is completed, in which case it may be unreasonable to require changes to the improvements involved, but the Reviewer may refuse to approve similar proposals in the future. Approval of applications or Plans for any work done or proposed, or in connection with any other matter requiring approval, shall not be deemed to constitute a waiver of the right to withhold approval as to any similar applications, Plans, or other matters subsequently or additionally submitted for approval.

4.5 Variances.

Reviewer may authorize variances from compliance with any of its guidelines and procedures when circumstances require, but only in accordance with duly adopted rules and regulations. Such variances may only be granted, however, when unique circumstances dictate, and no variance shall (a) be effective unless in writing; (b) be contrary to this Declaration; or (c) estop the Reviewer from denying a variance in other circumstances. For purposes of this Section, the inability to obtain approval of any governmental agency, the issuance of any permit, or the terms of any financing shall not be considered a hardship warranting a variance.

4.6 Limitation of Liability.

The standards and procedures established by this Article are intended as a mechanism for maintaining and enhancing the overall aesthetics of the Properties but shall not create any duty to any Person. Review and approval of any application pursuant to this Article is made on the basis of aesthetic considerations only and the Reviewer shall not bear any responsibility for ensuring the structural integrity or soundness of approved construction or modifications nor for ensuring compliance with building codes and other governmental requirements, nor for ensuring that all dwellings are of comparable quality, value or size or of similar design. Neither Declarant, the Association, the Board, any committee, or member of any of the foregoing shall be held liable for soil conditions, drainage or other general site work, nor for any defects in plans revised or approved hereunder, nor for any injury, damages, or loss arising out of the manner or quality of approved construction on or modifications to any Unit. In all matters, the ARC and all persons comprising the ARC shall be defended and indemnified by the Association as provided in Section 7.7.

4.7 Certificate of Compliance.

Any Owner may request that the Reviewer issue a certificate of architectural compliance certifying that there are no known violations of this Article or the Design & Community Guidelines. The Association shall either grant or deny such request within thirty (30) days after receipt of a written request and may charge a reasonable administrative fee for issuing such certificates. Issuance of such a certificate shall estop the Association from taking enforcement action with respect to any condition as to which the Association had notice as of the date of such certificate.

ARTICLE V

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

5.1 Maintenance of Units.

(a) Each Owner shall maintain his or her Unit and all improvements comprising the Unit in a manner consistent with the Governing Documents, the Community-Wide Standard, Community Guidelines, and all applicable covenants, unless such maintenance responsibility is otherwise assumed by or assigned to the Association pursuant to any Supplemental Declaration or other declaration of covenants applicable to such Unit duly authorized and recorded in the Public Records. This shall include, but not be limited to, the obligation to maintain the dwelling, lot, and landscaping, including all easement areas, and swales upon Owner's Unit up to the edge of any pavement, curb, water's edge, or property line shared with Common Area or open space; *provided, however*, there shall be no right to remove trees, shrubs or similar vegetation from this area without prior approval of the Board.

5.2 Maintenance of Area of Common Responsibility.

(a) Unless otherwise assigned to a Unit, the Association shall maintain in accordance with the Community-Wide Standard, the Area of Common Responsibility which may include, but is not limited to all portions of and improvements designated as and situated upon Common Area, common property open space, open space common area, amenity area, stormwater control measures, landscape buffer(s), shared cluster mailbox kiosks including any mailbox kiosk shelter, sign easements, monument or entrance signs, any Town of Smithfield or

Johnston County required shared facility, or other similar designation on any recorded plat or map of the Properties, or in this Declaration.

(b) The Association may maintain other property which it does not own, including, without limitation, property dedicated to the public, if the Board determines that such maintenance is necessary or desirable to maintain the Community-Wide Standard.

5.3 Responsibility for Repair and Replacement.

(a) By Owners.

- (i) Unless otherwise specifically provided in the Governing Documents or in other instruments creating and assigning maintenance responsibility, responsibility for maintenance shall include responsibility for repair and replacement, as necessary to maintain the Unit to a level consistent with the Community-Wide Standard and Design & Community Guidelines. By virtue of taking title to a Unit, each Owner covenants and agrees with all other Owners and with the Association to carry property insurance for the full replacement cost of all insurable improvements on his or her Unit, less a reasonable deductible. If the Association assumes responsibility for obtaining any insurance coverage on behalf of Owners, the premiums for such insurance shall be levied as a Specific Assessment against the benefited Unit and the Owner.
- (ii) Each Owner further covenants and agrees that in the event of damage to or destruction of structures on or comprising his Unit, the Owner shall proceed promptly to repair or to reconstruct in a manner consistent with the original construction or such other plans and specifications as are approved in accordance with Article IV. Alternatively, the Owner shall promptly demolish all improvements and clear the Unit and maintain it in a neat and attractive, landscaped condition consistent with the Community-Wide Standard. The Owner shall pay any costs which are not covered by insurance proceeds.

(b) By the Association.

- (i) The costs associated with maintenance shall include the responsibility for repair and replacement, as necessary to maintain the Area of Common Responsibility to a level consistent with the Community-Wide Standard shall be a Common Expense; *provided, however,* the Association may seek reimbursement from the Owner(s) of, or other persons responsible for certain portions of the Area of Common Responsibility pursuant to this Declaration, the Covenant to Share Costs, other recorded covenants, or agreements with the Owner(s) thereof.

PART THREE: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

ARTICLE VI

THE ASSOCIATION AND ITS MEMBERS

6.1 Function of Association.

The Association shall be the entity responsible for management, maintenance, operation and control of the Area of Common Responsibility. The Association also shall be the primary entity responsible for enforcement of the Governing Documents. The Association shall perform its functions in accordance with the Governing Documents and applicable local, state, and federal laws.

6.2 Membership.

Every Owner shall be a Member of the Association. There shall be only one (1) membership per Unit. If a Unit is owned by more than one (1) Person, all co-Owners shall share the privileges of such membership, subject to reasonable Board regulation and the restrictions on voting set forth in subsection 6.3(b) and in the By-Laws, and all such co-Owners shall be jointly and severally obligated to perform the responsibilities of Owners. The membership rights of an Owner which is not a natural person may be exercised by any officer, director, partner or trustee, or by the individual designated from time to time by the Owner in a written instrument provided to the Secretary of the Association.

6.3 Voting.

- (a) The Association shall have two (2) classes of membership, Class A and Class B.
 - (i) Class A. Class A Members shall be all Owners except the Class B Member, if any. Class A Members shall have one (1) equal vote for each Unit in which they hold the interest required for membership under Section 6.2, except that there shall be only one vote per Unit and no vote shall be exercised for any property which is exempt from assessment. All Class A votes shall be cast as provided in subsection 6.3(b).
 - (ii) Class B.
 - (A) The sole Class B Member shall be Declarant. The Class B Member may appoint the members of the Board of Directors during the Class B Control Period, as specified in Section 3.3 of the By-Laws. Additional rights of the Class B Member, including the right to approve, or withhold approval of, actions proposed under this Declaration, the By-Laws and the Articles, are specified in the relevant sections of this Declaration, the By-Laws and the Articles. After termination of the Class B Control Period, the Class B Member shall have a right to disapprove actions of the Board and committees as provided in Section 3.19 of the By-Laws.
 - (B) The Class B membership shall terminate upon the earlier of:
 - (1) Two (2) years after the expiration of the Class B Control Period pursuant to Article III of the By-Laws.
 - Or
 - (2) when, in its discretion, Declarant so determines and declares in a Recorded instrument.

- (C) Upon termination of the Class B membership, Declarant shall be a Class A Member entitled to one (1) Class A vote for each Unit which it owns.
- (b) Exercise of Voting Rights.
 - (i) Except as otherwise specified in this Declaration or the By-Laws, the vote for each Unit owned by a Class A Member shall be exercised by that Class A Member.
 - (ii) In any situation where a Member is entitled personally to exercise the vote for his or her Unit, and there is more than one (1) Owner of such Unit, the vote for such Unit shall be exercised as the co-Owners determine among themselves and advise the Secretary of the Association in writing prior to the vote being taken. Absent such advice, the Unit's vote shall be suspended if more than one (1) Person attempts to exercise it.

ARTICLE VII

ASSOCIATION POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

7.1 Acceptance and Control of Association Property.

- (a) The Association, through action of its Board, may acquire, hold, and dispose of tangible and intangible personal property and real property.
- (b) Declarant and its designees may convey to the Association personal property and fee title, leasehold or other property interests in any real property, improved or unimproved, described on Exhibit A. The Association shall accept and maintain such property at its expense for the benefit of its Members, subject to any restrictions set forth in the deed or other instrument transferring such property to the Association. Upon written request of Declarant, the Association shall reconvey to Declarant any unimproved portions of the Properties originally conveyed by Declarant to the Association for no consideration, to the extent conveyed by Declarant in error or needed by Declarant to make minor adjustments in property lines.

7.2 Maintenance of Area of Common Responsibility.

- (a) Unless otherwise assigned to a Unit, the Association shall maintain, in accordance with the Community-Wide Standard, the Area of Common Responsibility, which may include, but need not be limited to:
 - (i) all portions of and structures situated upon the Common Area;
 - (ii) landscape buffers;
 - (iii) monument and entrance signs;
 - (iv) cluster mailbox units and surrounding landscaping;

- (v) landscaping within public rights-of-way within or abutting the Properties;
- (vi) such portions of any additional property included within the Area of Common Responsibility as may be dictated by this Declaration, any Supplemental Declaration, the Covenant to Share Costs, or any contract or agreement for maintenance thereof entered into by the Association;
- (vii) all swales, berms, ponds, streams and/or wetlands located within the Properties which serve as part of the stormwater drainage system for the Properties, including improvements and equipment installed therein or used in connection therewith; and
- (viii) any property and facilities owned by Declarant and made available, on a temporary or permanent basis, for the primary use and enjoyment of the Association and its Members, such property and facilities to be identified by written notice from Declarant to the Association and to remain a part of the Area of Common Responsibility and be maintained by the Association until such time as Declarant revokes such privilege of use and enjoyment by written notice to the Association.

(b) The Association may maintain other property which it does not own, including, without limitation, property dedicated to the public, if the Board of Directors determines that such maintenance is necessary or desirable to maintain the Community-Wide Standard.

(c) The Association shall not be liable for any damage or injury occurring on, or arising out of the condition of, property which it does not own except to the extent that it has been negligent in the performance of its maintenance responsibilities.

(d) The Association shall maintain the facilities and equipment within the Area of Common Responsibility in continuous operation, except for any periods necessary, as determined in the sole discretion of the Board, to perform required maintenance or repairs, unless Class A Members representing at least 75% of the Class A votes in the Association and the Class B Member, if any, agree in writing to discontinue such operation. Except as provided above, the Area of Common Responsibility shall not be reduced by amendment of this Declaration or any other means except with the prior written approval of Declarant as long as Declarant owns any property described on Exhibit A of this Declaration.

(e) The costs associated with maintenance, repair and replacement of the Area of Common Responsibility shall be a Common Expense; *provided, however*, the Association may seek reimbursement from the owner(s) of, or other Persons responsible for, certain portions of the Area of Common Responsibility pursuant to this Declaration, the Covenant to Share Costs, other recorded covenants, or agreements with the owner(s) thereof.

7.3 Insurance.

(a) Required Coverages. The Association, acting through its Board or its duly authorized agent, shall obtain and continue in effect the following types of insurance as a Common Expense, if reasonably available, or if not reasonably available, the most nearly equivalent coverages as are reasonably available:

- (i) Blanket property insurance on the Area of Common Responsibility covering the full

replacement cost of all insured improvements under current building ordinances and codes, to the extent that Association has assumed responsibility in the event of a casualty, regardless of ownership;

- (ii) Commercial general liability insurance on the Area of Common Responsibility, insuring the Association and its Members for damage or injury caused by the negligence of the Association or any of its Members, employees, agents, or contractors while acting on its behalf. If generally available at reasonable cost, such coverage (including primary and any umbrella coverage) shall have a limit of at least \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence with respect to bodily injury, personal injury, and property damage; *provided, however*, should additional coverage and higher limits be available at reasonable cost which a reasonably prudent person would obtain, the Association shall obtain such additional coverages or limits;
 - (iii) Workers compensation insurance and employers liability insurance, if and to the extent required by law;
 - (iv) Directors and officers liability coverage;
 - (v) Commercial crime insurance, including fidelity insurance covering all Persons responsible for handling Association funds in an amount determined in the Board's best business judgment but not less than an amount equal to one-sixth (1/6) of the annual Base Assessments on all Units plus reserves on hand. Fidelity insurance policies shall contain a waiver of all defenses based upon the exclusion of Persons serving without compensation; and
 - (vi) Such additional insurance as the Board, in its best business judgment, determines advisable.
- (b) Policy Requirements.
- (i) The Association shall arrange for an annual review of the sufficiency of its insurance coverage by one or more qualified Persons, at least one of whom must be familiar with insurable replacement costs in the Johnston County, North Carolina area. All Association policies shall provide for a certificate of insurance to be furnished to the Association and, upon request, to each Member insured.
 - (ii) The policies may contain a reasonable deductible and the amount thereof shall not be subtracted from the face amount of the policy in determining whether the policy limits satisfy the requirements of Section 7.3(a). In the event of an insured loss, the deductible shall be treated as a Common Expense. However, if the Board reasonably determines, after notice and an opportunity to be heard in accordance with Section 3.24 of the By-Laws, that the loss is the result of the negligence or willful misconduct of one or more Owners, their guests, invitees, or lessees, then the Board may assess the full amount of such deductible against such Owner(s) and their Units as a Specific Assessment.
 - (iii) All insurance coverage obtained by the Board shall:

- (A) be written with a company authorized to do business in the State of North Carolina which satisfies the requirements of the Federal National Mortgage Association, or such other secondary mortgage market agencies or federal agencies as the Board deems appropriate;
 - (B) be in the name of the Association as trustee for the benefited parties. Policies on the Common Areas shall be for the benefit of the Association and its Members;
 - (C) not be brought into contribution with insurance purchased by Owners, occupants, or their Mortgagees individually;
 - (D) contain an inflation guard endorsement;
 - (E) include an agreed amount endorsement, if the policy contains a co-insurance clause;
 - (F) provide that each Owner is an insured person under the policy with respect to liability arising out of such Owner's interest in the Common Area or membership in the Association;
 - (G) provide a waiver of subrogation under the policy against any Owner or household member of an Owner;
 - (H) include an endorsement precluding cancellation, invalidation, suspension, or non-renewal by the insurer on account of any one or more individual Owners, or on account of any curable defect or violation without prior written demand to the Association to cure the defect or violation and allowance of a reasonable time to cure; and
 - (I) include an endorsement precluding cancellation, invalidation, or condition to recovery under the policy on account of any act or omission of any one or more individual Owners, unless such Owner is acting within the scope of its authority on behalf of the Association.
- (vii) In addition, the Board shall use reasonable efforts to secure insurance policies which list the Owners as additional insureds and provide:
- (A) a waiver of subrogation as to any claims against the Association's Board, officers, employees, and its manager, the Owners and their tenants, servants, agents, and guests, instead of paying cash;
 - (B) an endorsement excluding Owners' individual policies from consideration under any "other insurance" clause;
 - (C) an endorsement requiring at least thirty (30) days' prior written notice to the Association of any cancellation, substantial modification, or non-renewal;
 - (D) a cross liability provision; and

- (E) a provision vesting in the Board exclusive authority to adjust losses; *provided, however*, no Mortgagee having an interest in such losses may be prohibited from participating in the settlement negotiations, if any, related to the loss.

(c) Restoring Damaged Improvements.

- (i) In the event of damage to or destruction of Common Area or other property which the Association is obligated to insure, the Board or its duly authorized agent shall file and adjust all insurance claims and obtain reliable and detailed estimates of the cost of repairing or restoring the property. Damaged improvements on the Common Area shall be repaired or reconstructed unless Class A Members representing at least 75% of the total Class A votes in the Association, and the Class B Member, if any, decide within a reasonable time after the loss not to repair or reconstruct. No Mortgagee shall have the right to participate in the determination of whether the damage or destruction to the Common Area shall be repaired or reconstructed.
- (ii) If a decision is made not to restore the damaged improvements, and no alternative improvements are authorized, the affected property shall be cleared of all debris and ruins and thereafter shall be maintained by the Association in a neat and attractive, landscaped condition consistent with the Community-Wide Standard.
- (iii) Any insurance proceeds remaining after paying the costs of repair or reconstruction, or after such settlement as is necessary and appropriate, shall be retained by the Association for the benefit of its Members, as appropriate, and placed in a capital improvements account. This is a covenant for the benefit of Mortgagees and may be enforced by the Mortgagee of any affected Unit. If insurance proceeds are insufficient to cover the costs of repair or reconstruction, the Board may, without a vote of the Class A Members, levy Special Assessments to cover the shortfall.

7.4 Management.

The Association, through its Board, may employ a professional management agent or agents at such compensation as the Board may establish, to perform such duties and services as the Board shall authorize. The Board may delegate such powers as are necessary to perform the manager's assigned duties but shall not delegate policymaking authority. Declarant or an affiliate of Declarant may be employed as managing agent or manager.

7.5 Compliance and Enforcement.

(a) Every Owner and occupant of a Unit shall comply with the Governing Documents. The Board may impose sanctions for violation of the Governing Documents after notice and a hearing in accordance, with the procedures set forth in Section 3.24 of the By-Laws. Such sanctions may include, without limitation:

- (i) imposing reasonable monetary fines which shall constitute a lien upon the violator's Unit. In the event that any occupant, guest or invitee of a Unit violates

the Governing Documents the fine shall be assessed against the Owner of such Unit;

- (ii) suspending an Owner's right to vote;
- (iii) suspending any services provided by the Association to an Owner or the Owner's Unit if the Owner is more than thirty (30) days delinquent in paying any assessment or other charge owed to the Association;
- (iv) exercising self-help or taking action to abate any violation of the Governing Documents in a non-emergency situation;
- (v) requiring an Owner, at its own expense, to remove any structure or improvement on such Owner's Unit in violation of Article IV and to restore the Unit to its previous condition and, upon failure of the Owner to do so, the Board or its designee shall have the right to enter the property, remove the violation and restore the property to substantially the same condition as previously existed and any such action shall not be deemed a trespass;
- (vi) without liability to any Person, precluding any contractor, subcontractor, agent, employee or other invitee of an Owner who fails to comply with the terms and provisions of Article IV and the Design & Community Guidelines from continuing or performing any further activities in the Properties; and
- (vii) levying Specific Assessments to cover costs incurred by the Association to bring a Unit into compliance with the Governing Documents.

(b) In addition, the Board may take the following enforcement procedures to ensure compliance with the Governing Documents without the necessity of compliance with the procedures set forth in Section 3.24 of the By-Laws:

- (i) exercising self-help in any emergency situation (specifically including, but not limited to, the towing of vehicles that are in violation of parking rules and regulations);
- (ii) bringing suit at law or in equity to enjoin any violation or to recover monetary damages or both.

(c) In addition to any other enforcement rights, if an Owner fails properly to perform his or her maintenance responsibility, the Association may, after reasonable prior written notice to the Owner, perform such maintenance responsibilities and assess all costs incurred by the Association against the Unit and the Owner as a Specific Assessment.

(d) All remedies set forth in the Governing Documents shall be cumulative of any remedies available at law or in equity. In any action to enforce the Governing Documents, if the Association prevails, it shall be entitled to recover all costs, including, without limitation, attorney's fees and court costs, reasonably incurred in such action.

(e) The Association shall not be obligated to take any action if the Board reasonably

determines that the Association's position is not strong enough to justify taking such action. Such a decision shall not be construed a waiver of the right of the Association to enforce such provision at a later time under other circumstances or estop the Association from enforcing any other covenant, restriction or rule.

7.6 Implied Rights; Board Authority.

The Association may exercise any right or privilege given to it expressly by the Governing Documents, or reasonably implied from or reasonably necessary to effectuate any such right or privilege. Except as otherwise specifically provided in the Governing Documents, or by law, all rights and powers of the Association may be exercised by the Board without a vote of the membership.

7.7 Indemnification of Officers, Directors and Others.

(a) The Association shall indemnify every officer, director, and committee member against all damages and expenses, including counsel fees, reasonably incurred in connection with any action, suit, or other proceeding (including settlement of any suit or proceeding, if approved by the then Board of Directors) to which he or she may be a party by reason of being or having been an officer, director, or committee member, except that such obligation to indemnify shall be limited to those actions for which liability is limited under North Carolina law.

(b) The officers, directors, and committee members shall not be liable for any mistake of judgment, negligent or otherwise, except for their own individual willful misfeasance, malfeasance, misconduct, or bad faith. The officers and directors shall have no personal liability with respect to any contract or other commitment made or action taken in good faith on behalf of the Association (except to the extent that such officers or directors may also be Members of the Association). The Association shall indemnify and forever hold each such officer, director and committee member harmless from any and all liability to others on account of any such contract, commitment or action, subject to the provisions of Article 8, Part 5, of the Nonprofit Corporation Act. This right to indemnification shall not be exclusive of any other rights to which any present or former officer, director, or committee member may be entitled. The Association shall, as a Common Expense, maintain adequate general liability and officers' and directors' liability insurance to fund this obligation, if such insurance is reasonably available.

7.8 Security.

The Association may, but shall not be obligated to, maintain or support certain activities within the Properties designed to make the Properties safer than they otherwise might be. Neither the Association nor Declarant shall in any way be considered insurers or guarantors of security within the Properties, nor shall either be held liable for any loss or damage by reason of failure to provide adequate security or ineffectiveness of security measures undertaken. No representation or warranty is made that any systems or measures, including any mechanism or system for limiting access to the Properties, cannot be compromised or circumvented, nor that any such systems or security measures undertaken will in all cases prevent loss or provide the detection or protection for which the system is designed or intended. Each Owner acknowledges, understands and covenants to inform its tenants and all occupants of its Unit that the Association, its Board and committees, and Declarant are not insurers and that each Person using the Properties assumes all risks of personal injury and loss or damage to property, including Units and the contents of Units, resulting from acts of third parties.

7.9 Provision of Services.

The Association shall be authorized but not obligated to enter into and terminate, in the Board's discretion, contracts or agreements with other entities, including Declarant, to provide services to and facilities for the Members of the Association and their guests, lessees and invitees and to charge use and consumption fees for such services and facilities. By way of example, some services and facilities which might be offered include landscape maintenance, pest control service, cable television service, security, caretaker, services, transportation, fire protection, utilities, and similar services and facilities.

ARTICLE VIII

ASSOCIATION FINANCES

8.1 Budgeting and Allocating Common Expenses.

(a) At least sixty (60) days before the beginning of each fiscal year, the Board shall prepare a budget of the estimated Common Expenses for the coming year, including any contributions to be made to a reserve fund pursuant to Section 8.3. The budget shall also reflect the sources and estimated amounts of funds to cover such expenses, which may include any surplus to be applied from prior years, any income expected from sources other than assessments levied against the Units, and the amount to be generated through the levy of Base Assessments and Special Assessments against the Units, as authorized in Section 8.6.

(b) The Association is hereby authorized to levy Base Assessments equally against all Units subject to assessment under Section 8.6 to fund the Common Expenses. In determining the Base Assessment rate per Unit, the Board may consider any assessment income expected to be generated from any additional Units reasonably anticipated to become subject to assessment during the fiscal year.

(c) Declarant may, but shall not be obligated to, reduce the Base Assessment for any fiscal year by payment of a subsidy (in addition to any amounts paid by Declarant under Section 8.8, which may be either a contribution, an advance against future assessments due from Declarant, or a loan, in Declarant's discretion. Any such subsidy shall be disclosed as a line item in the income portion of the budget. The payment of such subsidy in any year shall not obligate Declarant to continue payment of such subsidy in future years, unless otherwise provided in a written agreement between the Association and Declarant.

(d) Within thirty (30) days after adoption of any proposed budget, the Board shall provide to all the Owners a summary of the budget and a notice of a meeting to consider ratification of the budget, including a statement that the budget may be ratified without a quorum. The Board shall set a date for a meeting of the Owners to consider ratification of the budget, such meeting to be held not less than ten (10) nor more than sixty (60) days after mailing of the summary and notice. There shall be no requirement that a quorum be present at the meeting. The budget is ratified unless at that meeting 75% of all Owners reject the budget.

(e) If any proposed budget is disapproved or the Board fails for any reason to determine the budget for any year, then the budget most recently in effect shall continue in effect until a new budget is determined.

(f) The Board may revise the budget and adjust the Base Assessment from time to time during the year, subject to the notice requirements and the right of the Members to disapprove the revised budget as set forth above.

8.2 Budgeting for Reserves.

No later than three (3) years after the date this Declaration is Recorded, the Board shall prepare and review at least annually a reserve budget for the Area of Common Responsibility. The reserve budget shall take into account the number and nature of replaceable assets, the expected life of each asset, and the expected repair or replacement cost. The Board shall include in the Common Expense budget adopted pursuant to Section 8.1, as appropriate, a capital contribution to fund reserves in an amount sufficient to meet the projected need with respect both to amount and timing by annual contributions over the budget period.

8.3 Special Assessments.

In addition to other authorized assessments, the Association may levy Special Assessments to cover unbudgeted expenses or expenses in excess of those budgeted for. Any such Special Assessment assessed pursuant to this Section 8.3 shall be levied equally against all Owners. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Declaration, any Special Assessment shall require the affirmative vote or written consent of Class A Members representing more than 50% of the total Class A votes in the Association present at a noticed meeting where a quorum of Class A Members is present, and the affirmative vote or written consent of the Class B Member, if such exists. Special Assessments shall be payable in such manner and at such times as determined by the Board and may be payable in installments extending beyond the fiscal year in which the Special Assessment is approved.

8.4 Specific Assessments.

(a) The Association shall have the power to levy Specific Assessments against a particular Unit as follows:

- (i) to cover the costs, including overhead and administrative costs, of providing services to Units upon request of an Owner pursuant to any menu of special services which may be offered by the Association (which might include the items identified in Section 7.9). Specific Assessments for special services may be levied in advance of the provision of the requested service; and
- (ii) to cover costs incurred in bringing the Unit into compliance with the Governing Documents, or costs incurred as a consequence of the conduct of the Owner or occupants of the Unit, their agents, contractors, employees, licensees, invitees, or guests; *provided, however*, the Board shall give the Unit Owner prior written notice and an opportunity for a hearing, in accordance with Section 3.24 of the By-Laws, before levying any Specific Assessment under this subsection 8.4(a).

8.5 Authority to Assess Owners; Time of Payment.

(a) Declarant hereby establishes and the Association is hereby authorized to levy assessments as provided for in this Article and elsewhere in the Governing Documents. The obligation to pay assessments shall commence as to each Unit subject to the Declaration upon the earlier of: (i) one (1) year after such Unit is conveyed or transferred from Declarant; or (ii) upon the issuance of a certificate of

occupancy for the dwelling located on such Unit. The first annual Base Assessment levied on each Unit shall be adjusted according to the number of months remaining in the fiscal year at the time assessments commence on the Unit.

(b) Assessments shall be paid in such manner and on such dates as the Board may establish. The Board may require advance payment of assessments at closing of the transfer of title to a Unit. If the Board so elects, assessments may be paid in two (2) or more installments. Unless the Board otherwise provides, the Base Assessment shall be due and payable in advance on the first day of each fiscal year.

8.6 Personal Obligation.

(a) Each Owner, by accepting a deed for any portion of the Properties, is deemed to covenant and agree to pay all assessments authorized in the Governing Documents. All assessments, together with interest (computed from its due date at a rate of 10% per annum or such higher rate as the Board may establish, subject to the limitations of North Carolina law), late charges as determined by Board resolution and subject to the limitations of North Carolina law, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees, shall be the personal obligation of each Owner and a lien upon each Unit until paid in full. Upon a transfer of title to a Unit, the grantee shall be jointly and severally liable for any assessments and other charges due at the time of conveyance.

(b) Failure of the Board to determine an assessment or to deliver an assessment notice shall not be deemed a waiver or release of any Owner from the obligation to pay assessments. In such event, each Owner shall continue to pay assessments on the same basis as during the last year for which an assessment was made, if any, until a new assessment is levied, at which time the Association may retroactively assess any shortfalls in collections.

(c) The Association shall, upon request, furnish to any Owner liable for any type of assessment a certificate in writing signed by an Association officer setting forth whether such assessment has been paid. Such certificate shall be conclusive evidence of payment. The Association may require the advance payment of a reasonable processing fee for the issuance of such certificate.

8.7 Declarant's Option to Fund Budget Deficits.

At any time during the Class B Control Period, Declarant may elect its preferred method to satisfy its obligation for assessments on Units which it owns either by paying assessments in the same manner as any other Owner or by paying the difference between the amount of assessments levied on all other Units subject to assessment and the amount of actual expenditures by the Association during the fiscal year. Regardless of Declarant's election, Declarant's obligations hereunder may be satisfied in the form of cash or by "in kind" contributions of services or materials, or by a combination of these. After termination of the Class B Control Period, Declarant shall pay assessments on Units subject to assessment in the same manner as any other Owner.

8.8 Lien for Assessments.

(a) The Association shall have a lien against each Unit to secure payment of delinquent assessments, as well as interest, late charges (subject to the limitations of North Carolina law), and costs of collection (including reasonable attorney's fees). Such lien shall be superior to all other liens, except (i) the liens of all taxes, bonds, assessments, and other levies which by law would be superior, and (ii) the lien or charge of any first Mortgage of record (meaning any recorded Mortgage with first priority over other

Mortgages) made in good faith and for value. Such lien, when delinquent, may be enforced by suit, judgment, and judicial or nonjudicial foreclosure.

(b) The Association may bid for the Unit at the foreclosure sale and acquire, hold, lease, mortgage, and convey the Unit. While a Unit is owned by the Association following foreclosure: (i) no right to vote shall be exercised on its behalf; (ii) no assessment shall be levied on it; and (iii) each other Unit shall be charged, in addition to its usual assessment, its pro rata share of the assessment that would have been charged such Unit had it not been acquired by the Association. The Association may sue for unpaid assessments and other charges authorized hereunder without foreclosing or waiving the lien securing the same.

(c) The sale or transfer of any Unit shall not affect the assessment lien or relieve such Unit from the lien for any subsequent assessments. However, the sale or transfer of any Unit pursuant to foreclosure of the first Mortgage shall extinguish the lien as to any installments of such assessments due prior to the Mortgagee's foreclosure. The subsequent Owner to the foreclosed Unit shall not be personally liable for assessments on such Unit due prior to such acquisition of title. Such unpaid assessments shall be deemed to be Common Expenses collectible from Owners of all Units subject to assessment under Section 8.5, including such acquirer, its successors and assigns.

8.9 Exempt Property.

The following property shall be exempt from payment of Base Assessments and Special Assessments:

(a) All Common Area and such portions of the property owned by Declarant as are included in the Area of Common Responsibility pursuant to Section 7.2; and

(b) Any property dedicated to and accepted by any governmental authority or public utility.

8.10 Capitalization of Association.

Upon acquisition of record title to a Unit by the first Owner thereof other than Declarant or a Builder, a contribution shall be made by or on behalf of the purchaser to the working capital of the Association in the amount of three hundred fifty (\$350.00) dollars. This amount shall be in addition to, not in lieu of, the annual Base Assessment and shall not be considered an advance payment of such assessment. This amount shall be deposited into the purchase and sales escrow and disbursed therefrom to the Association for use in covering operating expenses and other expenses incurred by the Association pursuant to this Declaration and the By-Laws.

8.11 Limitations on Increases in Base Assessments.

Base Assessments may be increased by a maximum of 20% per year calculated on a cumulative and compounding basis.

PART FOUR: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ARTICLE IX

EXPANSION OF THE COMMUNITY

9.1 Expansion by Declarant.

(a) Declarant may from time to time subject to the provisions of this Declaration all or any property by Recording a Supplemental Declaration that describes the additional property to be subjected. A Supplemental Declaration Recorded pursuant to this Section shall not require the consent of any Person except the owner of such property, if other than Declarant.

(b) Declarant's right to subject additional property to the Declaration pursuant to this Section shall expire forty (40) years after the Recording of this Declaration in the Public Records. Until then, Declarant may transfer or assign this right to any Person who is the developer of at least a portion of the real property described in Exhibit A. Any such transfer shall be memorialized in a written, Recorded instrument executed by Declarant.

(c) Nothing in this Declaration shall be construed to require Declarant or any successor to subject additional property to this Declaration or to develop any of the property in any manner whatsoever.

9.2 Expansion by the Association.

The Association may also subject additional property to the provisions of this Declaration by filing a Supplemental Declaration in the Public Records describing the additional property. Any such Supplemental Declaration shall require the affirmative vote of Class A Members representing more than 50% of the Class A votes of the Association represented at a meeting duly called for such purpose where a quorum of Class A Members is present, and the consent of the owner(s) of the property. In addition, so long as Declarant owns property subject to this Declaration or which may become subject to this Declaration in accordance with Section 9.1, the consent of Declarant shall be necessary. The Supplemental Declaration shall be signed by the President and Secretary of the Association, by the owner(s) of the property, and by Declarant, if Declarant's consent is necessary.

9.3 Additional Covenants and Easements.

Declarant may subject any portion of the Properties to additional covenants and easements, including covenants obligating the Association to maintain and insure such property. Such additional covenants and easements may be set forth either in a Supplemental Declaration subjecting such property to this Declaration or in a separate Supplemental Declaration referencing property previously subjected to this Declaration. If the property is owned by someone other than Declarant, then the consent of the Owner(s) shall be necessary and shall be evidenced by their execution of the Supplemental Declaration. Any such Supplemental Declaration may supplement, create exceptions to, or otherwise modify the terms of this Declaration as it applies to the subject property in order to reflect the different character and intended use of such property.

ARTICLE X

ADDITIONAL RIGHTS RESERVED TO DECLARANT

In addition to any other rights reserved by Declarant, under any other provisions of the Declaration, Declarant reserves the following rights:

10.1 Withdrawal of Property.

Declarant reserves the right to amend this Declaration, so long as it has a right to annex additional property pursuant to Section 9.1, for the purpose of removing any portion of the Properties which has not yet been improved with structures from the coverage of this Declaration, provided such withdrawal is not unequivocally contrary to the overall, uniform scheme of development for the community. Such amendment shall not require the consent of any Person other than the Owner(s) of the property to be withdrawn, if not Declarant. If the property is Common Area, the Association shall consent to such withdrawal.

10.2 Marketing and Sales Activities.

Declarant and Builders authorized by Declarant may maintain and carry on upon portions of the Common Area such facilities and activities as, in the sole opinion of Declarant, may be reasonably required, convenient, or incidental to the construction or sale of Units, including, but not limited to, business offices, signs, model units, and sales offices. Declarant and authorized Builders shall have easements for access to and use of such facilities.

10.3 Right to Develop.

Declarant and its employees, agents and designees shall have a right of access and use and an easement over and upon all of the Common Area for the purpose of making, constructing and installing such improvements to the Common Area as it deems appropriate in its sole discretion. Every Person that acquires any interest in the Properties acknowledges that Marin Woods is a planned community, the development of which is likely to extend over many years, and agrees not to protest, challenge or otherwise object to changes in zoning, density, or the Subdivision Plan required to develop Marin Woods.

10.4 Right to Approve Additional Covenants.

No Person shall record any declaration of covenants, conditions and restrictions, or declaration of condominium or similar instrument affecting any portion of the Properties without Declarant's review and written consent. Any attempted recordation without such consent shall result in such instrument being void and of no force and effect unless subsequently approved by written consent signed by Declarant and Recorded in the Public Records.

10.5 Right to Approve Changes in Community Standards.

No amendment to or modification of any Use Restrictions and Rules or Design & Community Guidelines shall be effective without prior notice to and the written approval of Declarant so long as Declarant owns property subject to this Declaration, or which may become subject to this Declaration in accordance with Section 9.1.

10.6 Right to Transfer or Assign Declarant Rights.

Any or all of the special rights and obligations of Declarant set forth in this Declaration or the By-Laws may be transferred in whole or in part to other Persons; *provided, however*, the transfer shall not reduce

an obligation nor enlarge a right beyond that which Declarant has under this Declaration or the By-Laws. No such transfer or assignment shall be effective unless it is in a written instrument signed by Declarant and duly recorded in the Public Records. The foregoing sentence shall not preclude Declarant from permitting other Persons to exercise, on a one (1) time or limited basis, any right reserved to Declarant in this Declaration where Declarant does not intend to transfer such right in its entirety, and in such case it shall not be necessary to Record any written assignment unless necessary to evidence Declarant's consent to such exercise.

10.7 Exclusive Rights to Use Name of Development.

No Person shall use the name "Marin Woods" or any derivative of such name in any printed, electronic, or promotional material without Declarant's prior written consent. However, Owners may use the name "Marin Woods" in printed, electronic, or promotional matter where such term is used solely to specify that particular property is located within Marin Woods and the Association shall be entitled to use the word "Marin Woods" in its name.

10.8 Termination of Rights.

The rights contained in this Article shall not terminate until the earlier of (a) forty (40) years from the date this Declaration is Recorded in the Public Records, or (b) Recording by Declarant of a written statement that all sales activity has ceased.

PART FIVE: PROPERTY RIGHTS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

ARTICLE XI

EASEMENTS

In addition to any easements described in any Recorded plat applicable to the Properties, Declarant grants the following easements:

11.1 Easements in Common Area.

(a) Declarant grants to each Owner a nonexclusive right and easement of use, access, and enjoyment in and to the Common Area, subject to:

- (i) The Governing Documents and any other applicable covenants;
- (ii) Any restrictions or limitations contained in any deed conveying such property to the Association;
- (iii) The right of the Board to adopt rules regulating the use and enjoyment of the Common Area, including rules limiting the number of guests who may use the Common Area;

- (iv) The right of the Board to suspend the right of an Owner to use portions of the Common Area (A) for any period during which any charge against such Owner's Unit remains delinquent, and (B) for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days for a single violation or for a longer period in the case of any continuing violation, of the Governing Documents after notice and a hearing pursuant to Section 3.24 of the By-Laws;
- (v) The right of the Association, acting through the Board, to dedicate or transfer all or any part of the Common Area, subject to such approval requirements as may be set forth in this Declaration or applicable law; and
- (vi) The right of the Association, acting through the Board, to mortgage, pledge, or hypothecate any or all of its real or personal property as security for money borrowed or debts incurred, subject to the approval requirements set forth in Sections 14.5 and 16.4.

(b) Any Owner may extend his or her right of use and enjoyment to the members of his or her family, lessees, and social invitees, as applicable, subject to reasonable regulation by the Board. An Owner who leases his or her Unit shall be deemed to have assigned exclusive use of all such rights to the lessee of such Unit for the period of the lease.

11.2 Easements of Encroachment.

Declarant grants reciprocal appurtenant easements of encroachment, and for maintenance and use of any permitted encroachment, between each Unit and any adjacent Common Area and between adjacent Units due to the unintentional placement or settling or shifting of the improvements constructed, reconstructed, or altered thereon (in accordance with the terms of these restrictions) to a distance of not more than five feet, as measured from any point on the common boundary along a line perpendicular to such boundary. However, in no event shall an easement for encroachment exist if such encroachment occurred due to willful and knowing conduct on the part of, or with the knowledge and consent of, the Person claiming the benefit of such easement.

11.3 Easements for Utilities, Etc.

(a) Declarant reserves for itself, so long as Declarant owns any property described on Exhibit A of this Declaration, and grants to the Association and all utility providers, perpetual non-exclusive easements throughout all of the Properties (but not through a structure) to the extent reasonably necessary for the purpose of:

- (i) a specific twenty-five (25') foot utility and infrastructure easement along the front of each Unit and a five (5') foot utility easement adjacent to the side boundaries of each Unit, for the installation, operation, and maintenance of water and electrical service throughout the property described on Exhibit A for the installation and maintenance of walkways, pathways and trails, drainage systems, streetlights and signage;
- (ii) installing utilities and infrastructure to serve the Properties, water meters, cable and other systems for sending and receiving data and/or other electronic signals, security and similar systems, walkways, pathways and trails, drainage systems, streetlights and signage on property which Declarant owns or within public rights-of-way or easements reserved for

such purpose on recorded plats;

- (iii) inspecting, maintaining, repairing and replacing the utilities, infrastructure and other improvements described in subsection 11.3(a)(i) or subsection 11.3(a)(ii); and
- (iv) access to read utility meters.

(b) Declarant also reserves for itself the non-exclusive right and power to grant and Record such specific easements as may be necessary, in the sole discretion of Declarant, in connection, with the orderly development of any property described on Exhibit A.

11.4 Easements to Serve Additional Property.

(a) Declarant hereby reserves for itself and its duly authorized agents, successors, assigns, and mortgagees, an easement over the Common Area for the purposes of enjoyment, use, access, and development of the property, whether or not such property is made subject to this Declaration. This easement includes, but is not limited to, a right of ingress and egress over the Common Area for construction of roads and for connecting and installing infrastructure and utilities on such property.

(b) Declarant agrees that it and its successors or assigns shall be responsible for any damage caused to the Common Area as a result of vehicular traffic connected with development of such property. Declarant further agrees that if the easement is exercised for permanent access to such property and such property or any portion thereof benefiting from such easement is not made subject to this Declaration, Declarant, its successors or assigns shall enter into a reasonable agreement with the Association to share the cost of any maintenance which the Association provides to or along any roadway providing access to such Property.

11.5 Easements for Maintenance, Emergency and Enforcement.

Declarant grants to the Association easements over the Properties as necessary to enable the Association to fulfill its maintenance responsibilities under Section 7.2. The Association shall also have the right, but not the obligation, to enter upon any Unit for emergency, security, and safety reasons, to perform maintenance and to inspect for the purpose of ensuring compliance with and enforce the Governing Documents. Such right may be exercised by any member of the Board and its duly authorized agents and assignees, and all emergency personnel in the performance of their duties. Except in an emergency situation, entry shall only be during reasonable hours and after notice to the Owner.

11.6 Right to Grant Additional Easements.

Declarant reserves the right to grant easements of use, access, and enjoyment in and to the Common Area to additional Persons, so long as it has a right to annex additional property to the Declaration pursuant to Section 9.1.

PART SIX: RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY

ARTICLE XII

DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND LIMITATION ON LITIGATION

12.1 Consensus for Association Litigation.

Except as provided in this Section, the Association shall not commence a judicial or administrative proceeding without the approval of at least Class A Members representing at least 75% of the Class A Votes of the Association. This Section shall not apply, however, to (a) actions brought by the Association to enforce the Governing Documents (including, without limitation, the foreclosure of liens); (b) the collection of assessments; (c) proceedings involving challenges to ad valorem taxation; or (d) counterclaims brought by the Association in proceedings instituted against it. This Section shall not be amended unless such amendment is approved by the percentage of votes, and pursuant to the same procedure, necessary to institute proceedings as provided above.

12.2 Alternative Method for Resolving Disputes.

Declarant, the Association, its officers, directors, and committee members, all persons subject to this Declaration, any Builder and any person not otherwise subject to this Declaration who agrees to submit to this Article (collectively, "**Bound Parties**"), agree to encourage the amicable resolution of disputes involving the Properties, without the emotional and financial costs obligations. Accordingly, each Bound Party covenants and agrees to submit those claims, grievances or disputes described in Sections 12.3 ("**Claims**") to the procedures set forth in Section 12.3 in lieu of filing suit in any court.

12.3 Claims.

(a) Unless specifically exempted below, all Claims arising out of or relating to the interpretation, application or enforcement of the Governing Documents, or the rights, obligations and duties of any Bound Party under the Governing Documents or relating to the design or construction of improvements on the Properties shall be subject to the provisions of Section 12.4.

(b) Notwithstanding the above, unless all parties thereto otherwise agree, the following shall not be Claims and shall not be subject to the provisions of Section 12.4:

- (i) any suit by the Association against any Bound Party to enforce the provisions of Article VIII (Assessments);
- (ii) any suit by the Association to obtain a temporary restraining order (or equivalent emergency equitable relief) and such other ancillary relief as the court may deem necessary in order to maintain the status quo and preserve the Association's ability to enforce the provisions of Article III (Use and Conduct) and Article IV (Architecture and Landscaping);
- (iii) any suit between Owners, which does not include Declarant or the Association as a party, if such suit asserts a Claim which would constitute a cause of action independent of the Governing Documents;
- (iv) any suit in which any indispensable party is not a Bound Party;

- (v) any suit as to which any applicable statute of limitations would expire within one hundred eighty (180) days of giving the Notice required by subsection 12.4(a), unless the party or parties against whom the Claim is made agree to toll the statute of limitations as to such Claim for such period as may reasonably be necessary to comply with this Article; and

(c) With the consent of all parties thereto, any of the above may be submitted to the alternative dispute resolution procedures set forth in Section 12.4.

12.4 Mandatory Procedures.

(a) Notice. Any Bound Party having a Claim ("**Claimant**") against any other Bound Party ("**Respondent**") (collectively, the "**Parties**") shall notify each Respondent in writing (the "**Notice**"), stating plainly and concisely:

- (i) the nature of the Claim, including the Persons involved and Respondent's role in the Claim;
- (ii) the legal basis of the Claim (i.e., the specific authority out of which the Claim arises);
- (iii) Claimant's proposed remedy; and
- (iv) that Claimant will meet with Respondent to discuss in good faith ways to resolve the Claim.

(b) Negotiation and Mediation.

- (i) The Parties shall make every reasonable effort to meet in person and confer for the purpose of resolving the Claim by good faith negotiation. If requested in writing, accompanied by a copy of the Notice, the Board may appoint a representative to assist the Parties in negotiation.
- (ii) if the Parties do not resolve the Claim within thirty (30) days of the date of the Notice (or within such other period as may be agreed upon by the Parties), ("**Termination of Negotiations**"), Claimant shall have thirty (30) additional days to submit the Claim to mediation under the auspices of an independent agency providing dispute resolution services in the Raleigh, North Carolina area.
- (iii) If Claimant does not submit the Claim to mediation within such time, or does not appear for the mediation, Claimant shall be deemed to have waived the Claim, and Respondent shall be released and discharged from any and all liability to Claimant on account of such Claim; *provided, however*, nothing herein shall release or discharge Respondent from any liability to any Person other than the Claimant.
- (iv) Any settlement of the Claim through mediation shall be documented in writing by the mediator and signed by the Parties. If the Parties do not settle the Claim within thirty (30) days after submission of the matter to the mediation, or within such time as determined by the mediator, the mediator shall issue a notice of termination of

the mediation proceedings ("**Termination of Mediation**"). The Termination of Mediation notice shall set forth that the Parties are at an impasse and the date that mediation was terminated.

- (v) Within five (5) days of the Termination of Mediation, the Claimant shall make a final written settlement demand ("**Settlement Demand**") to the Respondent, and the Respondent shall make a final written settlement offer ("**Settlement Offer**") to the Claimant. If the Claimant fails to make a Settlement Demand, Claimant's original Notice shall constitute the Settlement Demand. If the Respondent fails to make a Settlement Offer, Respondent shall be deemed to have made a "zero" or "take nothing" Settlement Offer.

(c) Final and Binding Arbitration.

- (i) If the Parties do not agree in writing to a settlement of the Claim within fifteen (15) days of the Termination of Mediation, the Claimant shall have fifteen (15) additional days to submit the Claim to arbitration in accordance with the Rules of Arbitration contained in Exhibit C or such rules as may be required by the agency providing the arbitrator. If not timely submitted to arbitration or if the Claimant fails to appear for the arbitration proceeding, the Claim shall be deemed abandoned, and Respondent shall be released and discharged from any and all liability to Claimant arising out of such Claim; *provided, however*, nothing herein shall release or discharge Respondent from any liability to Persons other than Claimant.
- (ii) This subsection 12.4(c) is an agreement to arbitrate and is specifically enforceable under the applicable arbitration laws of the State of North Carolina. The arbitration award (the "**Award**") shall be final and binding, and judgment may be entered upon it in any court of competent jurisdiction to the fullest extent permitted under the laws of the State of North Carolina.

12.5 Allocation of Costs of Resolving Claims.

(a) Subject to subsection 12.5(b), each Party shall bear its own costs, including attorney's fees, and each Party shall share equally all charges rendered by the mediator(s) and all filing fees and costs of conducting the arbitration proceeding ("**Post Mediation Costs**").

(b) Any Award which is equal to or more favorable to Claimant than Claimant's Settlement Demand shall add Claimant's Post Mediation Costs to the Award, such costs to be borne equally by all Respondents. Any Award which is equal to or less favorable to Claimant than any Respondent's Settlement Offer shall award to such Respondent its Post Mediation Costs.

12.6 Enforcement of Resolution.

After resolution of any Claim, if any Party fails to abide by the terms of any agreement or Award, then any other Party may file suit or initiate administrative proceedings to enforce such agreement or Award without the need to again comply with the procedures set forth in Section

12.4. In such event, the Party taking action to enforce the agreement or Award shall be entitled to recover from the non-complying Party (or if more than one non-complying Party, from all such Parties pro-rata)

all costs incurred in enforcing such agreement or Award, including, without limitation, attorneys' fees and court costs.

ARTICLE XIII

MORTGAGEE PROVISIONS

The following provisions are for the benefit of holders, insurers and guarantors of first Mortgages on Units in the Properties. The provisions of this Article apply to both this Declaration and to the By-Laws, notwithstanding any other provisions contained therein.

14.1 Notices of Action.

An institutional holder, insurer, or guarantor of a first Mortgage who provides a written request to the Association (such request to state the name and address of such holder, insurer, or guarantor and the street address of the Unit to which its Mortgage relates, thereby becoming an "**Eligible Holder**"), will be entitled to timely written notice of:

(a) Any casualty loss covered by insurance policies held by the Association which affects a material portion of the Properties or which affects any Unit on which there is a first Mortgage held, insured, or guaranteed by such Eligible Holder; or

(b) Any delinquency in the payment of assessments or charges owed by a Unit subject to the Mortgage of such Eligible Holder, where the Association has commenced enforcement proceedings or collection actions against the Owner of such Unit.

14.2 No Priority.

No provision of this Declaration or the By-Laws gives or shall be construed as giving any Owner or other party priority over any rights of the first Mortgagee of any Unit in the case of distribution to such Owner of insurance proceeds or condemnation awards for losses to or a taking of the Common Area.

14.3 Notice to Association.

Upon request, each Owner shall be obligated to furnish to the Association the name and address of the holder of any Mortgage encumbering such Owner's Unit.

14.4 Failure of Mortgagee to Respond.

Any Mortgagee who receives a written request from the Board to respond to or consent to any action shall be deemed to have approved such action if the Association does not receive a written response from the Mortgagee within thirty (30) days of the date of the Association's request, provided such request is delivered to the Mortgagee by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested.

14.5 HUD/VA Approval.

As long as there is a Class B membership, the following actions shall require the prior approval of the

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, if either such agency is insuring or guaranteeing the Mortgage on any Unit: merger, consolidation or dissolution of the Association; annexation of additional property; dedication, conveyance or mortgaging of Common Area; or material amendment of this Declaration or the Articles. The granting of easements for utilities or other similar purposes consistent with the intended use of the Common Area shall not be deemed a conveyance within the meaning of this Section.

PART SEVEN: CHANGES IN THE COMMUNITY

ARTICLE XIV

CHANGES IN OWNERSHIP OF UNITS

Any Owner desiring to sell or otherwise transfer his or her Unit shall give the Board at least seven (7) days prior written notice of the name and address of the purchaser or transferee, the date of such transfer of title, and such other information as the Board may reasonably require. In addition, the transferee shall pay to the Association such administrative charge amount as may be established from time-to-time by resolution of the Board, in reimbursement of the administrative costs incurred by the Association in connection with the Unit transfer. The transferor shall continue to be jointly and severally responsible with the transferee for all obligations of the Owner of the Units, including assessment obligations, until the date upon which such notice is received by the Board, notwithstanding the transfer of title.

ARTICLE XV

CHANGES IN COMMON AREA

15.1 Condemnation.

If any part of the Common Area shall be taken (or conveyed in lieu of and under threat of condemnation by the Board acting on the written direction of Class A Members representing at least 67% of the total Class A votes in the Association and of Declarant, as long as Declarant owns any property subject to the Declaration or which may be made subject to the Declaration in accordance with Section 9.1) by any authority having the power of condemnation or eminent domain, each Owner shall be entitled to written notice of such taking or conveyance prior to disbursement of any condemnation award or proceeds from such conveyance. Such award or proceeds shall be payable to the Association and the Association shall restore or replace such improvements, if any, on the remaining land included in the Common Area to the extent available. Otherwise, then such award or net funds shall be disbursed to the Association and used for such purposes as the Board shall determine.

15.2 Partition.

Except as permitted in this Declaration, the Common Area shall remain undivided, and no Person shall bring any action partition of any portion of the Common Area without the written consent of all Owners

and Mortgagees. This Section shall not prohibit the Board from acquiring and disposing of tangible personal property nor from acquiring and disposing of real property which may or may not be subject to this Declaration.

15.3 Actions Requiring Owner Approval.

If either the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is insuring or guaranteeing the Mortgage on any Unit, then the following actions shall require the prior approval of not less than two-thirds of the total Class A votes in the Association (excluding votes held by Declarant) and the consent of the Class B Member, if such exists: merger, consolidation or dissolution of the Association; annexation of additional property; and dedication, conveyance or mortgaging of Common Area. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Section 17.1 or this section, the Association, acting through the Board, may grant easements over the Common Area for installation and maintenance of utilities and drainage facilities and for other purposes not inconsistent with the intended use of the Common Area, without the approval of the membership.

ARTICLE XVI

AMENDMENT OF DECLARATION

16.1 By Declarant.

Until termination of the Class B membership, Declarant may unilaterally amend this Declaration if such amendment is necessary (a) to bring any provision into compliance with any applicable governmental statute, rule, regulation, or judicial determination; (b) to enable any reputable title insurance company to issue title insurance coverage on the Units; (c) to enable any institutional or governmental lender, purchaser, insurer or guarantor of mortgage loans, including, for example, the Federal National Mortgage Association or Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, to make, purchase, insure or guarantee mortgage loans on the Units; or (d) to satisfy the requirements of any local, state or federal governmental agency. However, any such amendment shall not adversely affect the title to any Unit unless the Owner shall consent in writing. In addition, so long as Declarant owns property and or a lot described in Exhibit A for development as part of the Properties, it may unilaterally amend this Declaration for any other purpose including adding any property or lot to this Declaration that may be annexed into the development at a later date.

16.2 By Members.

(a) Except as otherwise specifically provided above and elsewhere in this Declaration, this Declaration may be amended only by the affirmative vote or written consent, or any combination thereof, of Class A Members representing at least 67% of the total Class A votes in the Association, including 67% of the Class A votes held by Members other than Declarant, and the consent of Declarant, so long as Declarant owns any property subject to this Declaration or which may become subject to this Declaration in accordance with Section 9.1. In addition, the approval requirements set forth in Article XIV shall be met, if applicable.

(b) Notwithstanding the above, the percentage of votes necessary to amend a specific clause shall not be less than the prescribed percentage of affirmative votes required for action to be taken under

that clause.

16.3 Validity and Effective Date.

(a) No amendment may remove, revoke, or modify any right or privilege of Declarant or the Class B Member without the written consent of Declarant or the Class B Member, respectively (or the assignee of such right or privilege).

(b) If an Owner consents to any amendment to this Declaration or the By-Laws, it will be conclusively presumed that such Owner has the authority to consent, and no contrary provision in any Mortgage or contract between the Owner and a third party will affect the validity of such amendment.

(c) Any amendment shall become effective upon Recording in the Public Records, unless a later effective date is specified in the amendment. Any procedural challenge to an amendment must be made within six (6) months of its Recordation or such amendment shall be presumed to have been validly adopted. In no event shall a change of conditions or circumstances operate to amend any provisions of this Declaration.

16.4 Exhibits.

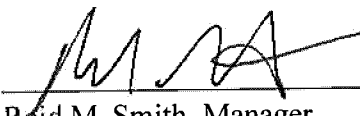
Exhibit A is attached to this Declaration are incorporated by this reference and amendment of such exhibits shall be governed by this Article. Exhibit B is attached for informational purposes and may be amended as provided in Article III. Exhibit C may be amended as provided therein.

[Signature Page Follows]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned Declarant has executed this Declaration under seal the date and year first written above.

DECLARANT:

MARIN WOODS, LLC
a North Carolina limited liability company

By: 
Reid M. Smith, Manager

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF JOHNSTON

I certify that the following person personally appeared before me this day, each acknowledging to me that he voluntarily signed the foregoing document for the purpose stated therein and, in the capacity, indicated: Reid M. Smith, Manager of Marin Woods, LLC, a North Carolina limited liability company.

This the 21 day of March, 2024.

Public

, Notary

My Commission Expires:
Apr. 11, 2027

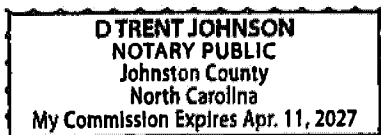


Exhibit A
Land Initially Submitted

Being all of those certain tracts or parcels of land located in Smithfield Township, Johnston County, North Carolina, being more particularly described as Lots 1-37 and 131-142 and those areas identified as “Private Open Space” on that certain plat entitled “Subdivision Plat for Marin Woods Subdivision Phase 1” prepared by Aerial and Ground Surveying, PLLC (P-2586) dated July 10, 2023 and recorded in Plat Book 99, at Pages 113-117 in the Johnston County Register of Deeds on August 15, 2023.

Exhibit B
Initial Use Restrictions and Rules

The following restrictions shall apply to all of the Properties until such time as they are amended, modified, repealed or limited by Use Restrictions of the Association adopted pursuant to Article III of the Declaration or as otherwise provided in the Declaration.

1. General.

(a) The Properties shall be used only for residential, recreational, and related purposes (which may include, without limitation, an information center and/or a sales office for any real estate broker retained by Declarant and/or a Builder to assist in the sale of property described on Exhibit A, Offices for any property manager retained by the Association, and business offices and construction areas for Declarant, Builder, or the Association) consistent with this Declaration and any Supplemental Declaration.

2. Restricted Activities. The following activities are prohibited within the Properties unless expressly authorized by, and then subject to such conditions as may be imposed by, the Board of Directors:

(a) Recreational vehicles, watercrafts, boards, trailers, campers, etc. shall not park on the street other than for loading and unloading purposes.

(b) Posting or maintaining any sign, banner or advertisement, unless approved by the Reviewer under Article IV and maintained in a manner consistent with the Design Review Guidelines and any applicable governmental regulations;

(c) Subdivision of a Unit into two (2) or more Units, or changing the boundary lines of any Unit after a subdivision plat including such Unit has been approved and filed in the Public Records, except that Declarant shall be permitted to subdivide or replat Units which it owns;

(d) Accumulation of rubbish, trash, construction debris, yard waste, or similar garbage;

(e) Use of any Unit for operation of a timesharing, fraction-sharing, or similar program whereby the right to exclusive use of the Unit rotates among participants in the program on a fixed or floating time schedule over a period of years;

(f) Capturing, trapping, or killing of wildlife within the Properties, unless authorized by Declarant or the Association;

(g) Holiday lighting and decorations on the exterior of Units except for lighting and decorations that are displayed in commemoration or celebration of publicly observed holidays;

(h) The barter, sale, or exchange of new or used personal property at any Lot, commonly referred to as "yard sales," "moving sales," "estate sales," "attic sales," "rummage sales," and/or "garage sales," will be allowed only if (A) sponsored by the Association, or (B) expressly authorized in writing by the Board;

(i) Raising, breeding or keeping of animals, livestock, or poultry of any kind, except that a reasonable number of dogs, cats, or other usual and common household pets may be permitted in a Unit. Pet owners shall comply with all applicable County and State regulations and ordinances regarding animals and pets;

(j) Changing, altering, impeding, dumping, or otherwise interfering with the flow and volume of stormwater in any portion of the drainage and stormwater plan;

(k) Any business, trade, or similar activity, except that an Owner or occupant residing in a Unit may conduct business activities within the Unit so long as: (i) the existence or operation of the business activity is not apparent or detectable by sight, sound, or smell from outside the Unit; (ii) the business activity conforms to all zoning requirements for the Properties; (iii) the business activity does not involve regular visitation of the Unit by clients, customers, suppliers, or other business invitees or door-to-door solicitation of residents of the Properties; and (iv) the business activity is consistent with the residential character of the Properties and does not constitute a nuisance, or a hazardous or offensive use, or threaten the security or safety of other residents of the Properties, as may be determined in the sole discretion of the Board.

The terms "business" and "trade," as used in this provision, shall be construed to have their ordinary, generally accepted meanings and shall include, without limitation, any occupation, work, or activity undertaken on an ongoing basis which involves the provision of goods or services to persons other than the provider's family and for which the provider receives a fee, compensation, or other form of consideration, regardless of whether: (i) such activity is engaged in full or part-time, (ii) such activity is intended to or does generate a profit, or (iii) a license is required.

The leasing of a Unit shall not be considered a business or trade within the meaning of this subsection;

(l) Any construction, erection, or placement of any thing, permanently or temporarily, on the outside portions of the Unit, whether such portion is improved or unimproved, except in strict compliance with the provisions of Article IV of the Declaration. This shall include, without limitation, signs, basketball hoops, swing sets and similar sports and play equipment, clotheslines, garbage cans, woodpiles, above-ground swimming pools, hedges, landscaping, walls, dog runs, animal pens, or fences of any kind;

(m) Unless otherwise provided by law, placement of antennas, satellite dishes, or other apparatus for the transmission, reception, or communication of television, radio, satellite, or other signals except for one (1) small receiver which may be located in the side or rear yard, installed adjacent to the

residence, and integrated with the residential structure and landscaping. Unless otherwise provided by law, dishes shall not exceed 40 inches (40") in diameter. Any such devices shall be screened or landscaped from view from the street and adjacent Units;

3. Prohibited Conditions. The following shall be prohibited within the Properties:

(a) Any activity which violates Town of Smithfield, Johnston County, State of North Carolina, or Federal laws, codes, and regulations; however, the Board shall have no obligation to take enforcement action in the event of a violation or citation;

(b) Items on the exterior of a dwelling or Unit, including but not limited to the dwelling, structures, landscaping, and equipment that have become dilapidated, rusty, destroyed, or otherwise fallen into disrepair;

(c) Fishing, swimming, boating, use of personal flotation devices, or other active use of ponds, streams, or other bodies of water, including permanent stormwater control measures within the Properties. The Association shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, or injury to any person or property arising out of the authorized or unauthorized use of ponds, streams, permanent stormwater control measures, or other bodies of water within or adjacent to the Properties;

(d) Plants, animals, devices, hobbies, or other things of any sort whose activities or existence in any way is noxious, dangerous, unsightly, unpleasant, or of a nature as may diminish or destroy the enjoyment of the Properties;

(e) Use and discharge of firecrackers and other fireworks; *provided, however*, the Board shall have no obligation to take action to prevent or stop such discharge or activities;

(f) Any activities which materially disturb or destroy the vegetation, wildlife, wetlands, or air quality within the Properties or which use excessive amounts of water or which result in unreasonable levels of sound or light pollution;

(g) Dumping of grass clippings, yard waste, leaves, or other debris, petroleum products, fertilizers, or other potentially hazardous or toxic substances in any drainage ditch, stream, pond, riparian buffer, wetlands, or elsewhere within the Properties;

(h) Pursuit of hobbies or other activities which tend to cause an unclean, unhealthy or untidy condition to exist outside of enclosed structures on the Unit;

(i) Any noxious or offensive activity or hobbies which in the reasonable determination of the Board tends to cause embarrassment, discomfort, annoyance, or nuisance to persons using the Common Area or to the occupants of other Units or that tend to cause an unclean, unhealthy, or untidy condition to exist outside of enclosed structures on the Unit;

(j) Sprinkler or irrigation systems or wells of any type which draw upon water from creeks,

streams, rivers, ponds, wetlands, canals, or other ground or surface;

(k) No mailbox (which term shall be deemed to include the post) shall be erected or maintained on any Unit. Individual mailboxes are strictly prohibited and cluster mailbox units shall be constructed for mail delivery to Marin Woods. The maintenance of the cluster mailbox units shall be the responsibility of the Association.

Exhibit C
Rules of Arbitration

1. Claimant shall submit a Claim to arbitration under these Rules by giving written notice to all other Parties stating plainly and concisely the nature of the Claim, the remedy sought and Claimant's submission of the Claim to arbitration ("Arbitration Notice").
2. The Parties shall select arbitrators ("Party Appointed Arbitrators") as follows: all the Claimants shall agree upon one (1) Party Appointed Arbitrator, and all the Respondents shall agree upon one (1) Party Appointed Arbitrator. The Party Appointed Arbitrators shall, by agreement, select one (1) neutral arbitrator ("Neutral") so that the total arbitration panel ("Panel") has three (3) arbitrators.
3. If the Panel is not selected under Rule 2 within forty-five (45) days from the date of the Arbitration Notice, any party may notify the nearest chapter of The Community Associations Institute, for any dispute arising under the Governing Documents, or the American Arbitration Association, or such other independent body providing arbitration services, for any dispute relating to the design or construction of improvements on the Properties, which shall appoint one (1) Neutral ("Appointed Neutral"), notifying the Appointed Neutral and all Parties in writing of such appointment. The Appointed Neutral shall thereafter be the sole arbitrator and any Party Appointed Arbitrators or their designees shall have no further duties involving the arbitration proceedings.
4. No person may serve as a Neutral in any arbitration in which that person has any financial or personal interest in the result of the arbitration. Any person designated as a Neutral or Appointed Neutral shall immediately disclose in writing to all Parties any circumstance likely to affect impartiality, including any bias or financial or personal interest in the outcome of the arbitration ("Bias Disclosure"). If any Party objects to the service of any Neutral or Appointed Neutral after receipt of that Neutral's Bias Disclosure, such Neutral or Appointed Neutral shall be replaced in the same manner in which that Neutral or Appointed Neutral was selected.
5. The Appointed Neutral or Neutral, as the case may be ("Arbitrator") shall fix the date, time and place for the hearing. The place of the hearing shall be within the Properties unless otherwise agreed by the Parties. In fixing the date of the hearing, or in continuing a hearing, the Arbitrator shall take into consideration the amount of time reasonably required to determine Claimant's damages accurately.
6. Any Party may be represented by an attorney or other authorized representative throughout the arbitration proceedings. In the event the Respondent fails to participate in the arbitration proceeding, the Arbitrator may not enter an Award by default, but shall hear the Claimant's case and decide accordingly.
7. All persons who, in the judgment of the Arbitrator, have a direct interest in the arbitration are entitled to attend hearings. The Arbitrator shall determine any relevant legal issues, including whether

all indispensable parties are Bound Parties or whether the claim is barred by the statute of limitations.

8. There shall be no stenographic record of the proceedings.

9. The hearing shall be conducted in whatever manner will, in the Arbitrator's judgment, most fairly and expeditiously permit the full presentation of the evidence and arguments of the Parties. The Arbitrator may issue such orders as it deems necessary to safeguard rights of the Parties in the dispute without prejudice to the rights of the Parties or the final determination of the dispute.

10. If the Arbitrator decides that it has insufficient expertise to determine a relevant issue raised during arbitration, the Arbitrator may retain the services of an independent expert who will assist the Arbitrator in making the necessary determination. The scope of such professional's assistance shall be determined by the Arbitrator at the Arbitrator's discretion. Such independent professional must not have any bias or financial or personal interest in the outcome of the arbitration and shall immediately notify the Parties of any such bias or interest by delivering a Bias Disclosure to the Parties. If any Party objects to the service of any professional after receipt of a Bias Disclosure, such professional shall be replaced by another independent licensed professional selected by the Arbitrator.

11. No formal discovery shall be conducted in the absence of express written agreement among all the Parties. The only evidence to be presented at the hearing shall be that which is disclosed to all Parties at least thirty (30) days prior to the hearing; *provided, however*, no Party shall deliberately withhold or refuse to disclose any evidence which is relevant and material to the Claim, and is not otherwise privileged. The Parties may offer such evidence as is relevant and material to the Claim and shall produce such additional evidence as the Arbitrator may deem necessary to an understanding and determination of the Claim. The Arbitrator shall be the sole judge of the relevance and materiality of any evidence offered, and conformity to the legal rules of evidence shall not be necessary. The Arbitrator shall be authorized, but not required, to administer oaths to witnesses.

12. The Arbitrator shall declare the hearings closed when satisfied the record is complete.

13. There will be no post hearing briefs.

14. The Award shall be rendered immediately following the close of the hearing, if possible, and no later than fourteen (14) days from the close of the hearing, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties. The Award shall be in writing, shall be signed by the Arbitrator and acknowledged before a notary public. If the Arbitrator believes an opinion is necessary, it shall be in summary form.

15. If there is more than one (1) arbitrator, all decisions of the Panel and the Award shall be by majority vote.

16. Each Party agrees to accept as legal delivery of the Award the deposit of a true copy in the mail addressed to that Party or its attorney at the address communicated to the Arbitrator at the hearing.