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Charles C. Woodroof
Judge of Probate
Limestone County, AL

This instrument prepared by:
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Pensacola FL 32502
File# 24-294366

**STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF LIMESTONE**

**DECLARATION OF COVENANTS AND RESTRICTIONS
FOR
SONOMA VALLEY SUBDIVISION**

BE IT KNOWN, that on the 24th day of July, 2024, this Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions (this “**Declaration**”) for the above-named subdivision of the Property (as defined below) is made by DLSD HOMES GULF COAST LLC (“**Declarant**”), an Alabama limited liability company, by and through its duly authorized below-named representatives, who did depose and say that Declarant owns certain real property located in the above-named County and described in Exhibit A attached hereto together with the improvements thereon (collectively the “**Initial Property**”).

WHEREAS, Declarant desires to establish a general plan of development for the Property (defined below) and to provide for the operation, administration, and maintenance of the Property (defined below) or portions of the Property. Declarant deems it advisable to create a residential planned community on the Property, with a homeowners association to perform the functions and activities more fully described in this Declaration and the other Community Documents.

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with Code of Alabama Title 35, Chapter 20, *et seq.*, and the Alabama Homeowners Association Act, Declarant hereby establishes and imposes the following building, use and subdivision restrictions and restrictive covenants as charges affecting the Property:

ARTICLE 1
DEFINITIONS

The terms used in this Declaration will generally be given their natural, commonly accepted definitions except as otherwise specified. Capitalized terms in this Declaration (including the capitalized terms used above) will be defined as set forth in this Article 1. Additional terms may be defined in the body of this Declaration.

1.1. “**Act**” means the Alabama Homeowners Association Act, Code of Alabama Title 35, Chapter 20, and any successor statutes to the said Alabama Homeowners Association Act.

1.2. “Additional Land” means real property which may be, following the recordation of this Declaration and as of the date of any identification of Additional Land, added to the Property and subjected to this Declaration by Declarant, as described in Section 15.5.2, or as otherwise permitted in Section 2.2.

1.3. “Architectural Reviewer” means the entity having jurisdiction over a particular application for architectural approval. During the Development Period, the Architectural Reviewer is Declarant, Declarant's designee, or Declarant's delegatee. Thereafter, the Board-appointed Architectural Control Committee is the Architectural Reviewer.

1.4. “Assessment” means any charge levied against a Lot or Owner by the Association, pursuant to this Declaration, any other Community Documents or law of the State of Alabama.

1.5. “Association” means the SONOMA VALLEY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, an Alabama not-for-profit corporation, its successors and assigns, whose members are the Owners, and who is responsible for maintaining the Common Area of those portions of the Property in Sonoma Valley Subdivision designated as residential on the Initial Plat and enforcing this Declaration in accordance with the terms and provisions of this Declaration. The Association is an association of Owners of all Lots in the Property serving as a “homeowners association” as that term is defined in the Alabama Homeowners Association Act.

1.6. “Board” means the Board of Directors of the Association.

1.7. “Builder” means any Person, other than Declarant or a Declarant Affiliate, who purchases: (i) one (1) or more Lots for the purpose of constructing Improvements for later sale to consumers, or (ii) parcels of land within the Property for further subdivision, development, and/or resale in the ordinary course of such Person's business. A Builder ceases to be a “Builder” as to a particular Lot if the Builder (or a Person authorized by Builder) occupies improvements constructed on that Lot as a residence; the Builder's status as a “Builder” continues with respect to any other: (a) Lots purchased for the purpose of constructing Improvements for later sale to consumers and which do not have improvements constructed thereon occupied by a Person as a residence, or (b) parcels of land purchased within the Property for further subdivision, development, and/or resale in the ordinary course of such Person's business and which do not have improvements constructed thereon which are occupied by a Person as a residence.

1.8. “Bylaws” means the Bylaws of the Association, as amended from time to time.

1.9. “Certificate of Formation” or “Certificate” means the Certificate of Formation of the Association, as filed with the Secretary of State for the State of Alabama, as amended from time to time.

1.10. “Common Area” means portions of real property and improvements thereon that are owned and/or maintained by the Association, and as the term is defined in the Act.

1.11. “Community Documents” means, singly or collectively as the case may be, this Declaration, the subdivision Plat, the Bylaws of the Association, the Association's Certificate of Formation, and any rules of the Association, as any of these may be amended from time to time, and as the term is defined in the Alabama Homeowners Association Act.

1.12. “Declarant” means DSLD HOMES GULF COAST LLC which is developing the Property, or the successors and assigns of DSLD HOMES GULF COAST LLC, which are designated a Successor Declarant by DSLD HOMES GULF COAST LLC, or by any such successor and assign, in a recorded document, executed by both Declarant and Successor Declarant in the case of a voluntary assignment. In executing this instrument, Declarant is the appearer.

1.13. “Declarant Affiliate” means a Person (other than Declarant) that directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries, controls, is controlled by, or is under common control, with Declarant. The term “control” (including the terms “controlled by” and “under common control with”) means the possession, directly or indirectly, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of Declarant, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract or otherwise.

1.14. “Declaration” means this document, as it may be amended from time to time, and also has the meaning of “declaration” as defined in the Alabama Homeowners Association Act. This Declaration comes within the meaning of “Building Restrictions” as provided by the Alabama Homeowners Association Act.

1.15. “Development Period” means that period of time during which Declarant has certain rights pursuant to this Agreement, such as rights relating to governance, architectural control, development, construction, expansion, and marketing of the Property. The Development Period is for a term of years and does not require that Declarant own land described in Exhibit A or any Additional Land. The duration of the Development Period will be from the date this Declaration is recorded until the later of (1) 20 years after this Declaration is recorded, or (2) 60 days after title to one hundred percent (100%) of the Lots that may be created in the Property (including without limitation any and all Additional Land) have been improved with dwellings and conveyed to Owners other than Declarant, a Declarant Affiliate, or Builders. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Declarant may voluntarily terminate the Development Period with a written notice executed by Declarant and recorded in the conveyance records of the County.

1.16. “Governmental Authority” means any, each and all of the following: (a) the United States of America, (b) the State of Alabama, (c) any other State of the United States of America, (d) any political subdivision of any of the foregoing, (e) any agency, department, commission, board or bureau of any of the foregoing, and (f) any County, municipality, tribunal, instrumentality or court having jurisdiction over Sonoma Valley Subdivision or any of the uses that may be made of Lots or other portions of Sonoma Valley Subdivision .

1.17. “Lot” means a portion of the Property intended for independent ownership and residential use, as defined in the Alabama Homeowners Association Act. As a defined term, “Lot” does not refer to Common Areas, even if platted and numbered as a lot. Where the context indicates or requires, “Lot” includes all improvements thereon and any portion of a right-of-way that customarily is used exclusively by and in connection with the Lot.

1.18. “Member” means a Person entitled to membership in an Association, as provided in Section 7.2, with voting rights as set forth in Section 7.3. A Member will also mean an Owner. If multiple Persons own a Lot, the Owners of that Lot will, collectively, constitute one (1) Member as Owner of that Lot.

1.19. “Owner” means a holder of recorded fee simple title to a Lot. Every Owner is a Member.

1.20. “County” means the County in which the Property is located.

1.21. “Person” means any natural person, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, trustee, joint venture, association, joint stock company, trust, unincorporated organization, Governmental Authority, government or any agency or political subdivision of a Governmental Authority, or any other form of entity.

1.22. “Plat” means all subdivision plats, singly and collectively, recorded in the conveyance records of the above-named County, pertaining to the Property, including all dedications, limitations, restrictions, easements, notes, and reservations shown on the plat, as it may be amended from time to time.

1.23. “Property” and **“SONOMA VALLEY SUBDIVISION”** and **“the Subdivision”** all mean and include the land described in Exhibit A of this Declaration together with all Additional Land, and includes every Lot and any Common Area thereon and all improvements, easements, easements, rights, and appurtenances to the said Common Area, all of which are subject to this Declaration. The Common Area, together with all improvements, easements, rights, and right of ways to the said Common Area also has the meaning of “association property” as defined in the Alabama Homeowners Association Act. The Property (i.e., **SONOMA VALLEY SUBDIVISION**) is a “residential planned community” within the meaning of the Alabama Homeowners Association Act. Whenever a situation arises where it is necessary or otherwise relevant to identify the Property, the Property at the time of such identification will include: (a) the land described on Exhibit A of this Declaration; (b) all Additional Land added to the Property at that time of such identification of the Property as provided in Section 15.5.2, or as otherwise permitted in Section 2.2; and (c) every Lot and any Common Area thereon and all improvements, easements, easements, rights, and appurtenances to the said Common Area, as of the time of such determination. All references to Property in this Declaration will always be interpreted as including the Additional Land added to the Property at that time of such identification of the Property as provided in Section 15.5.2, or as otherwise permitted in Section 2.2.

1.24. “Unilaterally” means that the Declarant may take the authorized action without the consent, approval, vote, or joinder of any other person, such as Owners, mortgagees, and the Association.

ARTICLE 2 **THE PROPERTY**

2.1. GENERAL PROVISIONS. The terms of this Declaration constitute building restrictions, covenants and real rights running with the Property, which will run with title to the Property and will be binding on the Property and on all parties having or acquiring any right, title, or interest in the Property, their heirs, successors, and assigns, and all parties claiming under them. The Property will be held, transferred, sold, conveyed, leased, occupied, used, insured, and encumbered subject to this Declaration, even if the Declaration is not specifically referred to in the instrument of sale, transfer, lease or encumbrance.

2.2. ADDITIONAL PROPERTY. Additional real property may be annexed to the Property and subjected to the Declaration and the jurisdiction of the Association on approval of Owners representing at least two-thirds of the Lots in the Property, or, during the Development Period, by Declarant as permitted in Article 15. Annexation of additional property is accomplished by recording a supplemental declaration, or amendment of annexation, including an amendment of Exhibit A, in the conveyance records of the County.

2.3 ADJACENT LAND USE. The Association and Declarant make no representation of any kind as to the current or future uses, actual or permitted, of any land that is adjacent to or near the Property, regardless of what the Plat shows as potential uses of adjoining land.

ARTICLE 3 **PROPERTY EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS**

3.1 DECLARANT RIGHTS. A number of provisions in the Declaration are modified by Declarant's rights and reservations under the Declaration during the Development Period. These rights and reservations are found in Article 15 of this Declaration, which controls over anything to the contrary elsewhere in this Declaration.

3.2 OWNER'S RIGHT TO BUILD. That a Lot remains vacant and unimproved for a period of years, even decades, does not diminish the right of the Owner to construct improvements on the Lot, nor does a vacant Lot enlarge the rights of Owners of neighboring Lots, who may have become so accustomed to the open space that they expect it to remain unimproved forever.

3.3. ASSOCIATION'S ACCESS EASEMENT. Each Owner, by accepting an interest in or title to a Lot, whether or not it is so expressed in the instrument of conveyance, grants to the Association a easement of access and entry over, across, under, and through the Property, including without limitation all Common Areas and the Owner's Lot and all improvements thereon - for the below-described purposes.

3.3.1. Purposes. Subject to the limitations stated below, the Association may exercise this easement of access and entry for the following express purposes:

- a. To inspect the property for compliance with maintenance and architectural standards.
- b. To perform maintenance that is permitted or required of the Association by the Community Documents or by applicable law.
- c. To perform maintenance that is permitted or required of the Owner by the Community Documents or by applicable law, if the Owner fails or refuses to perform such maintenance.
- d. To enforce architectural standards.
- e. To enforce use restrictions.

- f. The exercise of self-help remedies permitted by the Community Documents or by applicable law.
- g. To enforce any other provision of the Community Documents.
- h. To respond to emergencies.
- i. To grant easements to utility providers as may be necessary to install, maintain, and inspect utilities serving any portion of the Property.
- j. To perform any and all functions or duties of the Association as permitted or required by the Community Documents or by applicable law.

3.3.2. Limitations. If the exercise of this easement requires entry onto an Owner's Lot, including into an Owner's fenced yard, the entry will be during reasonable hours and after notice to the Owner. This Subsection does not apply to situations that - at time of entry - are deemed to be emergencies that may result in imminent damage to or loss of life or property. In exercising this easement on an Owner's Lot, the Association is not liable to the Owner for trespass.

3.4. SECURITY. The Association may, but is not obligated to, maintain or support certain activities within the Property designed to improve safety in or on the Property. Each Owner and resident acknowledges and agrees, for himself and his guests, that Declarant, the Association, and their respective directors, officers, committees, agents, and employees are not providers, insurers, or guarantors of security within the Property. Each Owner and resident acknowledges and accepts his sole responsibility to provide security for his own person and property and assumes all risks for loss or damage to the same. Each Owner and resident acknowledges and agrees that Declarant, the Association, and their respective directors, officers, committees, agents, and employees may not be held liable for any loss or damage by reason of failure to provide adequate security or ineffectiveness of security measures undertaken.

ARTICLE 4 COMMON AREA

4.1. OWNERSHIP. The designation of real property as a Common Area is determined by the Plat and this Declaration, and not by the ownership of the property. At its expense, Declarant may install, construct, or authorize certain improvements on Common Areas in connection with the initial development of the Property. Thereafter, all costs attributable to Common Areas, such as maintenance, property taxes, insurance, and enhancements, are automatically the responsibility of the Association, regardless of the nature of title to the Common Areas, unless this Declaration elsewhere provides for a different allocation for a specific Common Area.

4.2. ACCEPTANCE. By accepting an interest in or title to a Lot, each Owner is deemed (1) to accept the Common Area of the Property, and any improvement thereon, in its then-existing "AS IS" condition; (2) to acknowledge the authority of the Association, acting through its Board, for all decisions pertaining to the Common Area; (3) to acknowledge that transfer of a Common Area's title to the Association by or through the Declarant is a ministerial task that does not require acceptance by the Association; and (4) to acknowledge the continuity of maintenance of the Common Area, regardless of changes in the Association's Board or management.

4.3. COMPONENTS. The Common Area of the Property consists of the following components on or adjacent to the Property, even if located on a Lot or a public right-of-way:

- a. all of the Property, save and except the Lots;
- b. any area shown on the Plat as a Common Area or an area to be maintained by the Association;
- c. the entry feature, screening feature, and sign monument - if any;
- d. any modification, replacement, or addition to any of the above-described areas and improvements; and
- e. movable property owned by the Association, such as books and records, office equipment, and supplies.

4.4. LIMITED COMMON AREA. If it is in the best interest of the Association, a portion of the Common Area may be licensed, leased, or allocated to one or more Lots for their sole and exclusive use, as a limited Common Area ("**Limited Common Area**"), whether or not the area is so designated on the Plat. Inherent in the limiting of a Common Area, maintenance of the Limited Common Area becomes the responsibility of the Owner, rather than the Association. For example, a Common Area that is difficult to access and maintain except via the adjoining Lot might be a candidate for Limited Common Area.

ARTICLE 5 **ARCHITECTURAL COVENANTS**

5.1. PURPOSE. Because the Lots are part of a single, unified community, this Declaration creates rights to regulate the design, use, and appearance of the Lots and Common Areas in order to preserve and enhance the Property's value and architectural harmony. One purpose of this Article is to promote and ensure the level of taste, design, quality, and harmony by which the Property is developed and maintained. Another purpose is to prevent improvements and modifications that may be widely considered to be radical, curious, odd, bizarre, or peculiar in comparison to then existing improvements. A third purpose is to regulate the appearance of every aspect of proposed or existing improvements on a Lot. During the Development Period, a primary purpose of this Article is to reserve and preserve Declarant's right of architectural control.

5.2. ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL DURING THE DEVELOPMENT PERIOD. During the Development Period, neither the Association, the Board, nor a committee appointed by the Association or Board (no matter how the committee is named) may involve itself with the approval of new improvements on vacant Lots. During the Development Period, the Architectural Reviewer for new improvements on vacant Lots is the Declarant or its delegates.

5.2.1. Declarant's Rights Reserved. Each Owner, by accepting an interest in or title to a Lot, whether or not it is so expressed in the instrument of conveyance, covenants and agrees that Declarant has a substantial interest in ensuring that the improvements within the Property enhance Declarant's reputation as a community developer and do not impair Declarant's ability to sell homes constructed within the Property. Accordingly, each Owner agrees that, during the Development Period, no improvements will be started or progressed on Owner's Lot without the prior written

approval of Declarant, which approval may be granted or withheld at Declarant's sole discretion. In reviewing and acting on an application for approval, Declarant may act solely in its self-interest and owes no duty to any other person or any organization. Declarant may designate one or more persons from time to time to act on its behalf in reviewing and responding to applications.

5.2.2. Delegation by Declarant. During the Development Period, Declarant may from time to time, but is not obligated to, delegate all or a portion of its reserved rights under this Article to (a) a modifications or architectural committee appointed by Declarant or by the Board, (b) a modifications or architectural committee elected by the Members, or (c) a committee comprised of architects, engineers, or other persons who may or may not be Members. Any such delegation must be in writing and must specify the scope of delegated responsibilities. At all times during the Development period, Declarant may Unilaterally do any of the following, one or more times, to-wit: (i) revoke such delegation at any time and reassume jurisdiction over the matters previously delegated, and (ii) veto any decision which Declarant in its sole discretion determines to be inappropriate or inadvisable for any reason.

5.3. ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL BY ASSOCIATION. Unless and until such time as Declarant delegates all or a portion of its reserved rights to the Architectural Control Committee (the "ACC"), or the Development Period is terminated or expires, the Association has no jurisdiction over architectural matters. On termination or expiration of the Development Period, or earlier if delegated in writing by Declarant, the Association, acting through the ACC, will assume jurisdiction over architectural control; during the Development Period, any such assumption of jurisdiction by the Association will be subject to Declarant's rights as provided in the last sentence of Section 5.2.2.

5.3.1. The ACC is an agency, department or division of the Association, and has the right (after expiration of the Development Period, or earlier if delegated in writing by Declarant) to exercise control over all construction within the Property and review all modifications to structures and Improvements, including but not limited to painting, renovations, and landscaping. Notwithstanding any inference to the contrary, during the Development Period the ACC will be appointed by Declarant unless Declarant expressly waives in writing its right to appoint the ACC; any such waiver may be thereafter revoked by Declarant and in the event of any such revocation, Declarant may dismiss the members of the ACC at that time and appoint other members of the ACC.

The ACC will consist of three (3) members. Should such Board wish to declare that there be an increase in the number of members serving on the ACC, it may do so at a regularly called meeting of the Board, except that during the Class B Control Period, no change in the members of the ACC may be made by the Board without the approval of Declarant. The members of the ACC need not be Members or representatives of Members, and may, but need not, include architects, engineers or similar professionals, whose compensation, if any, will be established from time to time by the Board. The Board 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. In addition, the ACC may, with the prior approval of the Board, retain architects, engineers or other professionals to assist in the review of any application and the Association may charge any fees incurred for such assistance to the applicant. The ACC may also establish a Modifications Committee, with the approval of the Board, to review and approve any proposed modifications of Property.

5.3.2. The professionals and staff assisting the ACC may be paid reasonable compensation for service on the ACC, as determined from time to time by the Board. All members of the ACC will be reimbursed by the Association for their respective expenses incurred in

furtherance of the authorized activities of the ACC, subject to review and approval by the Board. All members of the ACC may be paid compensation for their time and efforts in serving on the ACC if such compensation is approved and authorized by the Board.

5.3.3. The Association will be responsible for all reasonable costs of operation of the ACC. Each Owner submitting plans for the construction or modification of Improvements on any Lot will submit with such plans a payment of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300) as a nonrefundable “**Review Fee**”, and that payment will be made to the Association. The standard Review Fee will be used by the Association to defray the costs and expenses incurred by the ACC and the fees and compensation paid, if any, to staff, other professionals and members of the ACC. From time to time, the Board, in its sole discretion, may increase or decrease the amount of the standard Review Fee, but in no event will the standard Review Fee charged in any one (1) calendar year exceed 110% of the standard Review Fee charged during the preceding calendar year; further, the Board in any one situation may waive or reduce the standard Review Fee. Should the ACC reject, and/or require modifications or changes, to any plans and/or specifications due to deviations in said plans or specifications from the Community Documents, then and in that event the Owner who submitted said plans and specifications will pay another review fee of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300) (or such amount as the said Review Fee may have been increased to by the Board). When an Owner resubmits revised plans and specifications, the Board or the ACC will have the discretion to waive any such additional review fees if, in its sole discretion, it determines that the deviations from the Community Documents were not significant. During the Development Period and prior to any delegation by Declarant to the ACC of rights reserved to Declarant under Section 5.2 of this Declaration, Declarant may, in its discretion, require an Owner to pay the same Review Fee which the ACC will have a right to collect if and when the ACC is delegated the right to approve plans for the construction or modification of improvements on Lots.

5.3.4. The ACC may employ personnel or contract with individuals or companies as necessary to assist in the review process, as authorized pursuant to the budget for the ACC, as established by the Board. All such personnel, individuals and/or companies employed or contracted with by the ACC will be considered as employees and/or independent contractors of the Association.

5.3.5. The ACC is authorized to adopt rules and procedures and to adopt, from time to time, amendments to said rules and procedures for the conduct of its business, consistent with the provisions of this Declaration. Any Owner will be provided with a copy of such rules and procedures within fifteen (15) days of submission of a written request to the Board.

5.4. LIMITS ON LIABILITY. The Architectural Reviewer has sole discretion with respect to taste, design, and all standards specified by this Article. The Architectural Reviewer and each of its members has no liability for decisions made in good faith by the Architectural Reviewer and which are not arbitrary or capricious. The Architectural Reviewer is not responsible for: (1) errors in or omissions from the plans and specifications submitted to the Architectural Reviewer, (2) supervising construction for the Owner's compliance with approved plans and specifications, or (3) the compliance of the Owner's plans and specifications with governmental codes and ordinances, state and federal laws.

5.5. PROHIBITION OF CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION AND IMPROVEMENT. Without the Architectural Reviewer's prior written approval, a person may not construct a dwelling or make an addition, alteration, improvement, installation, modification, redecoration, or reconstruction of or to the Property or to a building (including without limitation dwellings) on the

Property, if the proposed dwelling or any addition, alteration, improvement, installation, modification, redecoration, or reconstruction, will be visible from a street, another Lot, or the Common Area. Any construction, addition, alteration, improvement, installation, modification, redecoration, or reconstruction of or to the Property or to a building (including without limitation dwellings) must be in accordance with the construction specifications described in Exhibit B. The Architectural Reviewer has the right but not the duty to evaluate every aspect of construction, landscaping, and property use that may adversely affect the general value or appearance of the Property.

5.6. ARCHITECTURAL APPROVAL. To request architectural approval, an Owner must make written application to the Architectural Reviewer and submit 2 identical sets of plans and specifications showing the nature, kind, shape, color, size, materials, and locations of the work to be performed. In support of the application, the Owner may but is not required to submit letters of support or non-opposition from Owners of Lots that may be affected by the proposed change. The application must clearly identify any requirement of this Declaration for which a variance is sought. The Architectural Reviewer will return one set of plans and specifications to the applicant marked with the Architectural Reviewer's response, such as "Approved," "Denied," or "More Information Required." The Architectural Reviewer will retain the other set of plans and specifications, together with the application, for the Architectural Reviewer's files. Oral approval by an Architectural Reviewer, the Declarant, an Association director or officer, a member of the ACC, or the Association's managing agent does not constitute architectural approval by the appropriate Architectural Reviewer, which must be in writing.

5.6.1. Deemed Approval. The applicant may presume that his request has been approved by the Architectural Reviewer (a) if the applicant has not received the Architectural Reviewer's written response - approving, denying, or requesting additional information - within 60 days after delivering his complete application to the Architectural Reviewer, and (b) if the proposed improvement or modification strictly conforms to requirements and construction specifications contained in this Declaration and in any design guidelines for the Property in effect at the time of application. If those conditions are satisfied, the Owner may proceed with the improvement, provided he adheres to the plans and specifications which accompanied his application, and provided he initiates and completes the improvement in a timely manner. In exercising deemed approval, the burden is on the Owner to document the Architectural Reviewer's actual receipt of the Owner's complete application. Under no circumstance may approval of the Architectural Reviewer be deemed, implied, or presumed for an improvement or modification that would require a variance from the requirements and construction specifications contained in this Declaration and in any design guidelines for the Property in effect at the time of application.

5.6.2. Building Permit. If the application is for work that requires a building permit from a governmental body, the Architectural Reviewer's approval is conditioned on the issuance of the appropriate permit. The Architectural Reviewer's approval of plans and specifications does not mean that they comply with the requirements of the governmental body. Alternatively, governmental approval does not ensure Architectural Reviewer approval.

5.6.3. Declarant Approved. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Declaration, any improvement to the Property made or approved by Declarant during the Development Period is deemed to have been approved by the Architectural Reviewer.

ARTICLE 6

USE RESTRICTIONS

6.1. VARIANCE. The use of the Property is subject to the restrictions contained in this Article, and subject to rules adopted pursuant to this Article. The Declarant, during the Development Period, or the Board, thereafter, may grant a variance or waiver of a restriction or rule on a case-by-case basis when unique circumstances dictate and may limit or condition its grant. To be effective, a variance must be in writing. The grant of a variance does not effect a waiver or estoppel of the right to deny a variance in other circumstances. Approval of a variance or waiver may not be deemed, implied, or presumed under any circumstance.

6.2. LIMITS TO RIGHTS. No right granted to an Owner by this Article or by any provision of the Community Documents is absolute. The Community Documents grant rights with the expectation that the rights will be exercised in ways, places, and times that are customary for the neighborhood. This Article and the Community Documents as a whole do not try to anticipate and address every creative interpretation of the restrictions. The rights granted by this Article and the Community Documents are at all times subject to the Board's determination that a particular interpretation and exercise of a right is significantly inappropriate, unattractive, or otherwise unsuitable for the neighborhood, and thus constitutes a violation of the Community Documents. In other words, the exercise of a right or restriction must comply with the spirit of the restriction as well as with the letter of the restriction.

6.3. ASSOCIATION'S RIGHT TO PROMULGATE RULES. The Association, acting through its Board, is granted the right to adopt, amend, repeal, and enforce reasonable rules, and penalties for infractions of the adopted rules, regarding the occupancy, use, disposition, maintenance, appearance, and enjoyment of the Property.

6.4. ANIMAL RESTRICTIONS. No animal, bird, fish, reptile, or insect of any kind may be kept, maintained, raised, or bred anywhere on the Property for any commercial purpose or for food. The only animals permitted on the Property are customary domesticated household pets, which may be kept subject to rules adopted by the Board. Pets must be kept in a manner that does not disturb the peaceful enjoyment of residents of other Lots.

6.5. ANNOYANCE. No Lot or Common Area may be used in any way that: (a) may reasonably be considered annoying to neighbors; (b) may be calculated to reduce the desirability of the Property as a residential neighborhood; (c) may endanger the health or safety of residents of other Lots; (d) may result in the cancellation of insurance on the Property; (e) that displays any item that is deemed patently offensive in the sole discretion of the Board; or (f) violates any law. The Board has the sole authority to determine what constitutes an annoyance.

6.6. APPEARANCE. Both the Lot and the dwelling must be maintained in a manner so as not to be unsightly when viewed from the street or neighboring Lots. The Architectural Reviewer is the arbitrator of acceptable appearance standards.

6.7. ARTIFICIAL VEGETATION. Artificial grass, plants or other artificial vegetation must not be placed or maintained upon the exterior portion of any Lot unless approved by the Board.

6.8. BUSINESS USE. A resident may use a dwelling for business uses, such as telecommuting, personal business, and professional pursuits, provided that: (a) the uses are

incidental to the primary use of the dwelling as a residence; (b) the uses conform to applicable governmental ordinances; (c) the uses do not entail visits to the Lot by employees or the public in quantities that materially increase the number of vehicles parked on the street; and (d) the uses do not interfere with the residential use and enjoyment of neighboring Lots by other residents.

6.9. DECLARANT RIGHTS. Declarant has reserved a number of rights to use the Property in ways that are not available to other Owners and residents, as provided in Article 15 of this Declaration. Declarant's exercise of any right granted to it during the Development Period that appears to violate a rule adopted by the Association or a use restriction included in this Article 6 does not constitute waiver or abandonment of the rule or use restriction by the Association as applied to Owners other than Declarant.

6.10. EQUIPMENT, STRUCTURES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY. Except as provided in Section 6.41, sports or play equipment, or other items of personal property on any lot must be placed and remain behind the rear elevation of the dwelling and must be in compliance with Section 6.40.

6.11. DRAINAGE. No person may interfere with the established drainage pattern over any part of the Property unless an adequate alternative provision for proper drainage has been approved by the Board.

6.12. FENCES. All fences must be maintained and kept in good repair so as not to detract from the appearance of the development. This Section is subject to the Architectural Reviewer's right to adopt additional or different specifications for construction or reconstruction of fences. Fences must be made of masonry, wood, or other Architectural Reviewer-approved material and may not exceed 6 feet. Any portion of a fence that faces a street, alley, or Common Area must have a "finished side" appearance. Retaining walls must be constructed entirely with Architectural Reviewer-approved materials, however railroad ties may not be used for a retaining wall visible from a street. Fences may not be constructed between a dwelling's front building line and the street. The use of barbed wire and chain link fencing is prohibited. The use or application of a stain that cures in a solid color or paint is prohibited. Wood fences may be left in their natural state. No wood fence may be stained to alter the fence color from a natural wood color. Without prior approval of the Architectural Reviewer, clear sealants may be applied. For lots adjacent to the lake/pond on its rear dimension, must have 4' black metal or wooden picket fence. The last 8' section of side fencing must taper from 6' to 4' and tie into the 4' rear fence.

6.13. GARAGES. Garage doors must be kept closed, except when vehicles are entering or leaving the Garage. No Garage intended for, or used for, a recreational vehicle, camper, motor home or similar vehicle will be permitted unless specifically approved by the Architectural Control Committee, after submission by homeowner of plans and specifications that must be consistent with the subdivision standards and aesthetic qualities. Such vehicles may be kept on the Lot by an owner only if such a vehicle remains in an approved permitted garage.

6.14 MOVABLE STRUCTURES AND OUTBUILDINGS. No structure or any type, dwelling or otherwise, may be moved onto any Lot in the development except as expressly approved by the Board. Outbuildings must be installed in the rear yard behind an approved fence. Metal buildings are prohibited.

6.15. NOISE AND ODOR. A resident must exercise reasonable care to avoid making or permitting to be made loud, disturbing, or objectionable noises or noxious odors that are likely to disturb or annoy residents of neighboring Lots. The rules may prohibit the use of noise-producing security devices.

6.16. OCCUPANCY. Other than the completed principal dwelling, no thing or structure on a Lot may be occupied as a residence at any time by any person. This provision applies, without limitation, to the garage, mobile homes, campers, and storage sheds.

6.17. RESIDENTIAL USE. The use of a Lot (other than a Lot designated on a Plat for use as a park, or other Common Area) is limited exclusively to residential purposes or any other use expressly permitted by this Declaration, including limited business uses described above.

6.18. SCREENING. An Owner may be required to screen anything determined by the Architectural Reviewer to be unsightly or inappropriate for a residential subdivision. Screening may be achieved with fencing or with plant material, such as trees and bushes, or any combination of these. If plant material is used, a reasonable period of time is permitted for the plants to reach maturity as an effective screen. As used in this Section 6.18, “**screened from view**” refers to the view of a person in a passenger vehicle driving on a street or alley, or the view of a person of average height standing in the middle of a yard of an adjoining Lot.

6.19. TANKS. No tanks of any kind (including tanks for storage of fuel) may be erected, placed or maintained on any Lot unless such tanks are buried underground. Propane or similar fuel tanks with capacities of ten (10) gallons or less are allowed.

6.20. TELEVISION/SATELLITE DISHES. No television antenna, receiving "dish", radio receiver or sender or other similar device shall be attached to or installed on any Lot or structure within the Subdivision except in compliance with this Section 6.20. Each resident of the Subdivision will avoid doing or permitting anything to be done that may unreasonably interfere with the television, radio, telephonic, electronic, microwave, cable, or satellite reception on the Subdivision. Antennas, satellite or microwave dishes, and receiving or transmitting towers that are visible from a street or from another Lot are prohibited within the Property, with the exception of an Antenna (as defined below) which are permitted if located (a) inside the structure (such as in an attic or garage) so as not to be visible from outside the structure, (b) in a fenced yard not higher than 6 feet from the ground, or (c) attached to or mounted on the rear wall of a structure below the eaves. A reception-only satellite dish, one meter or less in diameter, may be mounted on the eave of a dwelling not less than 15 feet from the front elevation of the dwelling. As used in this Section 6.20, the term “**Antenna**” means one of the following: (i) reception-only antennas or satellite dishes designed to receive television broadcast signals, (ii) antennas or satellite dishes that are one meter or less in diameter and designed to receive direct broadcast satellite service (DBS), or (iii) antennas or satellite dishes that are one meter or less in diameter or diagonal measurement and designed to receive video programming services via multipoint distribution services (MDS). If an Owner determines that an Antenna cannot be located in compliance with the above guidelines without precluding reception of an acceptable quality signal, the Owner may install the Antenna, with prior ACC approval, in the least conspicuous location on the Lot where an acceptable quality signal can be obtained, but in any event the Antenna must not be located where it is visible from a street contiguous with the Lot on which the Antenna is to be installed. The Association may adopt

reasonable rules for the location, appearance, camouflaging, installation, maintenance, and use of the Antennas to the extent permitted by public law.

6.21. VEHICLES.

6.21.1. Other than as otherwise provided in this section 6.21 and section 6.13, parking of any vehicle on any Lot other than in the Garage, Carport or Driveway is prohibited. Except as expressly approved by the Declarant during the Development Period, and by the Board thereafter, the following must not be kept or stored within the Property unless stored inside of a closed garage, or enclosed behind an approved fence and shall not to exceed 8' in height, with ACC approval: (a) junk or abandoned vehicles, (b) commercial vehicles, (c) trailers, (d) tractor-trailers, (e) boats, (f) boat trailers, (g) movable equipment, and (h) vehicles greater than 3/4 ton GVWR. For recreational vehicle or camper storage, refer to Section 6.13.

6.21.2. Minibikes, go-carts, all-terrain vehicles, utility terrain vehicles, motorized toys, and other similar vehicles must not be operated or stored on any Lot, the Common Area, or any other location within the Property except in compliance with all applicable laws, ordinances, and these covenants and restrictions. All such items must be stored on lots in a manner where the item is not visible from any street or from any other Lot or location in the Property.

6.22. YARD ORNAMENTS.

6.22.1. Artificial flamingos, deer, spinners, gazing balls, pirogues and such tableau of any type are prohibited on all Lots with the exception of the rear yard of a Lot (i.e., the rear portion of a Lot which faces the rear wall of the dwelling), on which a dwelling is constructed, but only if a fence or other screening makes such items not visible from any street on the Property or any other portion of the Property, other than the rear yard of the Lot where the item is exhibited.

6.22.2. The items allowed to be placed on Lots under Section 6.22.1, and any subsequent rules adopted by the Board or the Association, must be durable in nature and must comply with the following requirements:

- a. No more than three (3) yard decorations or tableaus of any type may be placed in areas that are visible from a street on the Property or any other portion of the Property other than the Lot on which the decoration or other tableau is exhibited.
- b. The yard decorations must be architecturally proportionate to the size of the dwelling constructed on the Lot.
- c. The yard decorations must be of a durable nature and may not be made of plastic.

6.22.3. Notwithstanding any inference to the contrary in this Section 6.22, traditional and typical seasonal decorations are permitted within season (30 days prior to a recognized holiday or event and 15 days following).

6.23. WINDOW COVERINGS AND WINDOW TREATMENTS.

6.23.1. The only window coverings or treatments which may be affixed to the interior of any window visible from a street on the Property or other portion of the Property are drapes, blinds, shades, shutters, and curtains. The side of any window coverings or treatments which are visible from the exterior of any improvements (including without limitation dwellings and garages) constructed on the Property must be white or off-white in color, except that any window coverings or treatments, or portion thereof, consisting of wooden blinds or shutters may be a natural wood color. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Declarant during the Development Period, and thereafter the Board, may, from time to time, approve additional colors as acceptable for the portions of the window coverings or treatments visible from streets on the Property or other portion of the Property.

6.23.2. No window tinting or reflective coating may be affixed to any window that is visible from any street on the Property or other portion of the Property without the prior approval of Declarant during the Development Period and thereafter from the Board.

6.23.3. No mirrored coatings are allowed any window that is visible from any street on the Property or other portion of the Property.

6.24. FLAGS. No flags may be flown or exhibited outside of a residence on the Property with the following exceptions: official flags of countries, states, Counties, cities or other organization sanctioned flags flown from poles that are six feet (6') above ground height, the construction and color of which must be approved by the Board, and mounted at a 45 degree angle to the wall of the building to which the pole is attached.

6.25. SWIMMING POOLS; TENNIS COURTS.

6.25.1. Swimming pools must not be constructed on any Lot without prior written approval from Declarant, during the Development Period, and thereafter from the Board. Notwithstanding any inference to the contrary in the preceding sentence, permission will not be given for the construction of a swimming pool on a Lot unless the swimming pool is screened from view and is not visible from any street on the Property or any other Lot or portion of the Property, or common area, and shall be located inside an approved fence. If the rear of a Lot is adjacent to a pond or lake, landscaping shall be used to screen the pool from view to the rear of the Lot, with ACC approval. Pool decks must not be constructed any closer than four feet (4') from the boundaries of the Lot on which the swimming pool is constructed, unless any applicable law or ordinance requires a greater distance from the boundary and in such case the greater distance shall apply. At all times, all swimming pool related equipment must be screened from view and must not be visible from any street on the Property or any other portion of the Property other than the rear yard of the Lot on which the swimming pool is located. No screening will be constructed which has not been approved by the Declarant, during the Development Period, and thereafter by the Board, and all such screening will be required to mitigate noise. Slides, diving boards or other pool accessories will be prohibited unless they can be installed and used without being visible from any street on the Property or from any other portion of the Property other than the Lot on which the swimming pool is constructed. Pools must be constructed and designed so that they will not drain onto adjacent property (including the Common Area) or onto a street on the Property; where a Lot owner has been given permission to construct a swimming pool on a Lot, the Owner of the Lot must take all steps to prevent the swimming pool from draining onto adjacent property (including the Common Area) or onto a street on the Property. Unless granted a variance and approval at the sole discretion of the ACC, all pools

shall be in-ground pools, and no above-ground or semi-inground pool may be constructed or located on any Lot.

6.25.2. Tennis courts must not be constructed on any Lot.

6.26. SIGNS. No Signs of any kind or description shall be displayed on any Lot other than real estate "For Sale" signs and signs designating those involved in the construction of any residential homes or other approved improvements in the Subdivision (each not exceeding five square feet in size). No signs (such as garage sale, lost pet, announcements, etc.) shall be attached to any subdivision street sign poles or light poles. An "open house" sign indicating that the Owner of the Lot is hosting such an event may be posted on that Lot for a period not to exceed three (3) continuous days. To the extent permitted by applicable law, signs containing political content or endorsements of candidates are prohibited anywhere on the Property. Declarant may post "model home" or similar signs on any Lot containing a model home open to the public prior to initial occupancy of the dwelling constructed on such a Lot. No other signs, except those required by law, including posters, circulars, and billboards, may be posted on any Lot so as to be visible from streets on the Property or from any other portion of the Property other than the Lot on which such a sign is posted. Notwithstanding any language to the contrary in this Declaration, during the Development Period Declarant or an approved builder is permitted to post and display advertising signs and any other signs desired by Declarant which relate to the development of the Property, including "for sale" signs on Lots for sale (with or without a dwelling constructed on same), within the Property. Temporary personal signs, not exceeding 5 square feet in area, may be allowed at the sole discretion of the Board, and which are not deemed to be patently offensive in the sole discretion of the Board, for a period not to exceed an aggregate of 30 days in a 6 month period, displaying personal announcements such as births, school or athletic achievements of residents of the dwelling, and other temporary displays allowed at the sole discretion of the Board.

6.27. Furniture for Front Porch, Balcony and Yard. Furniture placed outside of a dwelling on a Lot, whether on the front porch, balcony or in a yard, if visible from a street on the Property or any other location on the Property other than the rear yard of a Lot (i.e., the rear portion of a Lot which faces the rear wall of the dwelling) on which a dwelling is constructed: (a) must be durable, and (b) must not be made of plastic. All collapsible furniture placed outside of a dwelling on a Lot, whether on the front porch, balcony or in a yard, if visible from a street on the Property or any other location on the Property other than the rear yard of a Lot (i.e., the rear portion of a Lot which faces the rear wall of the dwelling) must be placed in storage and outside of the view of Person(s) on any street in the Property.

6.28 CLOTHESLINE VIOLATION. Outside clotheslines or other outside facilities for drying or airing clothes are specifically prohibited and shall not be erected, placed or maintained, nor shall any clothing, rug or other items be hung from any railing, fence, hedge or wall.

6.29 GARDENS. A non-commercial garden for use by a single household may be located on a Lot provided that it is not visible from any street or any neighboring Lot. Garden compost may be kept in quantities required by one household only, provided it is not visible from any street and is kept free from obnoxious odors and insects.

6.30 LEASH VIOLATION. All domestic animals shall be leashed, or detained by fences or invisible fences.

6.31 OFF-ROAD VEHICLE USAGE. Streets shall not be used for any unlawful purpose, and any use of any means of conveyance, whether motorized or non-motorized, shall be in compliance with all applicable laws and ordinances of the jurisdiction where the Property is located. If there is a designated walking path in the subdivision it shall be used for walking, jogging, and bicycling only.

6.32 GARBAGE CONTAINERS. Household trash containers may not be placed closer to the street than any portion of the front elevation of a home or dwelling situated on the Lot, nor closer to a street than the side elevation of a home or dwelling that faces a street (for corner lots), except between 3:00 p.m. on the day before scheduled trash pick-up until 6:00 p.m. on trash pick-up day.

6.33 MAILBOX/PLAQUE. No mailboxes or mailbox numbering or lettering, may be erected or maintained on a Lot -except mailboxes approved by Developer. The cost of providing, erecting and maintaining a mailbox, the numbering and lettering, shall be paid by the Property Owner. Developer reserves the right to designate the location of all mailboxes. House numbering schemes, on, upon or within a Dwelling Unit shall be mandated by the Association.

6.34 BULKHEADS. As no individual lot owner's property extends into the lake areas, no bulkheads or other structures shall be allowed to extend beyond their property line adjacent to the lake.

6.35 DECKS AND PIERS. As no individual lot owner's property extends into the lake areas, no decks, piers, or other structures shall be allowed to extend beyond their property line adjacent to the lake.

6.36 A/C AND HEATING Air conditioning equipment may not be installed in the front yard of a dwelling. Window units are prohibited. The Architectural Reviewer may require that air-conditioning equipment and apparatus be visually screened from the street and neighboring Lots.

6.37 PARKING VEHICLES. Parking of non-commercial passenger vehicles on the paved portion of any roadway not identified as parking areas within the Subdivision shall be permitted for temporary purposes, but in no event shall such parking be overnight or for anything longer than 12 hours in any 96 hour period, or a single occurrence during any 96 hour period. Except as provided in Section 6.13 and Section 6.21.1, No equipment or vehicles shall be parked on any unpaved portion of the lot, nor parked on the lawn/grass of a lot at any time. No equipment shall be kept or maintained on any Lot in any manner which would detract from the appearance of the Property. No house trailers, mobile homes, buses, commercial vehicles or trucks greater than 3/4 ton GVWR shall be kept, stored, repaired or maintained on any Lot, easement, common area or right-of-way.

6.38 PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT. The use of moderately scaled play equipment, play yards or basketball goals are allowed within the Residential Lots. Oversized items such as trampolines will only be allowed behind an approved fence, in the rear yard. The location of these features should be carefully considered as to their impact on neighboring views and accessibility, and shall not be visible from any street view. The addition of fenced areas may be required as part of play yards. Unkept or unsightly play areas will not be tolerated. Final placement of these items must be approved by the ACC prior to installation.

6.39 BASKETBALL GOALS. Moveable basketball goals are permitted with ACC approval as to location, however under no circumstances shall a basketball goal be attached to any part of a residence or cemented into the ground. Basketball goals are to be kept in good repair and not allowed to remain turned over or fallen for extended periods of time as to detract from the appearance of the residence.

6.40 SOLAR PANELS AND SKYLIGHTS. Skylights shall not be located on the front elevation of any building. Only flat skylights are allowed. No bubble skylights will be permitted. Solar collectors may only be placed in an approved ACC location.

6.41 SIDEWALK UPKEEP. Each Owner is responsible for installing and maintaining that portion of the sidewalk on his or her Lot in compliance with any requirements and standards set forth by the Design Review Board and the Guiding Principles, if applicable.

6.42 DEBRIS. No Lot or other part of the Property may be used as a dumping ground. Waste materials incident to construction or repair of improvements on a Lot may be stored temporarily on the Lot during construction while work progresses and must be removed when construction or repair is complete.

ARTICLE 7 **ASSOCIATION OPERATIONS**

7.1. THE ASSOCIATION. The existence and legitimacy of the Association is derived from this Declaration, and the Certificate and Bylaws of the Association. The Association must be a nonprofit organization and is incorporated, but may later dissolve and operate as an unincorporated association, as the Association decides from time to time. The subsequent failure of the Association to maintain its corporate charter from time to time does not affect the existence or legitimacy of the Association. The duties and powers of the Association are those set forth in the Community Documents, together with the general and implied powers of a Homeowners association. Generally, the Association may do any and all things that are lawful and necessary, proper, or desirable in operating for the peace, health, comfort, and general benefit of its Members, subject only to the limitations on the exercise of such powers as stated in the Community Documents. The Association, as a legal corporate entity, will officially come into existence (or came into existence) when the Certificate of the Association are (or were) filed with the Alabama Secretary of State; but the Association (whether or not the Certificate have been filed at the time of filing this Declaration) comes into existence when this Declaration is publicly recorded in the County conveyance records and will continue to exist at least as long as this Declaration, as it may be amended, is effective against all or part of the Property.

7.2. MEMBERSHIP. Every Owner of a Lot will be a Member of the Association. There will be only one (1) membership per Lot. Membership will be appurtenant to and may not be separate nor apart from ownership of any Lot.

A. Co-Owners. If a Lot is owned by more than one (1) Person, all co-Owners will share the rights of such membership, subject to reasonable Board regulation and the restrictions on voting set forth in this Article 7 and in the Bylaws, and all such co-Owners will be solely obligated to perform the responsibilities of Owners.

B. Nature of Owner. The membership rights of an Owner who is a natural person may be exercised by the Member or the Member's spouse. The membership rights of an Owner which is a corporation, partnership, other legal entity or some form of Governmental Authority may be exercised by any officer, director, partner, or trustee, or by any other duly authorized Individual designated from time to time by the Owner in a written instrument provided to the Secretary of its Association.

7.3. **VOTING RIGHTS**. The Association will have two (2) classes of membership, which are Class A Membership and Class B Membership, described as follows:

A. Class A. Class A Members of the Association will be all Owners of Lots included within the Property, with the exception that Declarant will not be a Class A Member for so long as Declarant remains a Class B Member. Each Class A Member will have one (1) vote for each Lot which they own; but, in any event: (a) there will be only one (1) vote per Lot, and (b) no votes may be exercised on account of any Lot which is owned by a Builder (other than Declarant or a Declarant Affiliate) and exempt from Assessment under an exemption granted by the Association or by Declarant under Declarant's rights under section 15.1.3. When more than one (1) Person holds an interest in any Lot, all such persons will be Members, provided, however, that the vote for such Lot will be exercised as they determine and advise the Secretary of its Association in writing prior to the close of balloting. In no event will more than one vote be cast with respect to any Lot which is owned by more than one (1) Person. Corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships and other entities must notify the Association of the natural person who is authorized to exercise its vote; such entities must provide such evidence of appointment and authority as its Board may require.

B. Class B. The Class B Member of the Association will be Declarant, and no other Person may be a Class B Member of the Association. Declarant, as the Class B Member, will be entitled to three (3) votes for each Lot owned, or 500 votes, whichever is greater, at the time of: (1) any meeting of the Members of the Association, or (2) other occasion when Members vote. Other rights of the Class B Member may be included elsewhere in this Declaration and / or in the Bylaws.

C. Termination of Class B Membership. The Class B Membership will terminate two (2) years after termination of the Class B Control Period. The Class B Control Period is that period of time commencing on the date of recordation of this Declaration and continuing until the first of the following to occur:

- (1) when one hundred percent (100%) of the total number of Lots proposed for the Property described on Exhibit A of the Declaration, and for any Additional Land added (by supplemental declaration or an amending declaration) to the Property to become part of the Subdivision, have certificates of occupancy issued thereon and have been conveyed to Persons other than Builders;
- (2) seventy-five (75) years after the date on which the Declaration is recorded in the public records of the Counties in Alabama where the Property is located; or
- (3) when, in its discretion, the Class B Member determines and expressly declares in writing that it is no longer a Class B Member.

Notwithstanding any inference to the contrary: (i) if the Class B Control Period is terminated by the Class B Member pursuant to subpart C(3) of this Section 7.3, the termination must be recorded in the

conveyance records of the County; and (ii) upon any termination of the Class B Control Period, the Class B Member may, in its sole discretion, terminate its Class B Membership immediately rather than wait until the two (2) year anniversary of the termination of the Class B Control Period, but if the Class B Member desires to terminate the Class B Member early then the Class B Member must expressly declare that intent in writing and such declaration should be included as part of Declarant's recorded termination of the Class B Control Period. After termination of the Class B Control Period, the Class B Member will continue to have a right to disapprove actions of the Association, its Board and any committee to the extent the Association's Bylaws or other Community Documents expressly provide that the Class B Member will continue to have certain rights after termination of the Class B Control Period.

D. Exercise of Voting Rights. Except as otherwise specified in this Declaration or the Bylaws, the vote for each Lot owned by a Class A Member will be exercised by the Owner of each Lot.

E. Declarant's Rights. Declarant's rights (including its special voting rights) as the Class B Member of the Association are independent of, and in addition to, all rights granted to, or reserved by, Declarant in other provisions of this Agreement where there is no reference to Declarant's status as the Class B Member (including without limitation in Certificate 5 and 15, and Sections 4.1, 6.9 and 16.1). Further, Declarant's rights created or otherwise reserved under other provisions of this Agreement (including without limitation in Certificate 5 and 15, and Sections 4.1, 6.9 and 16.1), or in any other Community Document, are independent of, and in addition to, all rights of Declarant as the Class B Member. For example, if Declarant voluntarily terminates the Class B Control Period and Declarant ceases to be a Class B Member, Declarant will continue to have all rights granted to, or reserved by, Declarant in other provisions of this Declaration (including without limitation in Certificate 5 and 15, and Sections 4.1, 6.9 and 16.1) which do not use the term, or otherwise refer to, the term "Class B Member".

7.4. BOARD. The Association is governed by the Board. Unless the Association's Bylaws or Certificate of Formation provide otherwise, the Board will consist of at least 3 persons appointed by Declarant during the Class B Control Period, and thereafter elected by the Members at the annual meeting of the Association, or at a special meeting called for that purpose. Unless the Community Documents expressly reserve a right, action, or decision to the Owners, Declarant, or another party, the Board acts in all instances on behalf of the Association. Unless the context indicates otherwise, references in the Community Documents to the "Association" will be construed to mean "**the Association acting through its Board**".

7.5. MEMBERSHIP. Each Owner is a Member of the Association, ownership of a Lot being the sole qualification for membership. Membership is appurtenant to and may not be separated from ownership of the Lot. The Board may require satisfactory evidence of transfer of ownership before a purported Owner is entitled to vote at meetings of the Association. If a Lot is owned by more than one person or entity, each co-Owner is a Member of the Association and may exercise the membership rights appurtenant to the Lot. A Member who sells its Lot under a bond for deed may delegate his membership rights to the contract purchaser, provided a written assignment is delivered to the Board. However, the contract seller remains liable for all Assessments attributable to his Lot until fee title to the Lot is transferred.

7.6. DECISION-MAKING. Any decision or act of the Association may be made by or at the direction of the Board, unless the Community Documents reserve the decision or act to the

Members, the Declarant, or any other person or group. Unless the Community Documents or applicable law provide otherwise, any action requiring approval of the Members may be approved (a) at a meeting by Owners of at least a majority of the Lots that are represented at the meeting, provided notice of the meeting was given to an Owner of each Lot, or (b) in writing by Owners of at least a majority of all Lots, provided the opportunity to approve or disapprove was given to an Owner of each Lot.

7.7. MANAGING AGENT. The Board may delegate the performance of certain functions to one or more managing agents of the Association. Notwithstanding a delegation of its functions, the Board is ultimately responsible to the Members for governance of the Association.

7.8. VOTING. One indivisible vote is appurtenant to each Lot. The total number of votes equals the total number of Lots in the Property. If additional property is made subject to this Declaration, the total number of votes will be increased automatically by the number of additional Lots. Each vote is uniform and equal to the vote appurtenant to every other Lot, except during the Development Period as permitted in Article 15. Cumulative voting is not allowed. Votes may be cast by written proxy, according to the requirements of the Association's Bylaws.

7.9. INDEMNIFICATION. Indemnified expenses include, without limitation, reasonable attorney's fees, whether or not a lawsuit is filed, and costs at all court levels, including expenses incurred by a person in establishing the right to be indemnified, defended, and held harmless pursuant to this Declaration. The Association may maintain general liability and directors and officer's liability insurance to fund this obligation.

7.9.1. Association Leaders. The Association will indemnify every present and former officer, director, committee chair, and committee member (for purposes of this Section, "**Leaders**") against expenses, including attorney's fees, reasonably incurred by or imposed on the Leader in connection with an action, suit, or proceeding to which the Leader is a party by reason of being or having been a Leader. A Leader is not liable for a mistake of judgment, negligent or otherwise. A Leader is liable for his willful misfeasance, malfeasance, misconduct, or bad faith. This right to indemnification does not exclude any other rights to which present or former Leaders may be entitled. Additionally, the Association may indemnify a person who is or was an employee, trustee, agent, or attorney of the Association, against any liability asserted against him and incurred by him in that capacity and arising out of that capacity.

7.9.2. Indemnity for Common Area Operations. The Association must indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Declarant against any loss, claim, demand, damage, cost, and expense relating to or arising out of the management and operation of the Association, including without limitation, the collection of Assessments, the enforcement of the Community Documents, and the operation and maintenance of the Property's Common Areas.

ARTICLE 8

COVENANT FOR ASSESSMENTS

8.1. PURPOSE OF ASSESSMENTS. The Association will use Assessments for the purposes of preserving and enhancing the Property, and for the common benefit of Owners and residents, including but not limited to maintenance of real and movable property, management and operation of the Association, and any expense reasonably related to the purposes for which the

Property was developed. If made in good faith, the Board's decision with respect to the use of Assessments is final.

8.2. PERSONAL OBLIGATION. An Owner is obligated to pay Assessments levied by the Board against the Owner or his Lot. An Owner makes payment to the Association at its principal office or at any other place the Board directs. Payments must be made in full regardless of whether an Owner has a dispute with the Association, another Owner, or any other person or entity regarding any matter to which this Declaration pertains. No Owner may exempt himself from his Assessment liability by waiver of the use or enjoyment of the Common Area or by abandonment of his Lot. An Owner's obligation is not subject to offset by the Owner, nor is it contingent on the Association's performance of the Association's duties. Payment of Assessments is both a continuing affirmative covenant personal to the Owner and a continuing covenant running with the Lot.

8.3. TYPES OF ASSESSMENTS. There are 3 types of Assessments: Regular, Special, and Individual.

8.3.1. Regular Assessments. Regular Assessments are based on the annual budget. Each Lot is liable for its equal share of the annual budget. If the Board fails to determine new Regular Assessments for any year, Owners will continue to pay the Regular Assessment as last determined. If during the course of a year the Board determines that Regular Assessments are insufficient to cover the estimated common expenses for the remainder of the year, the Board may increase Regular Assessments for the remainder of the fiscal year in an amount that covers the estimated deficiency. Regular Assessments are used for common expenses related to the reoccurring, periodic, and anticipated responsibilities of the Association, including but not limited to:

- a. maintenance, repair, and replacement, of the Common Area;
- b. utilities and services billed to the Association;
- c. taxes on property owned by the Association and the Association's income taxes;
- d. management, legal, accounting and professional fees for services to the Association;
- e. operating expenses;
- f. premiums and deductibles on insurance policies and bonds deemed by the Board to be necessary or desirable for the benefit of the Association;
- g. contributions to the reserve funds; and
- h. any other expense which the Association is required by law or the Community Documents to pay, or which in the opinion of the Board is necessary or proper for the operation and maintenance of the Property or for enforcement of the Community Documents.

8.3.2. Special Assessments. In addition to Regular Assessments, the Board may levy one or more Special Assessments against all Lots for the purpose of defraying, in whole or in part,

common expenses not anticipated by the annual budget or reserve funds. Special Assessments do not require the approval of the Owners, except that Special Assessments for the following purposes must be approved by Owners of least a majority of the Lots: (a) acquisition of real property, other than the purchase of a Lot at the sale foreclosing the Association's lien against the Lot; (b) construction of additional improvements within the Property, but not replacement of original improvements; and (c) any expenditure that may reasonably be expected to significantly increase the Association's responsibility and financial obligation for operations, insurance, maintenance, repairs, or replacement.

8.3.3. Individual Assessments. In addition to Regular and Special Assessments, the Board may levy an Individual Assessment against a Lot and its Owner. Individual Assessments may include, but are not limited to: interest, late charges, and collection costs on delinquent Assessments; reimbursement for costs incurred in bringing an Owner or his Lot into compliance with the Community Documents; fines for violations of the Community Documents; fees or charges by the managing agent of the Association for services provided to, or for the benefit of, one Lot; common expenses that benefit fewer than all of the Lots, which may be assessed according to benefit received; fees or charges levied against the Association on a per-Lot basis; and "pass through" expenses for services to Lots provided through the Association and which are equitably paid by each Lot according to benefit received.

8.4. BASIS AND RATE OF ASSESSMENTS. The share of liability for common expenses allocated to each Lot is uniform for all Lots; subject, however, to an exemption for Declarant provided in Article 15.

8.5. ANNUAL BUDGET. The Board will prepare and approve an estimated annual budget for each fiscal year.

8.6. DUE DATE. The Board may levy Regular Assessments on any periodic basis - annually, semi-annually, quarterly, or monthly. Regular Assessments are due on the first day of the period for which levied. Special and Individual Assessments are due on the date stated in the notice of Assessment or, if no date is stated, within 10 days after notice of the Assessment is given. Assessments are delinquent if not received by the Association on or before the due date.

8.7. RESERVE FUNDS. The Association may establish, maintain, and accumulate reserves for operations and for replacement and repair of Common Area improvements. Declarant is not required to fund reserves.

8.8. ASSOCIATION'S RIGHT TO BORROW MONEY. The Association is granted the right to borrow money, subject to the consent of Owners of at least a majority of Lots and the ability of the Association to repay the borrowed funds from Assessments. To assist its ability to borrow, the Association is granted the right to encumber, mortgage, or pledge any of its real or movable property, and the right to assign its right to future income, as security for money borrowed or debts incurred, provided that the rights of the lender in the pledged property are subordinate and inferior to the rights of the Owners hereunder.

8.9. LIMITATIONS OF INTEREST. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Community Documents or any other document or agreement executed or made in connection with the Association's collection of Assessments, the Association will not in any event be entitled to receive or collect, as interest, a sum greater than the maximum amount permitted by applicable law.

8.10. EFFECT OF NONPAYMENT OF ASSESSMENTS. An Assessment is delinquent if the Association does not receive payment in full by the Assessment's due date. The Association, acting through the Board, is responsible for taking action to collect delinquent Assessments. From time to time, the Association may delegate some or all of the collection procedures and remedies, as the Board in its sole discretion deems appropriate, to the Association's managing agent, an attorney, or a debt collector. Neither the Board nor the Association, however, is liable to an Owner or other person for its failure or inability to collect or attempt to collect an Assessment. The following remedies and rights are in addition to and not in substitution for all other rights and remedies which the Association has:

- a. Delinquent Assessments bear interest from the date due until paid, at a rate to be determined by the Board from time to time, not to exceed ten percent (10%) per annum, and reasonable late fees, at a rate to be determined by the Board from time to time.
- b. If an Assessment is being paid in installments, the Association may accelerate the remaining installments.
- c. The Owner who has not paid the Assessment is liable to the Association for reimbursement of reasonable costs incurred by the Association to collect the delinquent Assessments, such as attorney's fees.
- d. If the delinquent Assessment is more than thirty (30) days past due, the Association may suspend the right to vote appurtenant to the Lot.
- e. The Association may file suit seeking a money judgment against the Owner, without foreclosing or waiving the Association's lien for Assessments, may notify and communicate with the holder of any lien against a Lot regarding the Owner's default and payment of Assessments and may foreclose its lien against the Lot by judicial or non-judicial means.

8.11. MEANING OF LIEN. As used in this Article 8 and in other provisions of this Declaration (including without limitation Article 9), the word "**lien**" has the same meaning as the word "lien" in the Alabama –Homeowners' Association Act, including but not limited to Alabama Code section 35-20-12.

ARTICLE 9

ASSESSMENT LIEN

9.1. ASSESSMENT LIEN. Each Owner, by accepting an interest in or title to a Lot, whether or not it is so expressed in the instrument of conveyance, covenants and agrees to pay Assessments to the Association. Each Assessment is a charge on the Lot and is secured by a continuing lien on the Lot. Each Owner, and each prospective Owner, is placed on notice that his title may be subject to the continuing lien for Assessments attributable to a period prior to the date he purchased his Lot.

9.2. SUPERIORITY OF MORTGAGE. The Assessment lien on a Lot is subordinate and inferior to (a) a recorded mortgage securing a loan for construction of the original dwelling, (b) a

first or senior purchase money vendor's privilege or mortgage and any renewal, modification or refinancing of said vendor's privilege or mortgage, (c) a home equity or reverse mortgage which is a renewal, extension, or refinance of a first or senior purchase money vendor's lien or mortgage recorded before the date on which the delinquent Assessment became due, and (d) an FHA-insured or VA-guaranteed mortgage.

9.3. EFFECT OF MORTGAGEE'S FORECLOSURE. Foreclosure of a superior lien or other superior encumbrance extinguishes the Association's claim against the Lot for unpaid Assessments that became due before the sale, but does not extinguish the Association's claim against the former Owner. The purchaser at the foreclosure sale of a superior lien or other superior encumbrance is liable for Assessments coming due from and after the date of the sale, and for the Owner's pro rata share of the pre-foreclosure deficiency as an Association expense.

9.4. NOTICE AND RELEASE OF NOTICE. The Association's lien for Assessments is created by recordation of a verified detailed statement of lien in accordance with the requirements of Alabama law (currently provided in Alabama Code section 35-20-12), in the office of the Judge of Probate in the county in which the real property is located, which constitutes record notice and perfection of the continuing lien.

9.5. FORECLOSURE OF PRIVILEGE. The Assessment lien may be enforced by judicial or non-judicial foreclosure. In any foreclosure, the Owner is required to pay the Association's costs and expenses for the proceedings, including reasonable attorney's fees. The Association has the power to bid on the Lot at foreclosure sale and to acquire, hold, lease, mortgage, and convey same.

ARTICLE 10

ENFORCING THE COMMUNITY DOCUMENTS

10.1. NOTICE. Before the Association may exercise certain of its remedies for a violation of the Community Documents or damage to the Property, the Association must give an Owner written notice. Notices are also required before an Owner is liable to the Association for certain charges, including reimbursement of attorney's fees incurred by the Association.

10.2. REMEDIES. The remedies provided in this Article for breach of the Community Documents are cumulative and not exclusive. In addition to other rights and remedies provided by the Community Documents and by applicable law, the Association has the following rights to enforce the Community Documents, subject to applicable notice and hearing requirements (if any):

10.2.1. Fine. The Association may levy fines for each act of violation or for each day a violation continues.

10.2.2. Suspension. The Association may suspend the right of Owners and residents to use Common Areas for any period during which the Owner or resident, or the Owner or resident's family, guests, employees, agents, or contractors violate the Community Documents.

10.2.3. Self-Help. The Association has the right to enter any part of the Property, including Lots, to abate or remove, using force as may reasonably be necessary, any improvement, thing, animal, person, vehicle, or condition that violates the Community Documents. In exercising this right, the Board is not trespassing and is not liable for damages related to the abatement. The Board may levy its costs of abatement against the Lot and Owner as an Individual Assessment. The

Board will make reasonable efforts to give the violating Owner prior notice of its intent to exercise self-help. The notice may be given in any manner likely to be received by the Owner. Prior notice is not required (a) in the case of emergencies, (b) to remove signs which violate the restrictions in this Declaration or in any rules adopted by the Association, (c) to remove violative debris, or (d) to remove any other violative item or to abate any other violative condition that is easily removed or abated and that is considered a nuisance, dangerous, or an eyesore to the neighborhood.

10.2.4. Suit. Failure to comply with the Community Documents will be grounds for an action to recover damages or for injunctive relief to cause any such violation to be remedied, or both.

10.3. BOARD DISCRETION. The Board may use its sole discretion in determining whether to pursue a violation of the Community Documents, provided the Board does not act in an arbitrary or capricious manner. In evaluating a particular violation, the Board may determine that under the particular circumstances (1) the Association's position is not sufficiently strong to justify taking any further action; (2) the provision being enforced is or may be construed as inconsistent with applicable law; (3) although a technical violation may exist, it is not of such a material nature as to be objectionable to a reasonable person or to justify expending the Association's resources; or (4) that enforcement is not in the Association's best interest, based on hardship, expense, or other reasonable criteria.

10.4. NO WAIVER. The Association and every Owner has the right to enforce all restrictions, conditions, covenants, privileges, liens and charges now or hereafter imposed by the Community Documents. Failure by the Association or by any Owner to enforce a provision of the Community Documents is not a waiver of the right to do so thereafter. If the Association does waive the right to enforce a provision, that waiver does not impair the Association's right to enforce any other part of the Community Documents at any future time. No officer, director, or Member of the Association is liable to any Owner for the failure to enforce any of the Community Documents at any time.

10.5. RECOVERY OF COSTS. The costs of curing or abating a violation are at the expense of the Owner or other person responsible for the violation. If legal assistance is obtained to enforce any provision of the Community Documents, or in any legal proceeding (whether or not suit is brought) for damages or for the enforcement of the Community Documents or the restraint of violations of the Community Documents, the prevailing party is entitled to recover from the nonprevailing party all reasonable and necessary costs incurred by it in such action, including reasonable attorney's fees.

ARTICLE 11

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OBLIGATIONS

11.1. ASSOCIATION MAINTAINS. The Association's maintenance obligations will be discharged when and how the Board deems appropriate. The Association maintains, repairs, and replaces, as a common expense, the portions of the Property listed below, regardless of whether the portions are on Lots or Common Areas:

- a. the Common Areas;

- b. any real and movable property owned by the Association but which is not a Common Area, such as a Lot owned by the Association;
- c. any property adjacent to the Property if maintenance of same is deemed to be in the best interests of the Association, and if not prohibited by the owner or operator of said property; and
- d. any area, item, easement, or service - the maintenance of which is assigned to the Association by this Declaration, by the County, or by the Plat.

11.2. OWNER RESPONSIBILITY. Every Owner has the following responsibilities and obligations for the maintenance, repair, and replacement of the Property, subject to the architectural control requirements:

11.2.1. House Maintenance. Each Owner, at the Owner's expense, must maintain all improvements on the/his Lot. Maintenance includes preventative maintenance, repair as needed, and replacement as needed. Each Owner is expected to maintain his Lot's improvements at a level, to a standard, and with an appearance that is commensurate with the neighborhood. Specifically, each Owner must repair and replace worn, rotten, deteriorated, and unattractive materials, and must regularly repaint all painted surfaces.

11.2.2. Yard Maintenance. Each Owner, at the Owner's expense, must maintain the yards on his Lot at a level, to a standard, and with an appearance that is commensurate with the neighborhood. "Yards" means all parts of the Lot other than the dwelling, including fenced and unfenced portions of the Lot.

11.3. OWNER'S DEFAULT IN MAINTENANCE. If the Board determines that an Owner has failed to properly discharge his obligation to maintain, repair, and replace items for which the Owner is responsible, the Board may give the Owner written notice of the Association's intent to provide the necessary maintenance at Owner's expense. The notice must state, with reasonable particularity, the maintenance deemed necessary and a reasonable period of time in which to complete the work. If the Owner fails or refuses to timely perform the maintenance, the Association may do so at Owner's expense, which is an Individual Assessment against the Owner and his Lot. In case of an emergency, however, the Board's responsibility to give the Owner written notice may be waived and the Board may take any action it deems necessary to protect persons or property, the cost of the action being the Owner's expense.

ARTICLE 12

MORTGAGEE PROTECTION

12.1. PURCHASE MONEY MORTGAGEE RIGHTS. As used in this Article, "Purchase Money Mortgagee" means a holder, insurer, or guarantor of a purchase money mortgage secured by a recorded senior or first mortgage against a Lot, or any renewal, modification, or refinancing of said recorded senior or first mortgage. The Purchase Money Mortgagee has the following rights:

- a. its mortgage against the Lot is superior to the Association's continuing lien for Assessments;

- b. an action to terminate the legal status of the Property after substantial destruction or condemnation must be approved by a majority of the Purchase Money Mortgagees, in addition to the required consents of Owners;
- c. an action to terminate the legal status for reasons other than substantial destruction or condemnation must be approved by at least two-thirds of the Purchase Money Mortgagees;
- d. a Purchase Money Mortgagee may inspect the Association's books and records, by appointment, during normal business hours;
- e. a Purchase Money Mortgagee may have an audited statement prepared at its own expense;
- f. a Purchase Money Mortgagee is exempt from any right of first refusal imposed by the Association with respect to a lease, sale, or transfer of a Lot; and
- g. a Purchase Money Mortgagee may attend and address any meeting of the Association which an Owner may attend.

12.2 COMMUNICATIONS WITH MORTGAGEE. If the Community Documents or public law require the consent of Purchase Money Mortgagees for an act, decision or amendment by the Association, the approval of a Purchase Money Mortgagee is implied when the Purchase Money Mortgagee fails to respond within thirty (30) days after receiving the Association's written request for approval of a proposed amendment, provided the Association's request was delivered by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested.

ARTICLE 13 AMENDMENTS

13.1. CONSENTS REQUIRED. As permitted by this Declaration, certain amendments of this Declaration may be approved by Declarant alone, or by the Board alone. Otherwise, amendments to this Declaration must be approved by a majority vote of the Members. Approval of the Members does not require that an amendment to this Declaration be signed by the consenting Owners, or that consents be executed and acknowledged by the approving Members; where a vote of the Members is required to amend this Declaration, a Certificate signed by the Secretary of the Association will be sufficient to evidence the required consent.

13.2. EFFECTIVE. To be effective, an amendment must be in the form of a written instrument (a) referencing the name of the Property, the name of the Association, and the recording data of this Declaration and any amendments hereto, (b) reciting the authority by which approved, and (c) recorded in the conveyance records of the County in which the Property is located.

13.3 DECLARANT PROVISIONS. Declarant has an exclusive right to Unilaterally amend this Declaration for the purposes stated in Article 15. No amendment may affect Declarant's rights under this Declaration without Declarant's written and acknowledged consent, which must be part of

the recorded amendment instrument. This Section may not be amended without the Declarant's written and acknowledged consent.

13.4. MERGER. Merger or consolidation of the Association with another association must be evidenced by an amendment to this Declaration. During the Development Period, any amendment effecting or authorizing a merger or consolidation of the Association with another association must be approved by Declarant. After the Development Period, the amendment must be approved by Owners of at least a majority of the Lots.

ARTICLE 14

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

14.1. INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITIONS. The Association, the Owners, Declarant, all persons subject to this Declaration, and any person not otherwise subject to this Declaration who agrees to submit to this Article (collectively, the "**Parties**") agree to encourage the amicable resolution of disputes involving the Property and to avoid the emotional and financial costs of litigation if at all possible. Accordingly, each Party hereby covenants and agrees that this Article applies to all claims as hereafter defined. As used in this Article only, the following words, when capitalized, have the following specified meanings:

14.1.1. "Claim" means any claim, grievance, or dispute between Parties involving the Property, except Exempt Claims, as defined below, and including without limitation (a) claims arising out of or relating to the interpretation, application or enforcement of the Community Documents, (b) claims related to the rights and/or duties of Declarant as Declarant under the Community Documents, and (c) claims relating to the design, construction, or maintenance of the Property.

14.1.2. "Claimant" means any Party having a Claim against any other Party.

14.1.3. "Exempt Claims" means the following claims or actions, which are exempt from this Article:

- a. the Association's claim for Assessments, and any action by the Association to collect Assessments;
- b. an action by a Party to obtain a temporary restraining order or equivalent emergency equitable relief, and such other ancillary relief as the court deems necessary to maintain the status quo and preserve the Party's ability to enforce the provisions of this Declaration;
- c. enforcement of the easements, architectural control, maintenance, and use restrictions of this Declaration; and
- d. a suit to which an applicable statute of limitations would expire within the notice period of this Article, unless a Party against whom the Claim is made agrees to toll the statute of limitations as to the Claim for the period reasonably necessary to comply with this Article.

14.1.4. "Respondent" means the Party against whom the Claimant has a Claim.

14.2. MANDATORY PROCEDURES. Claimant may not file suit in any court or initiate any proceeding before any administrative tribunal seeking redress or resolution of its Claim until Claimant has complied with the procedures of this Article.

14.3. NOTICE. Claimant must notify Respondent in writing of the Claim (the “Notice”), stating plainly and concisely: (a) the nature of the Claim, including date, time, location, persons involved, and Respondent's role in the Claim; (b) the basis of the Claim (i.e., the provision of the Community Documents or other authority out of which the Claim arises); (c) what Claimant wants Respondent to do or not do to resolve the Claim; and (d) that the Notice is given pursuant to this Section.

14.4. NEGOTIATION. Claimant and Respondent will make every reasonable effort to meet in person to resolve the Claim by good faith negotiation. Within 60 days after Respondent's receipt of the Notice, Respondent and Claimant will meet at a mutually-acceptable place and time to discuss the Claim. At such meeting or at some other mutually-agreeable time, Respondent and Respondent's representatives will have full access to the property that is subject to the Claim for the purposes of inspecting the property. If Respondent elects to take corrective action, Claimant will provide Respondent and Respondent's representatives and agents with full access to the property to take and complete corrective action.

14.5. MEDIATION. If the parties negotiate but do not resolve the Claim through negotiation within one hundred twenty (120) days from the date of the Notice (or within such other period as may be agreed on by the parties), Claimant will have thirty (30) additional days within which to submit the Claim to mediation by a mediator on which the parties mutually agree. If Claimant does not submit the Claim to mediation within the said thirty (30) day period, Claimant is deemed to have waived the Claim, and Respondent is released and discharged from any and all liability to Claimant on account of the Claim.

14.6. TERMINATION OF MEDIATION. If the Parties do not settle the Claim within 30 days after submission to mediation, the mediator will issue a notice of termination of the mediation proceedings indicating that the Parties are at an impasse and the date that mediation was terminated. Thereafter, Claimant may file suit or initiate administrative proceedings on the Claim, as appropriate.

14.7. ALLOCATION OF COSTS. Except as otherwise provided in this Section, each Party bears all of its own costs incurred prior to and during the proceedings described in the Notice, Negotiation, and Mediation sections above, including its attorney's fees. Respondent and Claimant will equally divide all expenses and fees charged by the mediator.

14.8. ENFORCEMENT OF RESOLUTION. Any settlement of the Claim through negotiation or mediation will be documented in writing and signed by the Parties. If any Party thereafter fails to abide by the terms of the agreement, then the other Party may file suit or initiate administrative proceedings to enforce the agreement without the need to again comply with the procedures set forth in this Article. In that event, the Party taking action to enforce the agreement is entitled to recover from the non-complying Party all costs incurred in enforcing the agreement, including, without limitation, attorney's fees and court costs.

14.9. LITIGATION APPROVAL AND SETTLEMENT. The initiation of any judicial or administrative proceeding by the Association is subject to the following conditions in addition to the above alternate dispute resolution procedures. Each Owner, by accepting an interest in or title to a Lot, whether or not it is so expressed in the instrument of conveyance, covenants and agrees to be bound by this Section. This Section may not be amended without the approval of Owners of at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the Lots.

14.9.1. Owner Approval. The Association may not initiate any judicial or administrative proceeding without the prior approval of Owners of at least a majority of the Lots, except that no such approval is required (a) to enforce provisions of this Declaration, including collection of Assessments; (b) to challenge condemnation proceedings; (c) to enforce a contract against a contractor, vendor, or supplier of goods or services to the Association; (d) to defend claims filed against the Association or to assert counterclaims in a proceedings instituted against the Association; or (e) to obtain a temporary restraining order or equivalent emergency equitable relief when circumstances do not provide sufficient time to obtain the prior consents of Owners in order to preserve the status quo.

14.9.2. Higher Approval of Certain Suits. Also, the Association may not initiate any judicial or administrative proceeding against Declarant, a Declarant Affiliate, a Builder, Association officers and directors, or the managing agent of the Association without the approval of Owners representing at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the Lots.

14.9.3. Funding Litigation. Except in the case of a temporary restraining order or equivalent emergency equitable relief when circumstances do not provide sufficient time to levy a Special Assessment, the Association must levy a Special Assessment to fund the estimated costs of litigation prior to initiating a judicial or administrative proceeding. The Association may not use its annual operating income, reserve funds, or savings to fund litigation, unless the Association's annual budget or a savings account was established and funded from its inception as a litigation reserve fund.

14.9.4. Settlement. The Board, on behalf of the Association and without the consent of Owners, is hereby authorized to negotiate settlement of litigation, and may execute any document related thereto, such as settlement agreements and waiver or release of claims.

ARTICLE 15

DECLARANT RIGHTS AND RESERVATIONS

15.1. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

15.1.1. General Reservation and Construction. Notwithstanding other provisions of this Declaration and other Community Documents to the contrary: (a) nothing contained in this Declaration or any of the other Community Documents may be construed to prevent, interfere or lessen the rights of Declarant reserved or otherwise contained in this Article 15; and (b) all mortgagees, other Owners, and the Association are all prohibited from preventing or interfering with the exercise by Declarant of the rights of Declarant reserved or otherwise contained in this Article 15. Declarant hereby reserves exclusively unto itself and its successors and assigns all rights of Declarant set forth in this Article 15. In case of conflict between this Article and any other provision of this Declaration or any other Community Document, this Article controls. This Article may not be amended without the prior written consent of Declarant. The terms and provisions of this Article

must be construed liberally to give effect to Declarant's intent to protect Declarant's interests in the Property.

15.1.2. Purpose of Development Period. This Article gives Declarant certain rights during the Development Period to ensure a complete and orderly buildout and sellout of the Property, which is ultimately for the benefit and protection of Owners and mortgagees.

15.1.3. Intent to Build. Declarant, in its own name or through Declarant Affiliates, intends to construct dwellings on the Lots in connection with the sale of the Lots. However, Declarant may, without notice, sell some or all of the Lots to one or more other Builders to improve the Lots with dwellings to be sold and occupied. In that event and during the Development Period: (a) Declarant may declare any other Builder (including without limitation Declarant Affiliates) exempt, in whole or in part, from Assessments by the Association and from any obligation to make contributions to the Association's reserve funds and such exemption may be fixed for a designated period of time or may be indefinite; and (b) Declarant may, in its sole discretion, amend this Declaration to add or modify provisions addressing the role of a Builder in the Property and Declarant is hereby granted the authority to Unilaterally amend this Declaration as provided in Section 13.4 for this purpose.

15.2. [INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

15.3. DEVELOPMENT PERIOD RESERVATIONS - GOVERNANCE. Declarant reserves the following powers, rights, and duties during the Development Period:

15.3.1. Incorporation of Association. Declarant will incorporate the Association as an Alabama nonprofit corporation before the end of the Development Period.

15.3.2. Officers and Directors. During the Development Period, the Board may consist of 3 persons, or such other number as may be authorized in the Bylaws. During the Development Period, Declarant may appoint, remove, and replace any officer and any director of the Association, none of whom need be Members or Owners, and each of whom is indemnified by the Association as a "Leader." Declarant's unilateral right to remove and replace officers and directors applies to officers and directors who were elected or designated by Owners other than Declarant, as well as to Declarant's appointees.

15.3.3. Association Meetings. During the Development Period, meetings of the Association may be held at a location, date, and time that is convenient to Declarant, whether or not it is mutually convenient for the Owners.

15.3.4. Transition Meeting. Within 60 days after the end of the Development Period, or sooner at the Declarant's option, Declarant will call a transition meeting of the Owners for the purpose of electing, by vote of the Members, directors to the Board. Written notice of the transition meeting must be given to an Owner of each Lot at least 10 days before the meeting. The directors elected at the transition meeting will serve until the next annual meeting of the Association or a special meeting of the Association called for the purpose of electing directors, at which time the staggering of terms will begin. Homeowner's in attendance shall constitute quorum.

15.4. DEVELOPMENT PERIOD RESERVATIONS - FINANCIAL. Declarant reserves the following powers, rights, and duties during the Development Period:

15.4.1. Association Budget. During the Development Period, the Declarant-appointed Board will establish a projected budget for the Property as a fully developed, fully constructed, and fully occupied residential community with a level of services and maintenance that is typical for similar types of developments in the general area of the Property, using cost estimates that are current for the period in which the budget is prepared.

15.4.2 Budget Funding. As long as the Declarant controls the Association by its appointment of a majority or more of the directors, Declarant is responsible for the difference between the Association's actual operating expenses and the Regular Assessments received from the Owners other than Declarant, and will provide any additional funds necessary to pay actual cash outlays of the Association. When Declarant ceases to control the Association, Declarant will cease being responsible for the difference between the Association's operating expenses and the Assessments received from Owners other than Declarant.

15.4.3. Enhancements. During the Development Period, Declarant, in Declarant's sole discretion, may, from time to time, voluntarily provide enhancements for the Property, such as higher levels of maintenance, management, insurance, seasonal color in landscaping, and recreational personnel. Such enhancements are not included in the Association's annual operating budget or, alternatively, if included are identified as Declarant enhancements. In the event that Declarant provides enhancements to the Property as authorized in this Section 15.4.3, Declarant may at any time cease providing such enhancements.

15.4.4. Declarant Assessments and Reserves. During the Development Period, any real property owned by Declarant is not subject to Assessment by the Association. During the Development Period, Declarant is not required to make contributions to the Association's reserve funds for the Lots owned by Declarant.

15.4.5. Commencement of Assessments. During the Development Period, Declarant will determine when the Association first levies Regular Assessments against the Lots.

15.4.6. Budget Control. During the Development Period, the right of Owners to veto Assessment increases or Special Assessments is not effective and may not be exercised.

15.4.7. Inspect and Correct Accounts. For a period of 5 years after termination of the Development Period, Declarant reserves for itself and for Declarant's accountants and attorneys, the right, but not the duty, to inspect, correct, and adjust the Association financial records and accounts from the Development Period. The Association may not refuse to accept an adjusting or correcting payment made by or for the benefit of Declarant. Notwithstanding any inferences to the contrary in the preamble paragraph of this Article 15, Declarant's rights under this Section 15.4.7 will not terminate until 5 years following the last day of the Development Period.

15.5. DEVELOPMENT PERIOD ADDITIONAL RESERVATIONS. Declarant reserves the following easements and rights, exercisable at Declarant's sole discretion, at any time during the Development Period, regardless of whether Declarant owns any Property at the time of use of the easement or exercise of the right:

15.5.1. Platting. Unplatted parcels, if any, may be platted in whole or in part, and in phases. The right to plat belongs to the owner of the unplatted parcel, provided, however, that a plat that creates Common Areas or obligations for the Association must also be approved by Declarant.

15.5.2. Expansion. During the Development Period, Declarant may, in its sole discretion, annex to declare to be included as part of the Property: (a) any real property any portion of which is contiguous with, adjacent to, or within 1,000 feet of any real property that is subject to this Declaration, (b) any real property in any addition or subdivision platted by the County as a phase or section of the Property, or (c) located in a planned development district created by the County for the property subject to this Declaration. Declarant annexes real property by subjecting it to the Declaration and the jurisdiction of the Association by recording a supplement or an amendment of this Declaration, executed by Declarant, in the conveyance records of the County. The supplement or amendment of annexation must include a description of the additional real property or a reference to the recorded plat that describes the additional real property.

15.5.3. Withdrawal. Declarant may withdraw real property from the effect of this Declaration (a) if the owner of the withdrawn property consents to the withdrawal, and (b) if the withdrawal does not significantly and detrimentally change the appearance, character, operation, or use of the Property.

15.5.4. Changes in Development Plan. Declarant may modify the initial development plan to respond to perceived or actual changes and opportunities in the marketplace. Declarant may (a) change the sizes, dimensions, and configurations of Lots and streets; (b) change the minimum dwelling size; (c) change the building setback requirements; and (d) eliminate or modify any other feature of the Property.

15.5.5. Architectural Control. Declarant has the absolute right to serve as the Architectural Reviewer. Declarant may from time to time, but is not obligated to, delegate all or a portion of its reserved rights as Architectural Reviewer. Any such delegation must be in writing and must specify the scope of delegated responsibilities. Any such delegation is at all times subject to the unilateral rights of Declarant (a) to revoke such delegation at any time and reassume jurisdiction over the matters previously delegated and (b) to veto any decision which Declarant in its sole discretion determines to be inappropriate or inadvisable for any reason. Declarant also has the unilateral right to exercise architectural control over vacant Lots in the Property.

15.5.6. Amendment. Declarant may Unilaterally amend this Declaration and the other Community Documents, for any purpose, without consent of other Owners or any mortgagee.

15.5.7. Completion. Declarant has (a) the right to complete or make improvements indicated on the Plat; (b) the right to sell or lease any Lot owned by Declarant; and (c) a easement and right to erect, construct, and maintain on and in the Common Area and Lots owned or leased by Declarant whatever Declarant determines to be necessary or advisable in connection with the construction, completion, management, maintenance, leasing, and marketing of the Property, including, without limitation, parking areas, temporary buildings, temporary fencing, portable toilets, storage areas, dumpsters, trailers, and commercial vehicles of every type.

15.5.8. Easement to Inspect and Right to Correct. Declarant reserves for itself the right, but not the duty, to inspect, monitor, test, redesign, correct, and relocate any structure, improvement, or condition that may exist on any portion of the Property, including the Lots, and a

perpetual nonexclusive easement of access throughout the Property to the extent reasonably necessary to exercise this right. Declarant will promptly repair, at its sole expense, any damage resulting from the exercise of this right.

15.5.9. Promotion. Declarant reserves for itself a easement and right to place or install signs, banners, flags, display lighting, potted plants, exterior decorative items, seasonal decorations, temporary window treatments, and seasonal landscaping on the Property, including items and locations that are prohibited to other Owners and residents, for purposes of promoting, identifying, and marketing the Property and/or Declarant's dwellings, Lots, developments, or other products located outside the Property. Declarant reserves a easement and right to maintain, relocate, replace, or remove the same from time to time within the Property. Declarant also reserves the right to sponsor marketing events (e.g., open houses, MLS tours, and brokers parties) on the Property to promote the sale of Lots.

15.5.10. Offices. Declarant reserves for itself the right to use dwellings owned or leased by Declarant as models, storage areas, and offices for the marketing, management, maintenance, customer service, construction, and leasing of the Property and/or Declarant's developments or other products located outside the Property. Also, Declarant reserves for itself the easement and right to make structural changes and alterations on and to Lots and dwellings used by Declarant as models, storage areas, and offices, as may be necessary to adapt them to the uses permitted under this Declaration.

15.5.11. Access. Declarant has a easement and right of ingress and egress in and through the Property for purposes of constructing, maintaining, managing, and marketing the Property, and for discharging Declarant's obligations under this Declaration. Declarant also has the right to provide a reasonable means of access for the homebuying public through any existing or future gate that restricts vehicular access to the Property in connection with the active marketing of Lots and homes by Declarant, including the right to require that the gate be kept open during certain hours and/or on certain days. This provision may not be construed as an obligation or intent to gate the Property.

15.5.12. Utility Easements. Declarant may grant permits, licenses, and easements over, in, on, under, and through the Property for utilities, roads, and other purposes necessary for the proper development and operation of the Property. Declarant reserves the right to make changes in and additions to the easements on any Lot, as shown on the Plat, to more efficiently or economically install utilities or other improvements. Utilities may include, but are not limited to, water, sewer, trash removal, electricity, gas, telephone, television, cable, internet service, and security. To exercise this right as to land that is not a Common Area of the Property or not owned by Declarant, Declarant must have the prior written consent of the Owner.

15.6. DIFFERENT STANDARDS. Declarant has the right (1) to establish specifications for the construction of all initial improvements in the Property, (2) to establish different specifications for each neighborhood within the Property, and (3) to grant variances or waivers from community-wide standards to certain neighborhoods of the Property.

15.7. MARKETING OTHER LOCATIONS. This Declaration grants to Declarant a number of significant rights to market the Property. Declarant hereby reserves for itself and any current or future Declarant Affiliates the right to use each and every such right for the additional purposes of promoting, identifying, and marketing off-site developments of Declarant or Declarant

Affiliates for the duration of the Development Period, even though Declarant and Declarant Affiliates may have completed the marketing of Lots or dwellings in the Property.

15.8. COMMON AREAS. For every Common Area capable of being conveyed to the Association, Declarant will convey title to the Common Area to the Association by one or more deeds - with or without warranty. Declarant's conveyance of title is a ministerial task that does not require and is not subject to acceptance by the Association or the Owners.

15.9. SUCCESSOR DECLARANT. Declarant may designate one or more Successor Declarants for specified designated purposes and/or for specified portions of the Property, or for all purposes and all of the Property. To be effective, the designation must be in writing, signed and acknowledged by Declarant and Successor Declarant, and recorded in the conveyance records of the County. Declarant (or Successor Declarant) may subject the designation of Successor Declarant to limitations and reservations. Unless the designation of Successor Declarant provides otherwise, a Successor Declarant has the rights of Declarant under this Section and may designate further Successor Declarants.

ARTICLE 16 **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

16.1. HIGHER AUTHORITY. In the event of a conflict between the Community Documents, the hierarchy of authority is as follows: the Plat (highest), this Declaration, Association's Certificate of Formation, Bylaws, and the rules (lowest). Within the Declaration, Article 15 has the highest authority. In the event of any conflict between an action by, or decision of, Declarant pursuant to its rights under this Agreement and an action by, or decision of, the Association (including without limitation any agency, department, committee or other division of the Association), the action by, or decision of, Declarant will control.

16.2. NOTICE. All demands or other notices required to be sent to an Owner or resident by the terms of this Declaration may be sent by electronic, ordinary, or certified mail, postage prepaid, to the party's last known address as it appears on the records of the Association on the date the notice is issued. If an Owner fails to give the Association an address for sending notices, all notices may be sent to the Owner's Lot, and the Owner is deemed to have been given notice whether or not he actually receives it.

16.3. LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION. The terms and provisions of each Community Document are to be liberally construed to give effect to the purposes and intent of the Community Document. All doubts regarding a provision, including restrictions on the use or alienability of property, will be resolved first to give effect to Declarant's intent to protect Declarant's interests in the Property, and second in favor of the operation of the Association and its enforcement of the Community Documents, regardless which party seeks enforcement.

16.4. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION. Invalidation of any provision of this Declaration by judgment or court order does not affect any other provision, which remains in full force and effect. The effect of a general statement is not limited by the enumeration of specific matters similar to the general. The captions of Certificate and sections are inserted only for convenience and are in no way to be construed as defining or modifying the text to which they refer. Unless the context provides otherwise, a reference to a gender includes all genders. Similarly, a reference to the singular

includes the plural, the plural the singular, where the same would be appropriate. The word "shall" and "will" have the same meaning in this Declaration and are both to be interpreted as mandatory.

16.5. **DURATION.** Unless terminated or amended by Owners as permitted in this Declaration, the provisions of this Declaration run with and bind the Property and will remain in effect perpetually to the extent permitted by law.

THUS DONE AND PASSED, in multiple originals, in my office in Limestone County, Alabama, on the day, month, and year first above written, and in the presence of the undersigned, competent witnesses, who hereunto sign their names with the said Declarant/Appearer and me, Notary, after reading of the whole.

WITNESSES:

[Signature]
Printed Name: BRANDON JONES

DECLARANT/APPEARER
DSL D HOMES GULF COAST, LLC

Printed Name: _____

By: [Signature]
Danny Pierce, its Manager

STATE OF ALABAMA)
COUNTY OF Limestone

I, the undersigned, a notary public in and for said county in said state, hereby certify that Danny Pierce, whose name as Authorized Agent/Manager of DSLD Homes Gulf Coast, LLC, an Alabama limited liability company, is signed to the foregoing Declaration and who is known to me, acknowledged before me on this day that, being informed of the contents of said instrument, he/she executed the same voluntarily for and as the act of said municipal corporation on the day the same bears date.

GIVEN under my hand and official seal this 24th day of July, 2024.



[Signature]
Notary Public
My commission expires: 04/26/2026

EXHIBIT A
LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Lots 1 through 103, inclusive, according to the Final Plat of Sonoma Valley Subdivision, Phase 1, said map or survey thereof being recorded in Plat Book L, Page 99, in the Probate Office of Limestone County, Alabama.

EXHIBIT B
CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS

All improvements on a Lot must (1) comply with any applicable governmental ordinances and codes, (2) have a building permit issued by the appropriate governmental entity, if the type of improvement requires a permit, and (3) have the Architectural Reviewer's prior written approval. These three requirements are independent - one does not ensure or eliminate the need for another. The Owner and/or Owner's contractor must comply with all three requirements. Without the Architectural Reviewer's prior written approval for a variance, improvements constructed on every Lot must have the following characteristics:

B.1. HOUSES. The principal improvement on a Lot must be one detached single family dwelling. The dwelling size, setbacks, and exterior materials must comply with the applicable ordinances and with any higher standards established by the Architectural Reviewer.

B.2. NEW CONSTRUCTION. The dwelling must be constructed on the Lot. A dwelling or addition constructed elsewhere may not be moved onto a Lot. Factory-built homes are not permitted, even though assembled or finished on the Lot. However, components of dwellings (such as roof trusses) may be manufactured off-site. The construction of a dwelling must be started promptly after the Architectural Reviewer approves the dwelling's plans and specifications. At the start of construction - but not before - building material to be used in the construction may be stored on the Lot. Once started, the dwelling and all improvements on the Lot must be completed with due diligence.

B.3. EXTERIOR WALL MATERIALS. The type, quality, and color of exterior wall materials must be approved by the Architectural Reviewer. Generally, the dwelling's total exterior area, minus windows and doors, must be masonry or masonry veneer, such as brick, stone, or stucco or siding which must be a cement fiber board product, such as HardiPlank and or Vinyl.

B.4. ROOFS. Roofs must be covered with material having a manufacturer's warranty of at least 20 years. The use of fiberglass shingles is permitted. The color of roofing material must be weatherwood or an equivalent earth tone color. The Architectural Reviewer may permit or require other weights, materials, and colors.

B.5. GARAGE AND DRIVEWAY. Each dwelling must have an attached garage. If the Lot has alley access, the garage must be a rear or side entry using the alley for access. The driveway must be surfaced with concrete.

B.6. CARPORTS. A carport may not be installed, constructed, or maintained on a Lot without the prior written consent of the Architectural Reviewer.

B.7. ACCESSORIES. Installation of all exterior items and surfaces, including address numbers, decorative hardware, external ornamentation, lights fixtures, and exterior paint and stain, is subject to the Architectural Reviewer's prior approval, including approval of design, color, materials, and location.

B.8. NO SUBDIVISION. No Lot may be subdivided. One or more Lots may be replatted with the approval of all Owners of the Lots directly affected by the replatting, and subject to the approval of the city. The parties executing the replat will provide a copy of the recorded replat to the Association. Replatting of Lots may not alter the number of votes and Assessments allocated to the

Lots as originally platted. If replatting reduces the number of Lots by combining Lots, the joined Lot will have the votes and Assessments allocated to the Lots as originally platted.

B.9. UTILITIES. All utility lines and equipment must be located underground, except for: (1) elevated or surface lines or equipment required by a public utility or the city; (2) elevated or surface lines or equipment installed by Declarant as part of the development plan; and (3) surface equipment necessary to maintain, operate, or read underground facilities, such as meters, risers, service pedestals, and transformers. The Architectural Reviewer may require that utility meters, risers, pedestals, and transformers be visually screened from the street and neighboring Lots. Each Lot will use city water and sewage systems. Individual water supply and sewage disposal systems are not permitted.

(End of Exhibit B)

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|---------------|--------|
| Recording Fee | 121.00 |
| TOTAL | 121.00 |