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**DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, RESTRICTIONS, AND EASEMENTS**  
**FOR**  
**VOLUSIA WOODS**

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**DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, RESTRICTIONS, AND EASEMENTS**

**FOR**

**VOLUSIA WOODS**

**THIS DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, RESTRICTIONS, AND EASEMENTS FOR VOLUSIA WOODS** (“Declaration”) is made on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023, by HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ST. AUGUSTINE/ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, INC., a Florida corporation not-for-profit (“Developer”).

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

- A.** Developer is the owner of the real property described below located in St. Johns County, Florida;
- B.** Developer desires to place covenants and restrictions of record on such real property; and
- C.** Developer deems it desirable to create a not-for-profit association to own, maintain and administer all the Common Area, to administer and enforce the easements, covenants, conditions, restrictions and limitations set forth in this Declaration, and to collect and disburse the assessments pursuant to this Declaration.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, Developer hereby declares that the following described real property, situated, lying and being, in St. Johns County, Florida:

LOT 1 THROUGH 6 LOT 6, INCLUSIVE, BLOCK 79 OF DANCY TRACT ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN MAP BOOK 1 PAGE(S) 1, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA. LESS RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND LESS THAT PORTION CONTAINED IN BOOK 3262, PAGE 1454, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS; COMMENCING FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING WHICH IS THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID BLOCK 79; THENCE, N 84° 31' 21" E FOR A DISTANCE OF 594.94 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF A 30' WIDE PUBLIC STREET KNOWN AS "JOSIAH STREET" TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID BLOCK 79; THENCE, S 05° 26' 31" E FOR A DISTANCE OF 401.18 FEET ALONG THE WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF A 50 FOOT WIDE PUBLIC STREET KNOWN AS "ST JOHNS STREET" TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID BLOCK 79 AND A FOUND IRON ROD WITH NO IDENTIFICATION; THENCE, S 84° 33' 29" W FOR A DISTANCE OF 526.49 FEET ALONG THE NORTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF A 30' WIDE PUBLIC STREET KNOWN AS "HELEN STREET" TO THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF A VARIABLE WIDTH RIGHT OF WAY AS DEFINED IN THE ST. JOHNS COUNTY, "VOLUSIA STREET RIGHT OF WAY MAP" FILE NO. T7S-781-A, SURVEY DATE 04/10/2009, BY CLARY & ASSOCIATES; THENCE ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY THE FOLLOWING 4 CALLS, (1) THENCE N 50° 12' 38" W FOR A DISTANCE OF 28.17 FEET; (2) THENCE, N 05° 12' 38" W FOR A DISTANCE OF 23.47 FEET; (3) THENCE 255.66 FEET ALONG A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE WEST AND THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 22° 46' 36", HAVING A RADIUS OF 643.11 FEET, AND WHOSE LONG CHORD BEARS N 16° 35' 56" W FOR A DISTANCE OF 253.98 FEET; (4) THENCE, N 05° 12' 38" W FOR DISTANCE OF 108.17 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

and any additional property annexed to this Declaration (collectively, the “Property”) is hereby made subject to and shall be held, sold, and conveyed subject to the following

easements, covenants, terms, conditions, and restrictions, all of which are for the purpose of protecting the value and desirability of the Property, and which shall be covenants and restrictions to run with the Property, which shall bind all parties having any right, title or interest in the Property or any part thereof, their heirs, successors and assigns, and which shall inure to the benefit of each Owner of a Lot.

**1. DEFINITIONS.**

Unless the context expressly requires otherwise, the words defined below, whenever used in this Declaration, shall have the following meanings:

**1.1** “Architectural Review Requirements” means the design criteria and building guidelines promulgated by the Architectural Review Committee.

**1.2** “Assessments” shall mean and refer to the Annual, Special, and Lot Assessments more particularly described in Section 9.

**1.3** “Articles” shall mean and refer to the Articles of Incorporation of the Association as they may be amended from time to time, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit “B”.

**1.4** “Association” shall mean and refer to Volusia Woods Homeowners’ Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, its successors and assigns.

**1.5** “Board of Directors” or “Board” shall mean and refer to the board of directors of the Association.

**1.6** “By-Laws” shall mean and refer to the By-Laws of the Association as they may be amended from time to time, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit “C”.

**1.7** “Common Area” shall mean and refer to all real property within the Property that is owned, leased or required to be maintained by the Association, regardless of whether title has been conveyed to the Association, and all improvements constructed on such real property. The Common Area shall initially consist of the Stormwater Maintenance Facilities on Tracts “A”, “B”, “C” and “D”, the utility and drainage easements, the landscape and perimeter buffers, and the Surface Water or Stormwater Management System described in this Declaration.

**1.8** “Common Expense” shall mean and refer to those items of expense for which the Association is or may be responsible under this Declaration and those additional items of expense approved by the Owners in the manner set forth in the Declaration, the Articles, or the By-Laws.

**1.9** “County” shall mean St. Johns County, Florida.

**1.10** “Developer” shall mean and refer to Habitat for Humanity St. Augustine/St. Johns County, Florida, a Florida corporation not for profit, and its successors and such of its assigns as to which all or part of the rights of Developer under this Declaration are specifically assigned, as evidenced in writing. The Developer’s rights and obligations under this Declaration are independent of its right to control the Association and shall not be deemed waived, transferred, or assigned upon Turnover.

**1.11** “Declaration” shall mean and refer to this Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions for Volusia Woods.

**1.12** “District” shall mean and refer to the St. Johns River Water Management District, a water management district pursuant to Section 373, Florida Statutes.

**1.13** “Dwelling Unit” shall mean and refer a residential single-family dwelling constructed on a Lot.

**1.14** “Lot” shall mean and refer to any platted residential lot shown on the Site Plan and any subsequently recorded Site Plan of any additional contiguous land made subject to this Declaration, together with the improvements thereon.

**1.15** “Member” shall mean and refer to a member of the Association, as described in this Declaration.

**1.16** “Owner” shall mean and refer to the record owner, whether one (1) or more persons or entities, of a fee simple title to any Lot and shall include contract sellers but shall not include those holding title merely as security for performance of an obligation. An “Owner” shall include the family members residing in a Dwelling Unit for purposes of Sections 3, 4 and 6.

**1.17** “Plat” means any Plat or Replat of the Property or any portion thereof now or hereafter recorded.

**1.18** “Property” shall mean and refer to that certain real property shown on the survey attached as Exhibit “A,” together with improvements thereon

**1.19** “Site Plan” shall mean and refer to the survey attached as Exhibit “A”.

**1.20** “Surface Water or Stormwater Management System” or “the System” means a system which is designed and constructed or implemented to control discharges which are necessitated by rainfall events, incorporating methods to collect, convey, store, absorb, inhibit, treat, use or reuse water to prevent or reduce flooding, overdrainage, environmental degradation, and water pollution or otherwise affect the quantity and quality of discharges from the system. The System initially consists of the

Stormwater Management Facility, drainage easements, security fencing, and related structures shown on the Site Plan.

**1.21** “Turnover” shall mean and refer to the transition of control from the Developer to the Association, as described in Section 720.307, Florida Statutes (2023).

**2. PROPERTY SUBJECT TO THIS DECLARATION.**

**2.1 Property.** The Property described in the Site Plan is the only property initially subject to this Declaration. Additional lands may be annexed to and made part of this Declaration in accordance with Section 2.2. No land owned by the Developer shall be deemed to be part of the Property or Common Area unless such land is expressly described in the Site Plan, or subsequently designated as such by the Developer pursuant to Section 2.2 or 3.2, even if the Developer consents or acquiesces to the use of such land by the Owners.

**2.2 Annexation of Additional Lands.** The Developer reserves and shall have the sole right to annex additional contiguous land on which additional Lots may be developed and make same subject to this Declaration without the joinder or consent of any Lot Owner, the Association, the holder of a mortgage or lien affecting the Property, or any other person. Annexation of lands to the Property shall be evidenced by a Supplementary Declaration executed by the Developer and recorded in the public records of St. Johns County, Florida. The Owners of Lots developed on such contiguous land shall be members of the Association in accordance with the provisions of this Declaration and shall be subject to all covenants, restrictions, rules, regulations and By-Laws in the same manner and to the same extent as the original Lot Owners.

**2.3 Withdrawal of Lands.** The Developer reserves the right, with the approval of a majority of the votes in the Association, to withdraw portions of the Property from the terms and conditions of this Declaration. Such withdrawal of lands shall be evidenced by a Supplementary Declaration executed by the Developer and the Association and recorded in the public records of St. Johns County, Florida.

**3. COMMON AREA.**

**3.1 Conveyance of Common Area.** Subject to the Developer’s right to withdraw from the Common Area, the Developer shall convey or assign such portions of the Common Area as it elects to the Association within ninety (90) days after Turnover and the Association shall accept such conveyance or assignment. Such conveyance or assignment shall be subject to easements and restrictions of record, including all those shown on the Site Plan and contained in this Declaration, but free and clear of all liens and financial encumbrances other than taxes for the year of conveyance. The Developer may reserve certain rights to itself for use of the Common Area which are not averse to the Owners. Upon the recording of a deed or other

instrument conveying or assigning the Common Area to the Association, the Association shall be deemed to have accepted such conveyance or assignment.

**3.2 Developer's Right to Add to or Withdraw from the Common Area.**

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Declaration, for so long as the Developer shall own any Lot, the Developer shall have the right, in its sole discretion:

**3.2.1** To designate additional lands, easements, use rights and personal property owned by the Developer as Common Area, provided only that such land shall be located within the Property or contiguous to the Property (for purposes of Sections 1.13, 2.2, and this Section 3.2, property separated only by public or private roads, water bodies, or open space shall be deemed contiguous); and

**3.2.2** To withdraw, or cause to be withdrawn, land from the Common Area or to dedicate or convey portions of the Common Area as permitted by Section 8.8. The prior sentence notwithstanding, in the event such withdrawal of Common Area shall materially and adversely affect any Lot, or materially and adversely affect access, visibility, or drainage to or from any Lot or Lots, the Developer shall not have the right to withdraw such Common Area without the consent and joinder of the Owners of the Lots which are so affected. Withdrawal of land from the Common Area by the Developer shall terminate any and all easements and rights of use of the Owners in such land. In the event any land, easements, use rights or personal property owned by the Association shall be withdrawn from the Common Area pursuant to this Section 3.2, upon the Developer's written request, the Association shall promptly execute and deliver to the Developer any and all deeds, bills of sale, assignments or other documents as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the withdrawal of such Common Area.

**3.3 Damage to the Common Area.** If any Owner or any guest, licensee, agent, invitee or family member of an Owner, or any pet of any of the foregoing, damages the Common Area as a result of negligence or misuse, the Owner authorizes the Association to repair the damage. The cost of the repair will be the responsibility of such Owner and will become a Lot Assessment payable by such Owner.

**4. EASEMENTS.**

**4.1 Owners' Access Easements.**

**4.1.1** Except as otherwise provided herein, every Owner and every guest, licensee, agent and invitee of such Owner is hereby granted a right and easement of enjoyment in and to the Common Area for its intended purpose, which shall be appurtenant to and shall pass with the title to every Lot subject to the provisions of Section 4.2. Tracts A through D have located on them four retention ponds and are fenced, and Owners are not permitted to enter upon Tracts A through D.

**4.1.2** Fire, police, health and sanitation and other public service personnel and vehicles shall have a permanent and perpetual easement for ingress and egress over and across the Common Areas in performance of their respective duties.

**4.2 Easement Parameters.** The easements described in Section 4.1 above are subject to the following:

**4.2.1** The provisions of this Declaration, the rules and regulations of the Association and any prior use rights granted in the Common Area;

**4.2.2** The right of the Association to charge Assessments against Lots and Owners in accordance with this Declaration, and to charge reasonable admission and other fees for the use and security of any recreational facility that may be situated on the Common Area;

**4.2.3** The right of the Association to suspend the rights of any Owner or an Owner's guests, licensees, agents, or invitees, or both, to use the Common Area and to levy a reasonable fine for a violation of this Declaration or Chapter 720, as provided in Section 720.305, Florida Statutes (2023), as amended from time to time, provided that the Owner shall have vehicular and pedestrian ingress and egress to and from his Lot and the right to park;

**4.2.4** The easements shown on the Site Plan and other easements, restrictions, and other matters of record;

**4.2.5** The right of the owner of the Common Area, without further consent from Owners or their Mortgagees, to dedicate, transfer or grant an easement over all or any part of the Common Area to a public or private entity as permitted by Section 8.8, including without limitation the right to dedicate, transfer or grant an easement over the Common Area to any public agency, authority, or utility company for the purpose of providing utility or cable television service to the Property and the right of the Board to acquire, extend, terminate or abandon such easement;

**4.2.6** The right of the owner of the Common Area to sell, convey or transfer the Common Area or any portion thereof to any third party other than those described in Sections 4.2.5 and 8.8 or for such purposes and subject to such conditions as may be approved by a majority vote of both classes of members of the Association;

**4.2.7** The right of the Association to adopt reasonable rules and regulations pertaining to the use of the Common Area and the Access Easements, including without limitation the right of the Developer and the Association to assign and reassign parking spaces within the Access Easements to Owners entitled to share the use of such Access Easements;

**4.2.8** The right of the Developer or the Association to authorize other persons to enter upon or use the Common Area for uses not inconsistent with the Owners' rights therein;

**4.2.9** The right of the Board to mortgage any or all of the Common Area for the purpose of improvement or repair of the Common Area with the approval of a majority vote of the Association; and

**4.2.10** Developer's reserved right to dedicate to the public all or any part of the lands or easements remaining privately owned by Developer, as may be set forth in the Site Plan.

**4.3 Delegation of Use.** Any Owner may delegate his right of enjoyment to the Common Area and the Access Easements to the members of his family or contract purchasers who occupy the Lot within the Property.

**4.4 Association's Rights and Easements.**

**4.4.1** The Developer hereby grants to the Association and its successors, assigns, agents, and contractors a perpetual non-exclusive easement in, on, over, under, and upon Tracts "A", "B", "C" or "D" for drainage and stormwater management purposes, a perpetual non-exclusive easement for utility purposes, and a perpetual non-exclusive easement in, on, over, and under other portions of the Property as may be reasonably necessary for the purpose of maintaining the Common Area, including without limitation all areas of the Surface Water or Stormwater Management System, and for access to operate, maintain or repair the System. By this easement, the Association shall have the right to enter upon any portion of any Lot that subject to these easements or that is a part of the System at a reasonable time and in a reasonable manner to operate, maintain or repair the Common Areas or the System. No person shall alter the drainage flow of the System without the prior written approval of the District or other governmental agency having jurisdiction. In the event any portion of the Property is damaged or altered as a result of the exercise of these easement rights, the party causing the damage or alteration shall immediately restore the Property to the condition that existed immediately prior to the damage or alteration.

**4.4.2** Violation of any conditions or restrictions, or breach of any covenant herein contained or in any of the governing documents of the Association, shall also give the Association and its authorized agent or representative, in addition to all other remedies, the right to enter upon the Lot during reasonable hours where such a violation or breach exists, and in the event of an emergency, summarily abate and remove, at the expense of the Owner of the Lot, any construction or other violation that may be or exists thereon. The Association and its authorized agents shall not thereby become liable in any manner for trespass, abatement or removal. Nothing in this

section shall require the Association to perform any exterior maintenance on any Dwelling Unit.

**4.4.3** The Association is hereby granted a perpetual non-exclusive easement over all easements shown on the Site Plan for the purpose of constructing or maintaining any roads, utilities, drainage facilities, ditches, or other improvements on the Property.

**4.5 Developer's Reserved Rights and Easements.**

**4.5.1** For so long as Developer owns any portion of the Property, Developer reserves the right without further consent from any other Owner to grant or dedicate additional easements and rights of way over, upon, across, and under any portions of the Property owned by Developer, including without limitation the right to grant or dedicate to any public utility company, municipality or other governmental unit, water or sewage company, or cable television company an easement over, upon, under, across and through the Common Area and all easements shown on the Site Plan. Such additional easements authorized by this section shall be for all purposes, including without limitation the right to erect and lay or cause to be erected or laid, constructed, maintained, removed or repaired all light poles, wires, water and gas pipes and conduits, catch basins, cable TV lines, surface drains, sewage lines and such other customary or usual appurtenances as may, from time to time, in the opinion of Developer or any utility company or governmental authority, be deemed necessary or advisable. By accepting a deed to any Lot the Owner does thereby waive any claim for damages against Developer and its successors or assigns incurred by the construction, maintenance and repair of said utilities, or on account of temporary or other inconvenience caused thereby. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the easements authorized by this section shall not materially or adversely affect any improvements on the Property or unreasonably interfere with the enjoyment of the Common Area or any Lot as contemplated by this Declaration.

**4.5.2** The Developer reserves for itself and its successors, assigns, and designees, a perpetual non-exclusive easement over, upon, across and under all portions of the Common Area and any area designated as an easement, street, or right-of-way on the Site Plan for ingress and egress and to construct, maintain, and use utilities and utility poles, lines, drains, and other installations and equipment for the furnishing of utility services to the Property and for the purpose of maintaining roadways, landscaping, wetlands, lakes, ponds, and other Common Area. Nothing in this paragraph shall require the Developer to perform any maintenance on the Common Area. The Developer shall have the right but no obligation to vacate any easement or portion thereof shown on the Site Plan as may be necessary for the proper development and sale of the Lots and the proper development of the Common Area.

**4.5.3** The Developer shall have the irrevocable right of access to any

and all portions of the Property during reasonable hours to inspect and test such property, to repair or replace any portion of the Property as necessary in the Developer's reasonable judgment, and to monitor the Association's maintenance of the Common Area. This right of entry shall survive Turnover. The Developer shall also have the right to proceed in any appropriate court to seek compliance with the Association's maintenance obligations and to enforce the Developer's right of entry. Any expenses incurred by the Developer to enforce the maintenance obligations of Association and the Developer's rights under this section shall be the responsibility of the Association. Nothing in this section shall require the Developer to maintain or repair any part of the Property or any improvements on the Property.

**4.5.4** The Developer or the Association, their successors and assigns, shall have an easement and the right to grant easements over, under, across, in and through the Property to permit the Developer or the Association to act upon and carry out its rights and duties, express or implied, under this Declaration., The Developer shall have an easement and the right to grant easements over, under, across, in and through the Property to facilitate such other actions by the Developer for the development and sale of Lots and the development of the Common Area.

**4.6 Owner's Easements.** In addition to the easements granted in Section 4.1, each of the following easements are hereby created as covenants running with the Property and, notwithstanding any of the other provisions of this Declaration, may not be substantially amended or revoked in such a way as to unreasonably interfere with their proper and united use and purpose.

**4.6.1 Utilities.** Easements over, upon, across, and under the Lots as may be required for utility services in order to adequately serve the Lots and Dwelling Units.

**4.6.2** [This section is intentionally left blank].

**4.6.3 Encroachments.** Easements for encroachments onto a Lot by any Dwelling Unit, provided that such encroachment is not caused by the purposeful or negligent act of an Owner. Such easements shall exist for the continuance of such encroachments for so long as they may naturally exist.

**4.6.4 Overhangs.** Easements for overhanging troughs, gutters, or down spouts and the discharge therefrom of rainwater and the subsequent flow thereof over the Lots or any of them.

**4.6.5 Lot Owner Maintenance Responsibility.** Owners shall be required to perform landscaping maintenance on their Lots, including mowing, and including the ten foot (10') drainage and utility easement located on each Lot.

**4.6.6 Duties of the Association.** The Association shall be responsible for maintenance, operation and repair of the Stormwater Management System and the twenty foot (20') drainage easements depicted on the Site Plan.

**5. ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL.**

**5.1 Architectural Review Committee.** Habitat for Humanity St. Augustine/St. Johns County, Inc., and its successors and assigns to which its rights under this Section 5 are specifically assigned shall serve as the Architectural Review Committee ("the Committee") for the Property and shall have the powers and duties set forth below. This provision shall survive Turnover.

**5.2 Review and Approval.** No Dwelling Unit, building, accessory structure, sign, site paving, grading, parking, building addition, alterations, screen enclosure, sewer, drain, disposal system, decorative item, mailbox, landscaping, landscape device or object, exterior lighting scheme, driveway, ramp, playhouse, swimming pool, barbecue pit, or other improvement, and no exterior addition to or modification of an existing improvement, the construction or placement of which is proposed upon any Lot or the Property ("Proposed Improvement"), other than those erected by Developer, shall be commenced, erected or maintained upon the Property, nor shall any clearing, grading, excavating, or tree removal be commenced, until all construction, clearing, grading and landscape plans and specifications showing the nature, kind, shape, height, color, materials, and location of the same have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Committee as to quality of workmanship and materials, color, harmony of external design with existing buildings or structures, location of said building or structure with respect to topography and finish grade elevation, compliance with the provisions of this Declaration, and aesthetic qualities. Such approval shall be within the sole discretion of the Committee. In the event that a member submits a request for a Proposed Improvement or modification that is not specifically addressed in the Association's governing documents, then the existing state of the community is the applicable standard by which the Owner's application to the Committee shall be judged. Such plans shall be either approved or disapproved by the Committee within a reasonable period, and construction of approved improvements must be commenced within a period of six (6) months from date the plans are approved, or such longer time as may be approved by the Committee in its sole discretion.

**5.3 Powers and Duties of Committee.** The Committee shall have the following powers and duties:

**5.3.1** To draft and adopt architectural planning criteria, standards and guidelines relative to architectural styles or details; to draft and adopt rules and regulations regarding the form and content of plans and specifications to be submitted to the Committee for approval; and to define such exterior changes, alterations, or

improvements that require Committee review and approval, all as the Committee may consider necessary or appropriate, but subject to the minimum standards set forth in Section 5.4 and Chapter 720, Florida Statutes.

**5.3.2** To require submission to the Committee of three (3) or more complete sets of final plans and specifications, in the form in which the Owner intends to submit them to St. Johns County, Florida, or, if county approval is not required for the Proposed Improvement, the plans and specifications as the Owner intends to construct the Proposed Improvement. An Owner may submit preliminary conceptual plans to the Committee for conceptual approval prior to submitting final plans, but shall nevertheless be required to submit and obtain approval of final plans prior to commencing construction or installation of any Proposed Improvement. The Committee may also require submission of samples of building materials and colors proposed for use on any Lot or the Property, and may require such additional information as reasonably may be necessary for the Committee to completely evaluate the proposed structure or improvement in accordance with this Declaration and the architectural planning criteria adopted by the Committee.

**5.3.3** To require submission to the Committee of two (2) or more complete sets of Lot clearing plans, which must show all areas of the Lot the Owner intends to clear, the location of any trees larger than six inches (6") in diameter or more measured four feet (4') above the ground, and any trees the removal of which requires a permit from St. Johns County, Florida.

**5.3.4** To approve or disapprove any Proposed Improvement or clearing plan or any change or modification thereto, including without limitation any change in the color of such improvement.

**5.3.5** To evaluate each application for the total effect, including the manner in which the Lot is to be developed. This evaluation relates to matters of judgment and taste, which cannot be reduced to a simple list of measurable criteria. It is possible, therefore, that a Proposed Improvement might meet individual criteria delineated in this Section and the architectural planning criteria and still not receive approval, if in the sole judgment of the Committee, its overall aesthetic impact is unacceptable. The approval of an application for one Proposed Improvement shall not be construed as creating any obligation on the part of the Committee to approve applications involving similar designs for Proposed Improvements pertaining to different Lots.

**5.3.6** To require the Owner to restore the Proposed Improvement to comply with the original plans and specifications, or the plans and specifications originally approved by the Committee, in the event any Proposed Improvement is changed, modified or altered without prior approval of the Committee. The Owner

shall bear all costs and expenses of such restoration, including costs and reasonable attorneys' fees of the Committee.

**5.3.7** To waive any requirement set forth in this Declaration or in the architectural planning criteria adopted by the Committee if, in its sole discretion, it deems such waiver to be in the best interests of the Property and the Owners of other Lots and not incompatible with the Property and the other Lots. A waiver shall be evidenced in writing and signed by the chairman of the Committee upon approval of the majority of the members of the Committee.

#### **5.4 Architectural Planning Criteria.**

**5.4.1 General Building Specifications.** No building other than one (1) single-family dwelling, not to exceed 1,400 feet and not to exceed two stories (as the term "story" is defined by the Florida Building Code, and as that document may be amended from time to time), and not to exceed thirty-five (35) feet in height, may be constructed on any one Lot except as provided herein. All utility rooms, porches and screened-in areas shall be designed in harmony with the dwelling. No Dwelling Unit that contains less than eight hundred (800) square feet of heated and cooled living area in the case of a single-story structure and less than nine hundred (900) square feet of heated and cooled first-floor living area in the case of a multi-story structure shall be constructed on any Lot. All utility rooms, porches and screened-in areas shall be in addition to the minimum living areas set forth above and shall not be considered a part thereof for determining compliance with these size restrictions. All yards, except for areas approved to be paved, shall be sodded and landscaped from the edge of the paved roadway to the foundation of the residence. No business or commercial buildings or equipment may be erected, kept or maintained on any Lot except by the Developer.

**5.4.2 Layout.** No foundation for a building shall be placed on a Lot and no construction shall commence in any manner or respect, until the layout for the building is approved by the Committee. It is the purpose of this approval to assure that no trees are unnecessarily disturbed and that the home is placed on the Lot in its most advantageous position.

**5.4.3 Roofs.** Flat roofs shall not be permitted. The minimum pitch of the main roofs must be 2:12. Accessory roofs with a lower pitch shall be permitted if approved by the Committee.

**5.4.4 Walls and Fences Prohibited.** No wall, fence or border hedge shall be erected, placed, maintained or permitted to remain upon any Lot.

**5.4.5 Driveways and Sidewalks.** All dwellings shall have an approved driveway of stable and permanent materials. All driveways must be constructed of concrete.

**5.4.6 Dwelling Quality.** The Committee shall have final approval of all exterior building material. Exposed concrete block shall not be permitted on the exterior of any building or detached structure.

**5.4.7 Game and Play Structures.** All play structures must be located at the rear of the dwelling within the setback lines. No platform, doghouse, playhouse, tree house or structure of a similar kind or nature may be constructed on any part of a Lot located in front of the rear line of the residence constructed thereon, and any such structure shall be deemed a Proposed Improvement and must have prior approval of the Committee. Basketball backboards are not permitted in the Access Easements.

**5.4.8** [This section is intentionally left blank].

**5.4.9 Utility Connections; Gas Tanks.** Building connections for all utilities, including but not limited to water, electricity, telephone, and television, must be run underground from the proper connecting points to the building structure in such a manner as to be acceptable to the governing utility authority. Water-to-air heat pumps are not permitted. Gas tanks shall be permitted in rear yards only, unless installed underground.

**5.4.10 Setbacks.** Lots are subject to a ten-foot (10') front line setback, a five-foot (5') side line setback (except Lot 11), and a ten-foot (10') rear setback.

The term "front line" shall mean any boundary line that is contiguous to a street right-of-way regardless of the direction that the front of the dwelling faces. The term "rear line" shall mean any Lot boundary line that intersects the side lines and is parallel to the front lot line. The term "side line" shall mean any lot boundary line other than a front or rear lot line.

**5.5 Limitation on Liability.** Any Owner making or causing to be made any Proposed Improvement or additions to the Property or a Lot agrees and shall be deemed to have agreed, for such Owner and his heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns, to hold the Committee, Association, Developer and all other Owners harmless from any liability or damage to the Property and from expenses arising from any Proposed Improvement and such owner shall be solely responsible for the maintenance, repair and insurance of any Proposed Improvement and for assuring that the Proposed Improvement meets with all applicable governmental approvals, rules and regulations.

**5.6 Holiday Decorations.** The Board may adopt reasonable rules and regulations governing exterior holiday lighting and decorations, and Committee approval shall not be required prior to the installation of lighting and decorations that comply with such rules and regulations.

**5.7 Fees.** The Committee is hereby authorized to make such charges for each submittal as it deems necessary to cover the cost of review of the plans and specifications.

**5.8 Variances.** The Developer or the Committee may authorize variances from compliance with building setbacks or any architectural provision of this Declaration when deemed appropriate in the sole discretion of the Developer or the Committee. Any such variance must be evidenced in writing by the Developer or the Committee and shall not operate to waive any of the terms and conditions of this Declaration except to the extent necessary to give effect to the variance.

**5.9 Appeal.** Any decision of the Committee may be appealed to the Board within thirty (30) days of the decision. The decision of the Board shall be final.

**6. USE RESTRICTIONS.**

**6.1 Residential Use.** No Lot may be used for any purpose except for a residential dwelling for a family, as defined by applicable zoning ordinances. Lots will be occupied and used by the respective Owners only as private dwellings for the Owner, the Owner's family, social guests, and for no other purpose. Use of a residence for home office purposes is not prohibited, provided the Owner must reside in the residence as his primary residence and the use of the residence for a home office must be clearly incidental and subordinate to its use as a residence; no evidence of the home office use may be visible from the exterior of the Lot; traffic from visitors and delivery or pickup services may not exceed the traffic typically generated by other Lots; the activities of the home office must occur entirely within the residence; the physical address of the home office may not be advertised; and the use must otherwise comply with this Declaration and all applicable zoning regulations.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, until such time as the Developer no longer owns a Lot, the Developer reserves the right to use the vacant portions of a Lot and the Common Area for Developer's construction activities; provided, however, that the Developer's activities may not interfere with the residential use of any improved Lot. In the event Developer's activities disrupt the surface condition of a Lot, the Developer shall be required to return the Lot to its condition as it existed immediately prior to the disruption.

No Lot or any portion of a Lot shall be leased, subleased, rented, let, sublet, or used in for or in connection with any timesharing agreement. No Lot shall be used for any internet-based or other short-term rental program (such as Airbnb, VRBO or Home Away) or any similar business.

**6.2 Vehicles.** No boats or wheeled vehicles of any kind, including without limitation trailers, automobiles or campers, may be kept or parked on any Lot.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, private automobiles of occupants and guests of a Lot may be parked in the parking spaces designated for the use of the Owner of such Lot as long as they do not constitute a nuisance, in the sole discretion of the Association. Other vehicles may be parked in driveways or parking areas during necessary times solely for pick-up and delivery purposes. All roads within the Property have been dedicated to St. Johns County, and parking on said roads is subject to applicable County ordinances or regulations. No mechanical or maintenance work of any kind may be performed on the Property on any vehicles. Furthermore, in the interest of protecting the health and safety of the Owners and preserving the value of the Lots, no Owner or guest, or invitee of an Owner, may operate an ATV, "four-wheeler," motorbike, or other recreational vehicle on any portion of the Property. The foregoing restrictions on parking shall not apply to the Developer and its designees, who shall be exempt from all restrictions on parking vehicles that are engaged in any activity relating to the construction or marketing of Lots or the maintenance, inspection, or repair of any part of the Property.

**6.3 Animals.** No livestock, poultry or animals of any kind or size shall be raised, bred or kept on any Lot; provided, however, that dogs, cats or other domesticated household pets may be kept on a Lot provided such pets may not exceed two (2) in number. Notwithstanding the foregoing, dog breeds that are or may hereafter be excluded from liability coverage by major insurance carriers may be prohibited by the Board. No such pets shall be allowed on the Property other than on the Lot of the Owner of such pets unless confined to a leash. Owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets. If, in the sole discretion of the Board, any animal becomes dangerous, a nuisance, or destructive of property or wildlife, such animal may no longer be kept on a Lot. Persistently barking dogs, dogs running at large, or dogs in packs shall constitute a nuisance per se and a violation of Section 6.6.

**6.4 Clotheslines.** No clothes or laundry shall be hung on clotheslines erected in front yards, or side yards of corner Lots adjacent to a street. All clotheslines shall be screened from street view. No garments, towels, rugs, or other such items may be hung from the exterior of any structure.

**6.5 Subdivision of Lots.** No Lot may be subdivided.

**6.6 Nuisances.** No immoral, unlawful, noxious or offensive activity shall be carried on or upon the Property, nor shall anything be done thereon that is or may become a nuisance to other Lot owners.

**6.7 Temporary Structures.** No structure of a temporary nature or character, and no tent, shack, garage, barn, trailer, camper or other similar outbuilding or vehicle shall be used or permitted to remain on a Lot as a storage facility or residence either temporarily or permanently. No mobile home, modular home, or any dwelling constructed off-site and designed to be transported shall be permitted on any Lot.

**6.8 Trash Disposal.** No Lot may be used or maintained as a dumping ground for rubbish and trash. Garbage or other waste shall only be kept in sanitary containers. All trash containers shall be stored in a concealed space and not visible from the street except within twelve (12) hours before or after scheduled pick-up by local waste removal service. No grass clippings, trash, or other debris shall be disposed of in the Common Area.

**6.9 Owner Maintenance.** Each Owner shall maintain in good repair and replace as necessary the buildings, improvements, landscaping, trees, shrubs and grass on such Owner's Lot. All improvements on a Lot and all lawns, grounds and landscaping shall be maintained in a neat, attractive, and orderly fashion free of rubbish, trash, garbage and all unsightly weeds and underbrush, as determined by the Association in its sole discretion. Natural vegetation buffers are allowed if kept free of garbage, fallen trees and large fallen branches. No mining or excavating operations of any kind shall be permitted upon or in any Lot.

**6.10 Flags and Signs.** No sign, flag, banner, pennant, sticker, advertisement, notice or other lettering shall be exhibited, displayed, inscribed, painted or affixed in, or upon, any part of the property, including, any Dwelling Unit, Lot or vehicle that is visible from the outside. Provided, however, that any owner may display: (1) up to two of the following portable, removeable flags, not larger than four and one-half feet (4 ½') by six feet (6'): United States flag; official flag of the State of Florida; a flag that represents the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, or Coast Guard; a POW-MIA flag; and a first responder flag; (2) one sign of reasonable size provided by a contractor for security services within ten (10) feet of any entrance to the home; (3) one "For Sale" sign that is not larger than twenty-four inches (24") by thirty inches (30") that may be placed on the ground in front of the Lot advertising that the property is for sale; (4) one sign for named holidays such as Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and Labor Day is permitted to be displayed no earlier than thirty (30) days before the holiday and must be taken down within fourteen (14) days after the holiday; and (5) one political sign not to exceed thirty-six inches (36") by thirty-six inches (36") which is permitted to be displayed no earlier than sixty (60) days before the election and must be taken down within fourteen (14) days after the election. No "For Rent" signs shall be allowed at any time.

An owner may erect one freestanding flagpole no more than twenty (20) feet high on any portion of the homeowner's real property if the flagpole does not obstruct sightlines at intersections and is not erected within or upon an easement. The homeowner may further display in a respectful manner from that flagpole one official United States flag, not larger than four and one-half feet (4 ½') by six feet (6'), and may additionally display one other flag permitted as stated above. Any such flag pole is subject to all building codes, zoning setbacks, other applicable governmental regulations, and all setback and locational criteria contained in the Association's governing documents. The prohibition on signs displayed on or within vehicles

contained above in this section shall not apply to commercial vehicles such as for construction use or providing pick-up and delivery services and other commercial vehicles.

This section shall not apply to the Developer.

**6.11 Satellite Dishes.** No satellite dishes or radio or television antennae may be installed unless same are screened from view on all sides. The Committee may waive this requirement to the extent necessary for signal reception. No satellite dish, radio or television antennae may be installed unless and until the location and screening has been approved by the Committee in accordance with Section 5. No television or radio antennae shall be permitted.

**6.12 Tree Removal.** No tree of a diameter in excess of six inches (6") at a height of four feet (4') above ground level may be removed from a Lot without the approval of the Committee. All requests for tree removal must be submitted to the Committee along with a site plan showing the location of such tree or trees and the justifications for such tree removal. The Committee may require any Owner who violates this section to replace trees removed without approval with trees of like kind and size within thirty (30) days after written demand by the Committee. If an Owner fails or refuses to replace the trees as demanded, the Committee may replace the trees removed with trees of like kind and size and the cost thereof shall be considered a Lot Assessment against the Owner's Lot which, if not paid within thirty (30) days after it is assessed, shall become a lien on the Lot as provided in Section 9.

**6.13 Window Units.** No window or through-the- wall air conditioning units may be placed in any window of or through a wall of a residence or accessory building.

**6.14 Mailboxes.** All mailboxes must be designed and constructed in accordance with specifications promulgated by the Committee.

**6.15 Pumps.** All pumps and piping installed on Lots for water systems shall be underground, or if above ground, shall be enclosed in a structure which is in conformity with the residence and approved by the Architectural Control Committee. No wells shall be installed on the Property.

**6.16 Insurance.** Each Owner shall maintain in full force and effect a policy of fire and other casualty insurance in an amount equal to the full replacement cost of his or her Dwelling Unit and other improvements constructed on his or her Lot, excluding excavation costs. In the event any improvement is damaged or destroyed as the result of a casualty, all debris must be immediately removed and the Lot restored to a neat and orderly appearance within sixty (60) days from the date of the casualty. The Owner shall commence reconstruction within six (6) months from the date of the casualty. Reconstruction shall be performed in a workmanlike manner and in

accordance with the original plans and specifications approved by the Committee, unless the Owner obtains approval for new plans and specifications in accordance with Section 5. Reconstruction must be completed within a reasonable time, not to exceed one (1) year from the date of the casualty.

**6.17 Wetlands and Buffers.** All wetlands and buffers shown on the Site Plan shall be preserved in their natural state. No construction, filling, removal of earth, or cutting of trees or other plants shall be permitted within the wetlands or buffers.

**6.18 Drones.** Drones, as defined by Section 934.50(2)(a), Florida Statutes (2023), as amended from time to time, and other remotely controlled flying devices (collectively “Drones”) are prohibited from being operated over, on or in any portion of the Property, including, but not limited to, the Common Areas and Parcels, except that properly licensed Drones used lawfully by outside parties for commercial purposes may be operated within the Property, with prior approval of the Board. The Board may adopt additional Rules regulating the use of commercial drones including requirements regarding insurance and an indemnity undertaking by users or operators of commercial Drones. Drones used for recreational purposes and Drones which are not properly licensed and lawfully used for commercial purposes in accordance with this provision and Rules of the Board, if any, are prohibited.

## **7. ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING RIGHTS.**

**7.1 Membership.** Every Owner of a Lot, including Developer, shall be a Member of the Association. Membership shall be appurtenant to and may not be separated from ownership of a Lot.

**7.2 Classes of Members.** The Association shall have two (2) classes of voting Members as follows:

**7.2.1** Class “A” Members shall be all Owners other than the Developer, except as provided in Section 7.2.2 below. Each Owner shall be entitled to one vote for each Lot owned. When more than one person holds an interest in any Lot, all such persons shall be Members and the vote for such Lot shall be exercised as they determine, but in no event shall more than the assigned votes be cast with respect to any Lot.

**7.2.2** The Class “B” Member shall be the Developer, who shall be entitled to ten (10) votes for each Lot it owns. The Class B membership shall cease and be converted to Class A membership on the happening of the following events, whichever occurs first:

**7.2.2.1.** Three (3) months after ninety percent (90%) of all Lots in the Property that will ultimately be operated by the

Association have been conveyed to members other than Developer. (For purposes of this section, the term “members other than Developer” shall not include builders, contractors, or others who purchase a Lot for the purpose of constructing improvements thereon for sale);

**7.2.2.2.** At such time as the Developer, in its sole discretion, elects to terminate the Class B membership; or

**7.2.2.3** Upon the occurrence of any of the other events described in Section 720.307(1), Florida Statutes (2023), as amended from time to time.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Developer shall be entitled to elect at least one (1) member of the Board of Directors and shall be entitled to appoint all of the members that do not constitute a majority of the members of the Board, as long as Developer holds at least five percent (5%) of the Lots for sale in the ordinary course of business. Class “A” Members are entitled to elect at least one (1) member of the Board after fifty percent (50%) of the Lots have been conveyed to Class “A” Members.

## **8. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION.**

**8.1 Management of Association.** The Association may obtain and pay for legal, accounting and other services necessary or desirable in connection with its obligations hereunder or the enforcement of this Declaration. After Turnover, the Association must at all times employ a professional management company to assist in management of the Property.

**8.2 Operation of Common Area.** The Association shall operate the Common Area and, with respect to any Common Area it owns, may acquire or dispose of all or part of it by sale and grant easements or otherwise make agreements with respect to the Common Area, subject to the restrictions and provisions of this Declaration, the Articles, and the By-Laws. The Association shall, at all times, pay the real property ad valorem taxes and assessments, if any, assessed against the Common Area, and any other governmental liens which may be assessed against the Common Area, unless the taxes for such Common Area are assessed against each Owner as a part of the tax assessment for each Owner’s Lot.

**8.3 Maintenance by the Association.** The Association shall manage, maintain, operate and insure the Common Area, the Access Easements, the Surface Water or Stormwater Management System, any mitigation and jurisdictional wetlands or conservation areas shown on the Site Plan, and all improvements located on Common Area. All such management, maintenance, operation and insurance shall be performed at the direction of the Board, and the cost of thereof shall be a Common Expense of the Association and shall be collected and paid in accordance with Section

9. Each Owner will promptly notify the Association of any required maintenance to the Common Area. The maintenance responsibilities of the Owners are set forth in Section 11.

**8.4 Surface Water or Stormwater Management System.** The Association shall be responsible for the maintenance, operation and repair of the Surface Water or Stormwater Management System. Maintenance of the System shall mean the exercise of practices which allow the systems to provide drainage, water storage, conveyance, or other surface water or stormwater management capabilities as permitted by the St. Johns River Water Management District or other governmental agency having jurisdiction. The Association may enact reasonable rules and regulations with regard to the operation and use of the System. The System and all bulkheads, drains, swales, and other improvements constructed or installed by the Developer or Association to secure the System shall be Common Area. Any repair, reconstruction, or modification of the System shall be as permitted or approved by the St. Johns River Water Management District.

**8.5 Bonding.** The Association shall obtain insurance or a fidelity bond for all persons who control or disburse funds of the Association as required by Section 720.3033(5), Florida Statutes (2023) as amended from time to time. The cost of such insurance or bond shall be a Common Expense.

**8.6 Enforcement.** The Association shall interpret and enforce the provisions of this Declaration and, in connection therewith, collect and expend the assessments permitted herein for such purposes.

**8.7 Enforcement of Rights.** The Association may exercise any of the rights and privileges expressly granted in this Declaration, the Articles and By-Laws, the laws governing not-for-profit corporations, and every other right and privilege reasonably to be implied from the existence of any right or privilege granted by those instruments or laws or reasonably necessary to effectuate any right or privilege granted by such.

**8.8 Conveyance.** The Developer and the Association shall have the right to convey, with the consent of the St. Johns River Water Management District, the Surface Water or Stormwater Management System to any public or private entity that will assume the Association's obligation to maintain and operate them.

**8.9 Insurance.** The Association shall maintain adequate public liability insurance, to the extent obtainable at reasonable cost, covering the Association, each Member, and its managing agent, against liability for any negligent or omission attributable to them that occurs on or in the Common Area.

**9. COVENANT FOR MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT.**

**9.1 Covenant for Maintenance Assessments.** The Developer hereby covenants for each Lot within the Property and each Owner is hereby deemed to covenant by acceptance of his deed for a Lot (whether or not it shall be so expressed in his deed), to pay to the Association Annual Assessments, Special Assessments, and Lot Assessments as hereinafter described. Such Assessments will be established and collected as hereinafter provided. The Assessments, together with interest, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees, shall be a charge on the Property and a continuing lien on each Lot against which such an Assessment is made. Each such Assessment, together with interest, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees, shall also be the personal obligation of the person or persons who owned the Lot at the time the Assessment fell due.

**9.2 Purpose of Assessments.** The Annual Assessments levied by the Association shall be used exclusively to promote the health, safety, welfare, and recreation of Owners of Lots in the Property; for the repair and reserve account for the Common Area; improvement, maintenance, insurance and repair of the Common Area and all areas required to be maintained under the St. Johns River Water Management District Permit pertaining to the Property, including without limitation work within retention areas, drainage structures and drainage easements; for the administration and expenses of the Association; for the establishment of a maintenance, repair and reserve account for the Common Area; for the maintenance of signage and electricity, water, and other utilities to serve the Common Area; for payment of taxes and insurance on all Common Area and insurance on the Access Easements; for reimbursing the Developer for expenses pursuant to Section 4.4.3; and for such other purposes as are set forth or permitted in this Declaration, the Articles of Incorporation, or the By-Laws.

**9.3 Calculation and Collection of Assessments.** Annual Assessments shall be established by the Board of Directors based upon an annual budget and a reasonable estimate for reserves for deferred maintenance and non-recurring expenses of the Maintenance Areas and the Common Area. Each Owner shall pay a pro-rata share of Annual Assessments on an equal fractional basis in monthly or quarterly installments, as determined by the Board from time to time. Notice of the Annual Assessments shall be mailed to every Owner. Annual Assessments shall be collected in advance on a periodic basis established by the Board. Special Assessments shall be due at such time as determined by the Board.

**9.4 Lot Assessments.** The Association may, with the approval of a majority of the Board, levy an Assessment against an individual Lot or Lots (a "Lot Assessment") for the purpose of defraying, in whole or in part, the cost of any construction, reconstruction, maintenance, repair or replacement of an improvement to the Common Area and the Access Easements that burden and benefit such Lots, or to pay or reimburse the Association for costs resulting from the failure of the Owner of such Lot or Lots to comply with the Declaration, the Articles, or the By-Laws, or for damage to the Common Area.

**9.5 Special Assessments.** In addition to the Annual and Lot Assessments authorized above, the Association may levy in any Assessment year a Special Assessment applicable to that year only for the purpose of defraying in whole or in part, the cost of any construction, reconstruction, repair or replacement of a capital improvement on the Common Area, for payment of insurance premiums for the Common Area, or for such other purposes as may be approved by the members of the Association in the manner set forth in this paragraph. Any Special Assessment must be approved by a majority of each Class of members who are voting in person or by proxy at a meeting duly called for such purpose. Annual and Special Assessments authorized herein shall be equal and uniform for all Lots.

**9.6 Commencement of Payment of Assessments.** The Assessment obligations of an Owner shall commence upon the closing of the Owner's purchase of a Lot.

**9.7 Assessments on Developer-Owned Lots.** Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary herein, while Developer is a Class "B" member or until such time as the Developer elects to commence paying Assessments on Lots it owns as provided below ("the Guarantee Period"), the Developer shall be excused from payment of its share of the operating expenses and assessments relating to Lots it owns provided it pays any expenses incurred by the Association (excluding any obligation to fund reserves) that exceed the Annual Assessments receivable from other Owners and other income of the Association. During the Guarantee Period the maximum Annual Assessment shall not exceed Seven Hundred and Fifty and No/100s Dollars (\$750.00). The Developer shall fund such expenses only as they are actually incurred. The Developer may assign this exemption as to any Lot to an entity that owns the Lot solely for the purpose of constructing a dwelling on the Lot for resale to a buyer who intends to occupy the dwelling. The Developer, in its sole discretion and regardless of its membership status, may at any time commence paying Assessments as to Lots owned by it and thereby automatically terminate the Guarantee Period and its obligation under this paragraph. In no event shall the Developer be obligated to fund the Association's operating deficit after Turnover.

**9.8 Certificate of Paid Assessments.** The Association shall, on demand and for a reasonable charge, furnish to the Owner liable for any Assessment a certificate in writing, signed by an officer of the Association, setting forth whether the Assessments against a specific Lot have been paid, and if not, the amounts owned therefore.

**9.9 Delinquent Assessments.** Any Assessment or other charge authorized by this Declaration not paid within thirty (30) days after the due date shall be deemed in default and shall bear interest from the due date at the highest rate allowed by law. The Assessment plus interest, a late fee not to exceed Twenty-Five Dollars and No/100's (\$25.00) for each Assessment not paid within fifteen (15) days after the due date, and reasonable attorney's fees at the trial and appellate level, shall become a continuing lien

against the Lot. The Association shall have the right to record a claim of lien in the public records of St. Johns County, Florida, in accordance with the procedure set forth in Section 720.3085, Florida Statutes (2023), as amended from time to time. The Association may bring an action at law against the owner personally obligated to pay the Assessment or may foreclose the lien against the Lot in accordance with Section 720.3085, Florida Statutes (2023), as amended from time to time. The Association shall be entitled to bid at any foreclosure sale and to apply as a cash credit against its bid all sums due the Association and covered by the lien being enforced. Upon full payment of the total amount due, the party making payment shall be entitled to a recordable satisfaction of lien. No Owner may waive or escape liability for the Assessments provided for herein by abandonment of his Lot or nonuse of the Common Area.

**9.10 Priority of Assessments.** The Assessment lien provided for herein shall be effective from and shall relate back to the date this Declaration is first recorded in the public records of St. Johns County, Florida. However, as to first mortgages of record the lien is effective from the date a claim of lien is recorded in the public records of St. Johns County, Florida. A sale or transfer of any Lot shall not affect the Assessment lien except as provided by law. A Lot Owner, regardless of how title is acquired, including by purchase at a judicial sale or by deed in lieu of foreclosure, shall be liable for all assessments coming due while he or she is the Lot Owner. Additionally, a Lot Owner shall be jointly and severally liable with the previous Owner for all unpaid assessments that came due up to the time of the conveyance, together with interest, late fees, and attorneys' fees and costs incurred by the Association incident to the collection of assessments, without prejudice to any such right Lot Owner may have to recover from the previous Owner the amounts paid by such Lot Owner. The liability or assessment may not be avoided by waiver of the use or enjoyment of any Common Property or by the abandonment of the Lot for which assessments are made or otherwise applied.

In the event a first mortgagee shall obtain title to a Lot by foreclosure, or by deed in lieu of foreclosure, such first mortgagee, and its successors and assigns, shall be liable for prior assessments or other related expenses authorized under Chapter 720, Florida Statutes, the Homeowners' Association Act (the "Act"), to the maximum extent provided by the Act, as the same may be amended from time to time. This provision shall not apply unless the first mortgagee joined the Association as a party in the foreclosure action. No acquirer of title to a Lot by foreclosure, or by a deed in lieu of foreclosure, may be excused from the payment of any assessments coming due during the period of such ownership.

**9.11 Exempt Property.** All portions of the Property dedicated to and accepted by a local public authority, all portions of the Property owned by a charitable or nonprofit organization that is exempt from taxation by the laws of Florida, and all Common Area shall be exempt from Assessments. However, no land or improvements devoted to dwelling use shall be exempt from Assessments except as provided in Section 9.7.

**10. UTILITY PROVISIONS**

**10.1 Water.** The central water system providing service to the Property shall be used as the sole source of potable water for all water spigots and outlets located within or on all buildings and improvements located on each Lot. Each Owner shall pay water meter charges of the supplier thereof and shall maintain and repair all portions of such water lines located within the boundaries of his Lot and which serve same. No individual potable water supply system or well for consumptive purposes shall be permitted on any Lot without the prior written consent of the Association.

**10.2 Sewer.** The central sewage system providing service to the Property shall be used as the sole sewage system for each Lot. Each Owner shall maintain and repair all portions of such sewer lines located within the boundaries of his Lot and which serve same and shall pay when due the periodic charges or rates for the furnishing of such sewage collection and disposal services made by the operator thereof. No sewage shall be discharged onto the open ground or into the Common Area or any wetland, drainage ditch or roadway on the Property. No septic tank or drain field shall be placed or allowed within the Property other than as may be installed by the Developer.

**10.3 Solid Waste and Recycling.** Each Owner shall participate in any available solid waste collection programs instituted by the Developer or St. Johns County, Florida, or its solid waste collection provider.

**10.4 Utility Services.** It shall be the responsibility of the Owner, or occupant of each Lot to make direct arrangements with the suppliers of electricity, water, sewer, internet, and any other utility services for service to each Lot.

**11.** [This section is intentionally left blank].

**12. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

**12.1 Enforcement.** Enforcement of these restrictions by the Developer, the Association, or any Lot Owner shall be by proceedings against any person violating or attempting to violate any covenant or restriction, either to restrain the violation or to recover damages, or both. The prevailing party in any such action shall be entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees and court costs at all levels of the proceedings. The St. Johns River Water Management District or other governmental agency having jurisdiction shall also have the right to enforce, by a proceeding at law or in equity, the provisions contained in this Declaration which relate to the maintenance, operation and repair of the Surface Water or Stormwater Management System. The Board has the right to adopt, amend, repeal and enforce rules and regulations for the construction, maintenance and use of the Common Property and Lots for the purpose of promoting the health, safety, welfare and enjoyment of all persons within the Property. All

Owners and their occupants, agents and invitees are subject to the rules and regulations and the Association's governing documents.

**12.2 Invalidity.** Invalidation of any one of the covenants or restrictions contained in this Declaration by judgment or court order shall not affect any of the other provisions hereof, which shall remain in full force and effect provided the essential provisions for the Developer, the Association, and the Owners remain valid, binding, and enforceable.

**12.3 No Waiver.** Any failure of the Developer, the Association, or Lot Owners, or their respective successors or assigns, to enforce any covenants or restrictions contained herein shall in no event be deemed a waiver of the right to do so thereafter.

**12.4 Amendment.** Subject to the rights and responsibilities of mortgagees set forth in Section 720.306(1)(d), Florida Statutes (2023), as amended from time to time, this Declaration may be amended as follows:

**12.4.1 By the Developer.** The Developer reserves and shall have the sole right, prior to Turnover:

**12.4.1.1** to amend this Declaration for the purpose of curing any scrivener's error, ambiguity in or inconsistency between the provisions contained herein and any inconsistency between this Declaration and the other governing documents of the Association;

**12.4.1.2.** to release any Lot from any part of this Declaration which has violated (including violations of building restriction lines) if the Developer, in its sole judgment, determines such violations to be minor or insubstantial; provided, however, that authority to release such violations shall arise only upon substantial completion of the building upon each Lot;

**12.4.1.3** to amend this Declaration to comply with any requirement of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development; any governmental lending agency; or any other governmental agency with jurisdiction over the Property to induce any of such agencies to make, purchase, sell, insure, guarantee, or otherwise deal with first mortgages on Lots;

**12.4.1.4** to bring this Declaration into compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, or governmental regulations; and

**12.4.2.5** to amend this Declaration in any manner as the Developer may deem necessary or convenient to the extent permitted by Chapter 720, Florida Statutes (2023), as amended from time to time.

**12.4.2 By the Association.** In addition to the rights of the Developer provided for in Section 12.4 hereof, the Association, with the consent of seventy-five percent (75%) of each class of votes entitled to be cast in accordance with this Declaration and, so long as the Developer holds at least one (1) Lot for sale in the ordinary course of business, with the consent of Developer, may amend or alter this Declaration or any part thereof. Provided, however, that any amendment that adversely affects a Lot must have the approval of the Owner of such Lot.

**12.4.3 Approval by Water Management District.** Any amendment to the Declaration which alters the Surface Water or Stormwater Management System from its original condition must have the prior approval of the St. Johns River Water Management District or other governmental agency having jurisdiction.

**12.5. Developer's Reserved Rights.** Notwithstanding any other term or condition contained in this Declaration, the Developer shall have the right to transact upon the Property any business necessary to affect the development and sale of Lots including, but not limited to, the right to conduct construction activities, maintain model homes, have signs, and locate a sales trailer on the Property.

**12.6 Priority.** In the event of any conflict among this Declaration, the Articles of Incorporation or By-Laws, the provisions of this Declaration shall control.

**12.7 Assignment of Rights.** All rights reserved herein to the Developer shall be fully assignable and transferable.

**12.8 Term and Termination.** These covenants and restrictions shall run with the Property and shall be binding on all parties and all persons claiming through, by or under them until \_\_\_\_\_, 2073. After said date, said covenants shall be automatically extended for successive periods of ten (10) years, unless terminated by the recording of an instrument executed by ninety percent (90%) of the then Owners of the Lots; provided, however, that no such termination shall be effective without the joinder of the Developer for so long as the developer owns any part of the Property and further provided that the instrument provides that the easements contained herein survive termination.

**12.9 Gender.** The use of the masculine gender shall be deemed to refer to the feminine or neuter gender, and the use of the singular or plural shall refer to the other, as the context or application may require

**12.10 Assignment.** The Developer may assign any or all of its rights under this Declaration to any successor developer without the consent of the Association or any Owner.

**13. NOTICE OF PERMIT REQUIREMENTS.**

**13.1 Compliance with Permit.** THE PROPERTY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PERMIT NUMBER 12130-4 (“THE PERMIT”). ANY OWNER OWNING A LOT WHICH CONTAINS OR IS ADJACENT TO A JURISDICTIONAL WETLANDS OR CONSERVATION AREA AS ESTABLISHED BY THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (“ACOE”) OR THE DISTRICT OR BY ANY APPLICABLE CONSERVATION EASEMENT SHALL BY ACCEPTANCE OF TITLE TO THE LOT BE DEEMED TO HAVE ASSUMED THE OBLIGATION TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PERMIT AS IT RELATES TO SUCH OWNER’S LOT AND SHALL AGREE TO MAINTAIN SUCH JURISDICTIONAL WETLAND AND CONSERVATION AREAS IN THE CONDITION REQUIRED UNDER THE PERMIT. NO PERSON SHALL ALTER THE DRAINAGE FLOW OF THE SYSTEM OR ANY PART OF THE JURISDICTIONAL WETLANDS OR CONSERVATION AREAS, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION BUFFER AREAS, SWALES, TREATMENT BERMS OR SWALES, WITHOUT THE PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL OF THE DISTRICT OR THE ACOE, AS APPLICABLE.

**13.2 Enforcement Rights.** THE PERMIT IS OR WILL BE OWNED BY THE ASSOCIATION AND THE ASSOCIATION HAS THE OBLIGATION TO ENSURE THAT ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE PERMIT ARE COMPLIED WITH. THE ASSOCIATION SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO BRING AN ACTION AGAINST ANY OWNER VIOLATING ANY PROVISION OF THE PERMIT. THE DISTRICT SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS DECLARATION THAT RELATE TO THE MAINTENANCE, OPERATION, AND REPAIR OF THE SURFACE WATER OR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

**13.3 Indemnity.** IN THE EVENT THAT AN OWNER VIOLATES THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE PERMIT AND FOR ANY REASON THE DEVELOPER OR THE ASSOCIATION IS CITED FOR SUCH VIOLATION, THE OWNER AGREES TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD THE DEVELOPER AND THE ASSOCIATION HARMLESS AGAINST ALL COSTS ARISING IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH VIOLATION, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION ALL ATTORNEYS’ FEES AND THE COSTS OF CURING SUCH VIOLATION.

**14. DISCLAIMERS.**

By accepting a deed to his Lot and membership in the Association, each Owner acknowledges and agrees that the Association shall not be liable or responsible for, or in any manner guarantor or insurer of the health, safety, welfare, or property of any Owner or occupant of any portion of the Property, including without limitation owners, residents and their families, guests, invitees, agents, employees, contractors, or subcontractors. Owners, their family members, guests, agents, invitees, employees, contractors, subcontractors, visitors, licensees, and any occupants of Lots, are responsible for their own personal safety and for their property in and/or on Volusia Woods. Any provision of this Declaration, the Articles of Incorporation or By-Laws relating to health, safety, or welfare shall be interpreted and applied only as limitation on the uses of assessment funds by the Association and not as creating a duty on the part of the Association to protect or further the health, safety, or welfare of any person or persons, even if assessment funds are chosen to be used for any such reason. The Association and its Board, officers, employees and agents shall not in any way be considered insurers or guarantors of safety or security within Volusia Woods, nor shall they be liable for any loss, damage, personal injury and/or death by reason of failure to provide adequate security or the ineffectiveness of any security measures that may be undertaken. The Association makes no representations of warranties, express or implied, including any warranty of merchantability or fitness for any particular purpose, relative to any fire protection system and/or burglar alarm systems, gate systems for limiting access to the Association, or other security systems recommended or installed, or any privacy and access control measures undertaken within the Association. Each Owner acknowledges, understands, and shall be responsible for informing his or her family members, guests, agents, invitees, employees, contractors, subcontractors, visitors, licensees or any occupants of Lots that the Association, the Board, its officers, committees, employees and agents, are not insurers or guarantors of security or safety and that each person within the Association assumes all risk of personal injury and loss or damage to property, including Lots and the contents of Lots, resulting from acts of third parties. This Declaration, the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the Association, and the rules and regulations which may be adopted from time to time by the Association which govern or regulate the uses of the Property have been written, and are to be interpreted and enforced, for the sole purpose of enhancing and maintaining the enjoyment of the Property and the value thereof. The Association is not authorized, created, or empowered to enforce or protect against tortious or negligent activities or to enforce or ensure compliance with federal, state, or local laws and ordinances. Each Owner, by virtue of his acceptance of a deed to his Lot, and every other person having an interest in or lien upon, or making any use of, any portion of the property (by virtue of accepting such interest or lien or making such use) shall be bound by this Section 14 and shall be deemed to have automatically waived any and all rights, claims, demands, and causes of action against the association arising out of or connected with any matter for which the liability of the association has been disclaimed.

For purposes of this Section, “Association” shall include within its meaning all of the Association directors, officers, committees, and board members, employees, agents, contractors, management companies, subcontractors, successors and assigns. The provisions of this Section shall inure to the benefit of the Developer, its successors, assigns, members, officers, and agents, all of which shall be fully protected hereby.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned Developer has affixed its hand and seal on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

***[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]***

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of:

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ST. AUGUSTINE/ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, INC., a Florida corporation not-for-profit

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its: \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF ST. JOHNS**

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by means of  physical presence or  online notarization, this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023, by \_\_\_\_\_, as \_\_\_\_\_ of Habitat for Humanity of St. Augustine/St. Johns County, Inc., a Florida not for profit corporation, who ( ) is personally known to me or ( ) has produced a valid driver’s license as identification.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

**ACCEPTANCE BY ASSOCIATION**

**FOR GOOD AND VALUABLE CONSIDERATION**, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, Volusia Woods Homeowners' Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, hereby accepts all of the benefits and all of the duties, responsibilities, obligations and burdens imposed upon it by the terms of this Declaration. This Acceptance shall be binding upon the undersigned and its successors and assigns.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

Signed, sealed and delivered  
in the presence of:

VOLUSIA WOODS HOMEOWNERS'  
ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida  
corporation not-for-profit

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE OF** \_\_\_\_\_  
**COUNTY OF** \_\_\_\_\_

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by means of  physical presence or  online notarization, this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023, by \_\_\_\_\_, as \_\_\_\_\_ of Volusia Woods Homeowners' Association, Inc., a Florida not for profit corporation, who ( ) is personally known to me or ( ) has produced a valid driver's license as identification.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public