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ACCOUNT NO. : 072100000032 REFERENCE: 524807 7109989 AUTHORIZATION : COST LIMIT : PPD ORDER DATE: March 26, 2004 ORDER TIME : 10:52 AM ORDER NO. : 524807-005 CUSTOMER NO: 7109989 CUSTOMER: Eric A. Simon, Esq Eric A. Simon, P.a. Suite 250 6363 N.w. 6th Way Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309 DOMESTIC FILING NAME: INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC. EFFECTIVE DATE: XX ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION \_\_\_\_ CERTIFICATE OF LIMITED PARTNERSHIP \_\_\_\_ ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION PLEASE RETURN THE FOLLOWING AS PROOF OF FILING: XX CERTIFIED COPY \_\_\_\_\_ PLAIN STAMPED COPY \_\_\_\_ CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING CONTACT PERSON: Amanda Haddan - EXT. 2955

EXAMINER'S INITIALS:

#### ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

OF

INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

#### PREAMBLE:

This Association is being formed to administer a Master Declaration for Independence, or any other declaration (the "DECLARATION"), and to perform, among other things, the duties and exercise the powers pursuant to the DECLARATION, as and when the DECLARATION is recorded in the public records of the county where the property is located, with these Articles attached as an Exhibit. All of the definitions contained in the DECLARATION shall apply to these Articles, and to the Bylaws of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION. Until such time as the DECLARATION is so recorded, the incorporator shall be the sole member of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION.

#### ARTICLE 1 - NAME AND ADDRESS:

The name of the corporation is: INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC. (hereinafter referred to as the "COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION"). The initial address of the principal office of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION and the initial mailing address of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION is 3300 University Drive, Coral Springs, Florida 33065.

#### ARTICLE 2 - PURPOSE

The purposes for which the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION is organized are as follows:

- 2.1 To operate as a corporation not-for-profit pursuant to Chapter 617 of the Florida Statutes.
- 2.2 To administer, enforce and carry out the terms and provisions of the DECLARATION, as same may be amended from time to time.
- 2.3 To administer, enforce and carry out the terms and provisions of any other declaration of covenants and restrictions, or similar document, submitting property to the jurisdiction of, or assigning responsibilities, rights or duties to the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, and accepted by the BOARD.
- 2.4 To promote the health, safety, welfare, comfort, and social and economic welfare of the members and residents of the SUBJECT PROPERTY, as authorized by the DECLARATION, by these ARTICLES, and by the BYLAWS.

#### **ARTICLE 3 - POWERS**

The COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION shall have the following powers:

3.1 All of the common law and statutory powers of a corporation not-for-profit under the laws of Florida which are not in conflict with the terms of these ARTICLES, including but not limited to the powers set forth in Florida Statutes, Section 617.0302.

- 3.2 All of the powers, express or implied, granted to the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION by the DECLARATION or which are reasonably necessary in order for the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION to administer, enforce, carry out and perform all of the acts, functions, rights and duties provided in, or contemplated by, the DECLARATION.
- 3.3 To make, establish and enforce rules and regulations governing the use and maintenance of the SUBJECT PROPERTY.
- 3.4 To make and collect ASSESSMENTS and PARCEL ASSESSMENTS against the members to defray the costs, expenses, reserves and losses incurred or to be incurred by the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION and to use the proceeds thereof in the exercise of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION's powers and duties.
- 3.5 To own, purchase, sell, mortgage, lease, administer, manage, operate, maintain, improve, repair and/or replace real and personal property.
- 3.6 To purchase insurance for the protection of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, its officers, directors, the members, and such other parties as the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION may determine to be in the best interests of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION.
- 3.7 To operate, maintain, repair, and improve all COMMON AREAS and PARCEL AREAS, and such other portions of the SUBJECT PROPERTY as may be determined by the BOARD from time to time.
- 3.8 To exercise architectural control over all buildings, structures and improvements to be placed or constructed upon any portion of the SUBJECT PROPERTY pursuant to the DECLARATION.
- 3.9 To provide, purchase, acquire, replace, improve, maintain and/or repair such buildings, structures, street lights and other structures, landscaping, paving and equipment, both real and personal, related to the health, safety and social welfare of the members and residents of the SUBJECT PROPERTY as the BOARD in its discretion determines necessary or appropriate.
- 3.10 To employ personnel necessary to perform the obligations, services and duties required of or to be performed by the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION and/or to contract with others for the performance of such obligations, services and/or duties.
- 3.11 To operate and maintain the surface water management, drainage, and storage system for the SUBJECT PROPERTY as permitted by any controlling governmental authority, including all lakes, retention areas, culverts, and related appurtenances.
  - 3.12 To sue and be sued.

#### **ARTICLE 4 - MEMBERS**

#### 4.1 MEMBERS.

4.1.1 <u>OWNERS</u>. Each OWNER shall be a member of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, except as otherwise provided in the DECLARATION. Such memberships shall be initially established upon the recording of these ARTICLES and the DECLARATION among the public records of the county in which the SUBJECT PROPERTY is located.

- 4.1.2 Notwithstanding the foregoing, no governmental authority or utility company shall be deemed a member unless one or more UNITS actually exist upon the PROPERTY owned by such governmental authority or utility company, in which event the governmental authority or utility company will be a member only with respect to the PROPERTY owned in conjunction with such UNIT(s).
- 4.1.3 <u>DECLARANT AND PARCEL DEVELOPERS</u>. DECLARANT and each PARCEL DEVELOPER shall be a member of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION so long as they own any PROPERTY.
- 4.2 <u>Transfer of Membership.</u> In the case of an OWNER, transfer of membership in the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION shall be established by the recording in the public records of the county in which the SUBJECT PROPERTY is located, of a deed or other instrument establishing a transfer of record title to any PROPERTY for which membership has already been established as hereinabove provided, the OWNER designated by such instrument of conveyance thereby becoming a member, and the prior OWNER's membership thereby being terminated. In the event of death of an OWNER, his membership shall be automatically transferred to his heirs or successors in interest. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION shall not be obligated to recognize such a transfer of membership until such time as the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION receives a true copy of the deed or other instrument establishing the transfer of ownership of the PROPERTY, and it shall be the responsibility and obligation of the former and new OWNER of the PROPERTY to provide such true copy of said instrument to the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION.
- 4.3 The share of an OWNER in the funds and assets of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION cannot be assigned, hypothecated or transferred in any manner except as an appurtenance to the PROPERTY associated with the membership of the OWNER, nor may a membership be separately assigned, hypothecated or transferred in any manner except as an appurtenance to such PROPERTY.
- 4.4 <u>Voting Rights</u>. The total number of OWNERS' votes shall be equal to the total number of UNITS and PLANNED UNITS within the SUBJECT PROPERTY from time to time. On all matters upon which the membership shall be entitled to vote, there shall be one (1) vote for each UNIT and PLANNED UNIT.
- 4.4.1 Each OWNER shall have the number of votes equal to the number of UNITS and PLANNED UNITS within the PROPERTY associated with the membership of such OWNER at the time of such vote.
- 4.4.2 Notwithstanding the foregoing, DECLARANT shall have three votes for each UNIT and each PLANNED UNIT contained with the PROPERTY owned by DECLARANT.
- 4.5 The BYLAWS shall provide for an annual meeting of the members of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION and may make provision for special meetings of the members.

### **ARTICLE 5 - DIRECTORS**

5.1 The affairs of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION shall be managed by a BOARD consisting of not less than three (3) directors, and which shall always be an odd number. The number of directors shall be determined in accordance with the BYLAWS. In the absence of such determination, there shall be three (3) directors so long as DECLARANT has the right to appoint any director, and thereafter the number of directors shall be equal to the number of PARCELS (plus one of there are an even number of PARCELS).

#### 5.2 Election of Directors.

- 5.2.1 DECLARANT shall have the right to appoint all of the directors of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION so long as DECLARANT owns any LOT or any PROPERTY which is planned to contain a UNIT, or until DECLARANT waives its right to appoint the directors by written notice to the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION.
- 5.2.2 At such time as DECLARANT no longer has the right to appoint the directors, the PARCEL DEVELOPERS shall have the right to appoint all of the directors. If there are two or more PARCEL DEVELOPERS, unless otherwise agreed between them each such PARCEL DEVELOPER shall have the right to appoint one director, and if there are only two or an even number of PARCEL DEVELOPERS, the PARCEL DEVELOPER with the largest number of LOTS shall have the right to appoint one additional director. Any PARCEL DEVELOPER may waive its right to appoint a director by written notice to the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION.
- 5.2.3 At such time as DECLARANT and the PARCEL DEVELOPERS no longer have the right to appoint the directors, the directors shall be elected by the members. Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, members other than DECLARANT shall at all times have the right to elect any or all of the directors as may be provided by applicable law. Furthermore, DECLARANT and the PARCEL DEVELOPERS shall have the right to vote as members for the election of directors, subject to applicable law.
- 5.3 All of the duties and powers of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION existing under Chapter 617 of the Florida Statutes, the DECLARATION, these ARTICLES and the BYLAWS shall be exercised exclusively by the BOARD, its agents, contractors or employees, subject to approval by the members only when specifically required.
- 5.4 Directors may be removed and vacancies on the BOARD shall be filled in the manner provided by the BYLAWS, however, any director appointed by DECLARANT or a PARCEL DEVELOPER may only be removed by DECLARANT or the PARCEL DEVELOPER so long as DECLARANT or the PARCEL DEVELOPER has the right to appoint the director, and any vacancy on the BOARD shall be appointed by DECLARANT or a PARCEL DEVELOPER if, at the time such vacancy is to be filled, the number of remaining directors appointed by DECLARANT or the PARCEL DEVELOPER is less than the maximum number of directors which may, at that time, be appointed by DECLARANT or the PARCEL DEVELOPER as set forth above.

# **ARTICLE 6 - OFFICERS**

The officers of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and such other officers as the BOARD may from time to time by resolution create. The officers shall serve at the pleasure of the BOARD, and the BYLAWS may provide for the removal from office of officers, for filling vacancies, and for the duties of the officers.

#### ARTICLE 7 - INDEMNIFICATION

7.1 The COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION shall indemnify any PERSON who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party, to any threatened, pending or contemplated action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, by reason of the fact that he is or was a director, employee, officer, or agent of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, or a member of any committee thereof, against expenses (including attorneys' fees and appellate attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with such action, suit or

proceeding if he acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interest of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION; and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, if he had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful; except, that no indemnification shall be made in respect to any claim, issue or matter as to which such PERSON shall have been adjudged to be liable for gross negligence or willful misfeasance or malfeasance in the performance of his duty to the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION unless and only to the extent that the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine, upon application, that despite the adjudication of liability, but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such PERSON is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which such court shall deem proper. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not, in and of itself, create a presumption that the PERSON did not act in good faith and in a manner which he reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interest of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION; and with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, that he had no reasonable cause to believe that his conduct was unlawful.

- 7.2 To the extent that a director, officer, employee or agent of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, or a member of any committee thereof, has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit or proceeding referred to in Paragraph 1 above, or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, he shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorneys' fees and appellate attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection therewith.
- 7.3 Any indemnification under Paragraph 1 above (unless ordered by a court) shall be made by the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION only as authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the director, officer, employee, agent, or committee member is proper under the circumstances because he has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Paragraph 1 above. Such determination shall be made (a) by the BOARD by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of directors who were not parties to such action, suit or proceeding, or (b) if such quorum is not obtainable, or, even if obtainable, a quorum of disinterested directors so directs, by independent legal counsel in written opinion, or (c) by a majority vote of the members.
- 7.4 Expenses incurred in defending a civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding may be paid by the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding as authorized by the BOARD in the specific case upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the director, officer, employee or agent to repay such amount unless it shall ultimately be determined that he is entitled to be indemnified by the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION as authorized in this Article.
- 7.5 The indemnification provided by this Article shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those seeking indemnification may be entitled under the laws of the State of Florida, any Bylaw, agreement, vote of members or otherwise; and as to action taken in an official capacity while holding office, shall continue as to a PERSON who has ceased to be a director, officer, employee, agent, or committee member and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such a PERSON.
- 7.6 The COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION shall have the power to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any PERSON who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, or a member of any committee thereof, or is or was serving at the request of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against any liability asserted against him and incurred by him in any such capacity, as arising out of his status as such, whether or not the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION would have the power to indemnify him against such liability under the provisions of this Article.

# **ARTICLE 8 - BYLAWS**

The first BYLAWS shall be adopted by the BOARD, and may be altered, amended or rescinded in the manner provided by the BYLAWS.

# **ARTICLE 9 - AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to these ARTICLES shall be proposed and adopted in the following manner:

- 9.1 A majority of the BOARD shall adopt a resolution setting forth the proposed amendment and directing that it be submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members, which may be the annual or a special meeting.
- 9.2 Written notice setting forth the proposed amendment or a summary of the changes to be affected thereby shall be given to each member entitled to vote thereon within the time and in the manner provided in the BYLAWS for the giving of notice of a meeting of the members. If the meeting is an annual meeting, the proposed amendment or such summary may be included in the notice of such annual meeting.
- 9.3 At such meeting, a vote of the members entitled to vote thereon shall be taken on the proposed amendment. The proposed amendment shall be adopted upon receiving the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes of the entire membership of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION.
- 9.4 Any number of amendments may be submitted to the members and voted upon by them at any one meeting.
- 9.5 In addition to the above, so long as DECLARANT appoints a majority of the directors of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, DECLARANT shall be entitled to unilaterally amend these ARTICLES and the BYLAWS. Furthermore, no amendment shall make any changes which would in any way affect any of the rights, privileges, power or options herein provided in favor of, or reserved to, DECLARANT, unless DECLARANT joins in the execution of the amendment.
- 9.6 Upon the approval of an amendment to these ARTICLES, Articles of Amendment shall be executed and delivered to the Department of State as provided by law, and a copy certified by the Department of State shall be recorded in the public records of the county in which the SUBJECT PROPERTY is located.

## ARTICLE 10 - TERM

The COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION shall have perpetual existence.

#### ARTICLE 11 - INCORPORATOR

The name and street address of the incorporator is: Eric A. Simon, 6363 N.W. 6th Way, Suite 250, Ft. Lauderdale, FI 33309.

# ARTICLE 12 - INITIAL REGISTERED OFFICE ADDRESS AND NAME OF INITIAL REGISTERED AGENT

The initial registered office of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION shall be at 6363 N.W. 6th Way, Suite 250, Ft. Lauderdale, Fl 33309. The initial registered agent of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION at that address is Eric A. Simon.

#### **ARTICLE 13 - DISSOLUTION**

The COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION may be dissolved as provided by law, provided that any such dissolution shall require the affirmative vote of 80% of all of the members. In the event of dissolution or final liquidation of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, the assets, both real and personal of the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, shall be dedicated to an appropriate public agency or utility to be devoted to purposes as nearly as practicable to the same as those to which they were required to be devoted by the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION. In the event that such dedication is refused acceptance, such assets shall be granted, conveyed and assigned to any nonprofit corporation, association, trust or other organization, to be devoted to purposes as nearly as practicable to the same as those to which they were required to be devoted by the COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION. No such disposition of COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION properties shall be effective to divest or diminish any right or title of any OWNER vested under the DECLARATION unless made in accordance with the provisions of such DECLARATION.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the incorporator and the initial registered agent have executed these ARTICLES. By executing these ARTICLES, the undersigned registered agent accepts the appointment as registered agent and states that the undersigned is familiar with, and accepts the obligations of that position.

Eric A. Simon, as Incorporator and as Registered Agent

STATE OF FLORIDA

SS:

COUNTY OF BLOWNED

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this <u>2</u> day of <u>Mrzc H</u>, 200 <u>4</u>, by Eric A. Simon, as Incorporator and as Registered Agent. He/she is personally known to me or has produced \_\_\_\_\_\_ as identification.

NOTARY PUBLIC State of Florida at Large

Cynthia S Voller

My Commission CC965666

Expires October 07 2004

MASTER ARTICLES-7

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