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Richard E. Larsen\* Frank A. Ruggieri Thomas R. Slaten, Jr. \*Admitted in Florida and Illinois



55 East Pine Street Orlando, Florida 32801 Telephone: 407.841.6555 Facsimile: 407.841.6686

March 8, 2004

Florida Department of State Division of Corporations P.O. Box 6327 Tallahassee, FL 32314

Re: Articles of Incorporation for

Upson Downs Homeowners Association, Inc.

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am enclosing herewith an original of Articles of Incorporation (and one copy) for the above-referenced corporation for filing. In addition, a check in the amount of \$70.00 is enclosed representing the following:

Filing fee:

\$ 35.00

\$35.00

Registered agent fee:

\$ 35.00

\$35,00

Total:

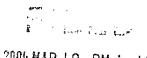
\$70.00

Upon filing, please return the copy of the Articles of Incorporation to the undersigned. Your prompt attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Beth Holland Legal Assistant

/beh Enclosures



# **ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**

**OF** 

2004 MAR 10 PM 4: 10

# UPSON DOWNS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

The undersigned individuals, acting as Incorporators of a corporation under §617.1007, Florida Statutes, adopt the following Articles of Incorporation for such corporation:

# **ARTICLE I**

NAME: The name of the corporation is the **Upson Downs Homeowners Association**, **Inc.**, hereafter referred to as the "Association." The principal address of the Association shall be P.O. Box 520, Sorrento, Florida 32776.

### **ARTICLE II**

PURPOSE AND POWERS: The Association is being established in connection with that certain residential real estate development commonly known as "Upson Downs." The purpose for which the Association is organized is to provide an entity for the maintenance and preservation of the residential lots, common areas, and such other areas located within Upson Downs which will be made subject to a Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions ("Declaration"), or such other areas over which the Association may own or acquire easement or other rights which are outside the subdivision, and to maintain the common area and other areas including, but not limited to, landscape areas, signage, entrance ways, roads, open spaces, landscape buffer areas, lakes, water retention and management areas, active and passive recreation areas, drainage systems, conservation areas and conservation buffer.

The Association is organized and shall exist as a corporation not for profit under the laws of the State of Florida, and no portion of any earnings of the Association shall be distributed or inure to the private benefit of any member, Director or officer of the Association. For the accomplishment of its purposes, the Association shall have all of the common law and statutory powers and duties of a corporation not for profit except as limited or modified by these Articles, the Declaration or Chapter 617 and Chapter 720, Florida Statutes, as it may hereafter be amended, including, but not limited to, the following:

(A) To make and collect assessments against members of the Association to defray the costs, expenses and losses of the Upson Downs Homeowners Association, Inc., and to use the proceeds of assessments in the exercise of its powers and duties.

- (B) To protect, maintain, repair, replace and operate the common areas.
- (C) To purchase insurance upon the Association property for the protection of the Association and its members.
- (D) To reconstruct improvements after casualty and to make further improvements of the property.
- (E) To make, amend and enforce reasonable rules and regulations governing the use of the common areas, lots and the operation of the Association.
- (F) To approve or disapprove the transfer of ownership, leasing and occupancy of lots, as provided by the Declaration.
- (G) To enforce the provisions of the Declaration, these Articles, and the By-Laws and any Rules and Regulations of the Association.
- (H) To contract for the management and maintenance of common areas to delegate any powers and duties of the Association in connection therewith except such as are specifically required by the Declaration to be exercised by the Board of Directors or the membership of the Association.
- (I) To employ accountants, attorneys, architects, and other professional personnel to perform the services required for proper operation of the Association.
- (J) To acquire (by gift, purchase or otherwise), own, hold, improve, build upon, operate, maintain, convey, sell, lease, transfer, dedicate for public use, or otherwise dispose of real and personal property in connection with the affairs of the Association.
- (K) To borrow or raise money for any of the purposes of the Association, and from time to time without limit as to amount; to draw, make, accept, endorse, execute and issue promissory notes, drafts, bills of exchange, warrants, bonds, debentures and other negotiable instruments and evidences of indebtedness; and to secure the payment of any thereof, and of the interest thereon, any mortgage, pledge, conveyance or assignment in trust, of the hole or any part of the rights or property of the Association, whether at the time owned or thereafter acquired.

All funds and the title to all property acquired by the Association shall be held for the benefit of the members in accordance with the provisions of the Declaration, these Articles of Incorporation and the By-Laws.

# ARTICLE III

#### MEMBERSHIP:

- (A) The members of the Association shall consist of all record owners of a fee simple interest in one or more lots and improvements constructed thereon in Upson Downs, as further provided in the By-Laws.
- (B) The share of a member in the funds and assets of the Association cannot be assigned or transferred in any manner except as an appurtenance to his lot and improvements constructed thereon.
- (C) The owners of each lot and improvements constructed thereon, collectively, shall be entitled to the number of votes in Association matters as set forth in the Declaration and the By-Laws. The manner of exercising voting rights shall be as set forth in the By-Laws.

#### VOTING RIGHTS:

(1) The classes of voting shall be as follows:

Class A. Class A Members shall be all Owners, with the exception of Declarant and any builder, for so long as Declarant retains Class "B" voting rights. Each Class "A" Member shall have one (1) vote for each Lot owned by that Member.

- Class B. The Class B Member shall be the Declarant, or its specifically designated (in writing) successor. The Class B Member shall be allocated a number of votes equal to five (5) votes for each Lot owned by it. The Class "B" Member shall be entitled to cast all of its votes in any vote or election held by the Association. Declarant shall retain its Class "B" voting status and rights for any Lots transferred to a Builder as defined herein. In such case, Declarant's Class "B" votes shall not be converted to Class "A" until such time as title is transferred from the Builder to a Non-Builder Owner. Class B membership shall cease and become converted to Class A membership upon turnover of the Association as set forth in Article IX of the Declaration.
- (2) When any Property entitling the Owner to Membership in the Association is owned of record in the name of two or more persons or entities, whether fiduciaries, joint tenants, tenants in common, tenants in partnership, or in any other manner of joint or common ownership, or if two or more persons or entities have the same fiduciary relationship respecting the same Property, then unless the instrument or order appointing them or creating the tenancy otherwise directs and it or a copy thereof is filed with the secretary of the Association, such Owner shall select one official representative to quality for voting in the Association and shall notify in writing the Secretary of the Association of the name of such individual. The vote of each official representative shall be considered to

represent the will of all the Owners of that Property. In the circumstance of such common ownership, if the Owner fails to designate their official representative, then the Association may accept the person asserting the right to vote as the voting Owner until notified to the contrary by the other Owner(s). Upon such notification the Owner may not vote until the Owner(s) appoint their official representative pursuant to this paragraph.

# **ARTICLE IV**

TERM: The term of the Association shall be perpetual.

## ARTICLE V

BY-LAWS: The By-Laws of the Association may be altered, amended, or rescinded in the manner provided therein.

# **ARTICLE VI**

#### **DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS:**

- (A) The affairs of the Association will be administered by a Board of Directors consisting of the number of Directors determined by the By-Laws, but not less than three (3) Directors, and in the absence of such determination shall consist of three (3) Directors. Directors need not be members of the Association.
- (B) Directors of the Association shall be elected by the members in the manner determined by the By-Laws. Directors may be removed and vacancies on the Board of Directors shall be filled in the manner provided by the By-Laws.
- (C) The business of the Association shall be conducted by the officers designated in the By-Laws. The officers shall be elected each year by the Board of Directors at its first meeting after the annual meeting of the members of the Association, and they shall serve the pleasure of the Board.

## **ARTICLE VII**

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

(A) Proposal. Amendments to these Articles may be proposed by a majority of the Board.

- (B) Procedure. Upon any amendment or amendments to these Articles being proposed by said Board, such proposed amendment or amendments shall be submitted to a vote of the members not later than the next annual meeting for which proper notice can be given.
- (C) Vote Required. Except as otherwise required for by Florida law, these Articles of Incorporation may be amended by vote of a majority of the voting interests at any annual or special meeting, provided that notice of any proposed amendment has been given to the members of the Association, and that the notice contains a fair statement of the proposed amendment.
- (D) Effective Date. An amendment shall become effective upon filing with the Secretary of State and recording a copy in the Public Records of Polk County, Florida.
- (E) Declarant Amendment. As long as there remains a Class B Membership, the declarant will have the right to amend these Articles of Incorporation without obtaining the consent of the Association's membership. As long as there remains a Class B Membership, no amendment to these Articles of Incorporation shall be effective without the written consent of the declarant.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

#### REGISTERED AGENT:

The registered office of the Association shall be at:

Larsen & Associates, P.A. 55 East Pine Street Orlando, FL 32801

The registered agent at said address shall be:

Richard E. Larsen, Esq. Larsen & Associates, P.A. 55 East Pine Street Orlando, FL 32801

## ARTICLE IX

INDEMNIFICATION: To the fullest extent permitted by Florida law, the Association shall indemnify and hold harmless every Director and every officer of the Association against all expenses and liabilities, including attorneys fees, actually and reasonably incurred by or imposed on him in connection with any legal proceeding (or settlement or appeal of such proceeding) to which he may be a party because of his being or having been a Director or

officer of the Association. The foregoing right of indemnification shall not be available if a judgment or other final adjudication establishes that his actions or omissions to act were material to the cause adjudicated and involved:

- (A) Willful misconduct or a conscious disregard for the best interests of the Association, in a proceeding by or in the right of the Association to procure a judgment in its favor.
- (B) A violation of criminal law, unless the Director or officer had no reasonable cause to believe his action was unlawful or had reasonable cause to believe his action was lawful.
- (C) A transaction from which the Director or officer derived an improper personal benefit.
- (D) Wrongful conduct by Directors or officers appointed by the declarant, in a proceeding brought by or on behalf of the Association.

In the event of a settlement, the right to indemnification shall not apply unless the Board of Directors approves such settlement as being in the best interest of the Association. The foregoing rights of indemnification shall be in addition to and not exclusive of all other rights to which a Director or officer may be entitled.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the incorporators, being the undersigned individuals, have hereunto affixed their signatures on the dates set forth below.

Mark Carson

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF ORAN 65

THE FOREGOING instrument was acknowledged before me this 5th day of 2004 by Mark Carson, who is personally known to me or produced identification (type of identification produced) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and who did/did not take an oath.

Notary Public

My Commis

Commissio

DINE SOMMISSION # DD 178774

EXPIRES: February 6, 2007

Having been named to accept service of process for the above stated Corporation, at the place designated in these Articles of Incorporation, I hereby agree to act in this capacity and I further agree to comply with the provisions of all statutes relative to the proper and complete performance of my duties, and I accept the duties and obligations of Section 617.0505 Florida Statutes.

Richard E. Larsen, Esquire REGISTERED AGENT

2004 MAR 10 PN 4: 10