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SECRETARY OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

1/4

COVER LETTER

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

SUBJECT: South Florida Connects, Inc.

(PROPOSED CORPORATE NAME – MUST INCLUDE SUFFIX)

Enclosed is an original and one (1) copy of the Articles of Incorporation and a check for :

☐ \$70.00
Filing Fee

☐ \$78.75
Filing Fee &
Certificate of
Status

☐ \$78.75
Filing Fee
& Certified Copy

☒ \$87.50
Filing Fee,
Certified Copy
& Certificate

ADDITIONAL COPY REQUIRED

FROM: Debbie M. Brown
Name (Printed or typed)

2631 Arcadia Drive
Address

Miramar, Florida 33023
City, State & Zip

954-815-6563
Daytime Telephone number

sfconnects@gmail.com
E-mail address: (to be used for future annual report notification)

NOTE: Please provide the original and one copy of the articles.

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12 OCT 29 PM 2: 21

Florida Nonprofit Articles of Incorporation

SECRETARY OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

The undersigned, who is a citizen of the United States, desiring to form a Non-Profit Corporation under the Non-Profit Corporation Law of the state of Florida, do hereby certify:

Article I: Name

The name of the Corporation shall be: **South Florida Connects, Inc.**

Article II: Principal Office

The principal Office and mailing address is: 2631 Arcadia Drive, Miramar, FL 33023

Article III: Mission and Vision

SFC's Mission: Is to help effect positive change in the lives of socially and financially disadvantaged families in our South Florida immigrant community, and the Caribbean, and use **"No Spouse Left Behind: Straight Spouse Awareness"** to educate, inform, empower, affirm, validate, and support, straight spouses and their families.

The SFC Vision: Is to have a community where people help each other navigate difficult life circumstances, by assisting each other whether with time and professional resources, or through financial contributions where necessary, and also enhance the promotion of goodwill, with active efforts to promote human welfare.

Article IV: Purpose

South Florida Connects, Inc. (SFC) is a faith based not for profit, voluntary, public benefit corporation, organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes. Including, for such purposes, a dedication to helping straight spouses, and their families, in South Florida, the USA and the Caribbean, to navigate life's difficulties both socially and financially.

South Florida Connects will interact with other governmental, county, faith based and community based organizations to enhance community outreach programs, to provide services such as seminars, conferences, peer support, and other educational programs. This will include but will not be limited to referral services for straight spouses and their families, educational and awareness workshops, seminars, conferences, and other awareness programs while facilitating discussion and peer support groups via face to face, conference line support or via live chat on the Internet.

By providing educational financial scholarships, to gifted children of straight spouses or other financially deprived community members, in South Florida and the Caribbean.

To help maintain healthy, open dialogue between straight spouses, their children and their families, through peer support, education, advocacy, community involvement, and church outreach support via South Florida Connects, Inc. websites, email, telephone and other educational materials.

To also make available, Professional counseling services to the socially disadvantaged and marginalized members of the immigrant communities of South Florida, and the Caribbean, within the structure limited by 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code.

The organization will from time to time make charitable distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code,

- A. Furthermore, this corporation may engage in only activities permitted under the laws of the state of Florida and the United States of America as shall constitute activities in furtherance of such exempt purposes and the corporation's mission and vision. In furtherance of its exempt purposes, the corporation may promote, establish, conduct and maintain activities on its own behalf and it may contribute to or otherwise assist other corporations, organizations and institutions carrying on exempt activities.
- B. As a means and incidental to accomplishing the purposes for which this corporation is being operated, it shall have the following powers:
 - 1. To solicit, accept, acquire, receive, and hold by bequest, devise, grant, gift, purchase, transfer, lease, exchange, or otherwise transfer for any of its objects and purposes, any property both real and personal of whatever nature, or description, and wherever situated.
 - 2. To borrow money to complete its mission, but only as authorized by its Board of Directors, and from time to time to make, accept, endorse, execute, and issue bonds, debentures, promissory notes, bills of exchange, and other obligations of the corporation for monies borrowed or in payment for property acquired or for any of the other purposes of the corporation within its stated mission, by mortgages, pledge, deed, indenture, agreement or other instrument of trust, or by other lien upon, assignment of, or agreement in regard to all or any part of the property, rights, or privileges of the corporation, wherever situated.

3. To invest, or reinvest its funds, in such stocks, bonds, debentures, mortgages, or other investments or securities and property as its Board of Directors shall deem advisable, subject to the limitations and conditions contained in any bequest, devise, grant or gift keeping in mind the corporation's expressed mission.
- 4.

To contract with for-profit or other not-for-profit entities and individual in order to accomplish its mission and goals; and

5. In general to exercise other such powers which now are or which hereafter, may be conferred by law upon the corporation organized for the purposes herein above set forth or necessary or incidental to conferred or conducive to the purposes of the corporation, subject to such limitations as are or may be prescribed by law.
- C. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, this corporation may exercise only such powers as are in furtherance of the exempt purposes of organizations set forth in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended and its Regulations, as the same now exists as they may be hereafter, amended from time to time.

Article V. Manner of Election

The manner in which the directors are elected or appointed will be as provided for in the Bylaws of the corporation.

Article VI. Initial Directors and/or Officers

The following individuals desire to form a Non-Profit Corporation under the Non-Profit Corporation Law of Broward County, in the state of Florida, USA. The names and addresses of the persons who are the initial officers of the corporation who will serve until an election or other appointment as per the organization Bylaws are as follows:

Ms. Debbie M. Brown: Founder/Executive Director
2631 Arcadia Drive, Miramar, Florida 33023

Ms. Lori-Ann Johnson: Director
11925 Royal Palm Blvd. Apt. # 105, Coral Springs, Florida 33065

Mr. Ainsley Clarke: Director
Santa Cruz P.O., St. Elizabeth, Jamaica W.I.

Article VII: Founder

The Corporation's Founder shall be one of the Directors, who will be governed by the Bylaws of the corporation just like any other Board member. The number of other directors may be increased or decreased but shall not be less than three directors at any given time during the legal lifetime of this not-for profit Corporation, based on the Florida non-profit statutes and the Corporation Bylaws.

Article VIII: Board of Directors

The Governing Authority shall be known as the **Board of Directors**, and shall have plenary powers to do all things necessary and proper to operate South Florida Connects, Inc. in accordance with the stated purpose, tenets, goals and mission statement of the organization per the corporation's Bylaws.

Article IX: Officers Titles

All officers of this corporation will be volunteers. The offices of this corporation shall consist of at least six (6) official titles – President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, and Scholarship Liaison Officer- and shall be selected by the Board of Directors at the Biennial meeting, at the commencement of each Biennial, to carry on the business of the Board for the period of two years. Board members serving as officers do not forfeit their voting rights.

Article X: Board of Director Meetings

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at times and places established by the Board of Directors and shall be held at least bi-annually. Advance notice of the date, time, place or purpose of these meetings is required.

Article XI. Limitations

This Corporation is not for-profit: It shall be perpetual

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall be used for the personal benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the Statement of Purpose hereof. The property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to South Florida Connects, Inc. community charitable outreach services which are 501(c) (3) exempt purpose(s) of the Internal Revenue Code, and no part of the net income or assets of this corporation shall ever be used for the personal benefit of any director, officer, or member thereof, or to the benefit of any private individual.

This corporation will not engage in prohibited political and legislative activity under 501(c) (3): No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or

otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article III hereof.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Article XII. Organization's Property

The property of this organization is irrevocably dedicated to social outreach and philanthropy, through education and community outreach advocacy. No part of the net income or assets of this non-profit corporation shall ever inure the private benefit of any directors, officers or board members thereof, or to the benefit of any private individual.

Article XIII. Dedication of Assets

Upon the dissolution, termination, or winding up of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Article XIV. Amendments

This Corporation reserves the right to amend, alter, modify, or repeal any provision contained in these Articles of Incorporation, any amendment hereto in the manner now or hereafter prescribed by the State of Florida, and any rights and powers conferred upon the Directors and Board of Advisors herein are granted subject to this revision and the rules set forth in the Corporation Bylaws.

Article XV. Indemnification

The corporation shall, to the extent legally permissible, indemnify each person who may serve or who has served at any time as an officer, director, or employee of the corporation against all expenses and liabilities, including, without limitation, counsel fees, judgments, fines, excise taxes, penalties and settlement payments, reasonably incurred by or imposed upon such person in connection with any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding in which he or she may become involved by reason of his or her service in such capacity as officer or Board member.

Article XVI. Initial Registered Agent and Street Address

The name and Florida Street address of the registered agent is:
Debbie M. Brown, 2631 Arcadia Drive, Miramar, FL 33023

Article XVII. Incorporator

The name and address of the Incorporator is:
Debbie M. Brown, 2631 Arcadia Drive, Miramar, FL 33023

Having been named as registered agent to accept service of process for the above stated corporation at the place designated in this certificate, I am familiar with and accept the appointment as registered agent and agree to act in this capacity.

Debbie M. Brown

Signature of Registered Agent
Debbie M. Brown

Date: 10/25/12

I submit this document and affirm that the facts stated herein are true. I am aware that any false information submitted in a document to the Department of State constitutes a third degree felony as provided for in s.817.155, F.S.

Debbie M. Brown

Signature of Incorporator
Debbie M. Brown

Date: 10/25/12



South Florida Connects, Inc. Miramar, Florida 33023, USA.

Web: www.southfloridconnects.com, www.southfloridconnects.org, E-mail: sfconnects@gmail.com.

FILED
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SECRETARY OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA