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SECRETARY OF STATE

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### **COVER LETTER**

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

SUBJECT: Clearwater Citizens for Financial Accountability, Inc.

(PROPOSED CORPORATE NAME - MUST INCLUDE SUFFIX)

-	. , 17	<u> </u>	a check for .
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FROM:	Jennifer S. Blohm
	Name (Printed or typed)
	131 North Gadsden Street
	Address
	Tallahassee, Florida 32301
	City, State & Zip
	850-878-5212
	Daytime Telephone number

E-mail address: (to be used for future annual report notification)

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

## ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

<u>OF</u>

## CLEARWATER CITIZENS FOR FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC

The undersigned, acting as the incorporator of this Corporation not for profit pursuant to Chapter 617, Florida Statutes, adopts the following articles of incorporation and states as follows:

# ARTICLE I Name, Principal Place of Business and Mailing Address

The name of the corporation is "Clearwater Citizens for Financial Accountability, Inc." The initial principal place of business is: 331 Cleveland Street, Office Suite #5, Clearwater, Florida 33755. The mailing address of the corporation is: P.O. Box 300, Clearwater, Florida 33757.

# ARTICLE II Duration

The period of the duration of this corporation shall be perpetual unless dissolved in accordance with Florida law. Corporate existence shall commence upon filing with the Secretary of State.

## Purposes

The purposes for which this corporation is created and maintained shall be exclusively for the promotion of social welfare and no activities which are not permitted by an organization exempt from taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, shall be permitted.

The corporation shall have the following specific powers:

- (1) To protect, improve and enhance public lands, parks and taxpayer funded properties; to support financial accountability related to public lands; to gather, analyze and disseminate data and information to educate citizens on the importance of financial accountability and the protection of public lands, parks and taxpayer funded properties; to ensure that local government makes responsible decisions that protect, improve and enhance public lands, parks and taxpayer funded properties; to promote civic engagement and community participation in local government; and, to advocate for legislation and policies which will further the corporation's stated goals;
- (2) To serve as a core organization to bring together citizens, governmental agencies and representatives of other organizations which have the common goals stated above;
- (3) To conduct fundraising activities for the production of revenues adequate to carry out the purposes of the corporation;
- (4) To employ staff, consultants, attorneys and accountants to ensure that all regulatory provisions are abided and the corporation's goals are achieved;
- (5) To exercise powers permitted by Florida law for a corporation not for profit;
- exempt from taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code as amended.

## ARTICLE IV Restrictions

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, directors, officers, or other private persons; provided, however, the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered by directors, officers, members and other private citizens and to make payments and

distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article III, hereof and to pay or reimburse the reasonable expenses of fundraising or incurred in carrying out the objectives of the corporation.

## ARTICLE V Members

The initial members of the corporation shall be the Board of Directors of the corporation.

Other classifications of membership may be established by the Board of Directors as provided in the by-laws of the corporation and may consist of separate categories of membership, each with different rights and responsibilities.

# ARTICLE VI Resident Office and Agent

The street address and city of the registered office of the corporation is:

331 Cleveland Street, Office Suite #5 Clearwater, Florida 33755

The name of the initial registered agent at such address is Sandra P. Miller.

# ARTICLE VII Board of Directors

The number of persons constituting the Board of Directors of the corporation shall be established in the by-laws, but shall not be less than three (3). The by-laws shall provide the process for the selection of Directors; provided, however, the initial Directors of the corporation shall be:

Sandra P. Miller, Chair 331 Cleveland Street, Office Suite #5 Clearwater, Florida 33755

Kim Cox
331 Cleveland Street, Office Suite #5
Clearwater, Florida 33755



# Bob Rubino 331 Cleveland Street, Office Suite #5 Clearwater, Florida 33755

There shall be no limit on the number of terms a Board member may serve unless provided otherwise in the by-laws. The term of office of Board members shall be stated in the by-laws. The Board of Directors may authorize reimbursement of expenses incurred by Board members in conjunction with the corporation's business or other approved activities directly related to the corporation's purposes.

Nothing herein shall be construed to preclude any Director from serving the corporation in any other capacity and receiving additional compensation therefore.

The by-laws may provide for an Executive Committee of the Board. The Board of Directors may establish other committees as may from time to time be determined necessary and appoint the membership on such committees.

# ARTICLE VIII Officers

The corporation shall have at least the following Officers – President/Chair, Secretary and Treasurer – and such other Officers as may be provided for in the by-laws. The manner of selection of Officers also shall be provided for in the by-laws; provided, however, the initial officers shall be:

Sandra P. Miller, Chair
331 Cleveland Street, Office Suite #5
Clearwater, Florida 33755

Kim Cox, Secretary
331 Cleveland Street, Office Suite #5
Clearwater, Florida 33755

Bob Rubino, Treasurer
331 Cleveland Street, Office Suite #5
Clearwater, Florida 33755

## ARTICLE IX Indemnification of Officers and Directors

Officers and Directors shall be indemnified by the corporation against all expenses and liabilities, including attorney's fees, including any incurred in appellate proceedings, reasonably incurred in connection with any proceeding or settlement thereof in which they may become involved by reason of holding such office as provided in the by-laws. The corporation may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of all Officers and Directors against any such liability asserted against them or incurred by them in their capacity as Officers and Directors or arising out of their status as such. SECRETARY OF STAT ALLAHASSEE, FLORI

This corporation is organized on a non-stock basis.

## <u>ARTICLE XI</u>

In the event of dissolution of this corporation, the residual assets of the corporation will be turned over to one or more organizations which themselves are exempt as organizations described in Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, or corresponding sections of any prior or future United States Internal Revenue law or to the federal, state or local government to be used for exclusively public purposes.

These Articles of Incorporation may be amended by majority vote of the Directors as provided in Section 617.1002(1)(b), Florida Statutes, at a meeting called for such purpose.

# ARTICLE XIII Incorporator

The name and address of the original incorporator of this corporation are as follows:

## Sandra P. Miller, Chair 331 Cleveland Street, Office Suite #5 Clearwater, Florida 33755

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, 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 in Section 817.155, Florida Statutes.

SÁNDRA P. MILLER INCORPORATOR

## **VERIFICATION**

STATE OF FLORIDA )
COUNTY OF PINELLAS )

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 13 day of August, 2013, by Sandra P. Miller, who is personally know to me or has produced satisfactory evidence of identification.

WITNESS my hand and seal in the County and State named above on this 13 day of

August, 2013.

Juan Carlos Lopez
Notary Public
State of Florida
My Commission Expires 04/02/2017
Commission No. FF 4176

My Commission Expires:

4-2-2017

NOTARY PUBLIC

Notary Public: Juan (2005 10 pc 2

Miller

Printed Name

(Type of Identification Produced: FIDL# M460 79545 7810)

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SECRETARY OF STATE
ALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

## ACCEPTANCE BY REGISTERED AGENT

Sandra P. Miller, the Registered Agent named in the foregoing Articles of Incorporation, by the execution of this acceptance, does hereby agree to accept service of process for the above stated corporation at the place designated in this certificate, is familiar with and accepts the appointment as registered agent and agrees to act in this capacity and to maintain normal business hours at the following address: 331 Cleveland Street, Office Suite #5, Clearwater, Florida 33755.

Sandra P. Miller

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SECRETARY OF STATE
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