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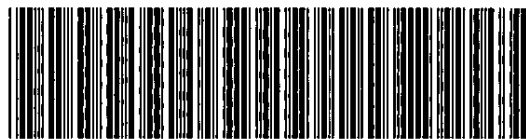
(Business Entity Name)

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SECRETARY OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

1113-57060

WMD 10/29



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of Corporations

October 14, 2013

STEPHEN WEEKS
ONE EAST MAIN STREET
AVON PARK, FL 33825

SUBJECT: HIGHLANDS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATION INC.
Ref. Number: W13000057060

We have received your document for HIGHLANDS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION INC. and your check(s) totaling \$87.50. However, the enclosed document has not been filed and is being returned for the following correction(s):

Section 617.0202(d), Florida Statutes, requires the manner in which directors are elected or appointed be contained in the articles of incorporation or a statement that the method of election of directors is as stated in the bylaws.

You must list at least one incorporator with a complete business street address.

Section 607.0120(6)(b), or 617.0120(6)(b), Florida Statutes, requires that articles of incorporation be executed by an incorporator.

The document must contain a registered agent with a Florida street address and a signed statement of acceptance. (i.e. I hereby am familiar with and accept the duties and responsibilities of Registered Agent.)

The registered agent must sign accepting the designation.

The effective date is not acceptable since it is not within five working days of the date of receipt.

Please return the corrected original and one copy of your document, along with a copy of this letter, within 60 days or your filing will be considered abandoned.

If you have any questions concerning the filing of your document, please call (850) 245-6052.

Maryanne Dickey
Regulatory Specialist II
New Filing Section

Letter Number: 913A00024046

COVER LETTER

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

SUBJECT: Highlands County Economic Development Organization 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: Stephen Weeks

Name (Printed or typed)

One East Main Street

Address

Avon Park, FL 33825

City, State & Zip

863-453-2818

Daytime Telephone number

weeks@highlandsedc.com

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

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

Effective Date 11/15/2013

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF
HIGHLANDS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION, INC.
(A Corporation Not for Profit organized under Chapter 617, Florida Statutes)

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SECRETARY OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

In accordance with Chapter 617 of the Florida Statutes and Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), the articles of incorporation of Highlands County Economic Development Organization, Inc., a Florida corporation not for profit.

ARTICLE I

NAME:

The name of this corporation shall be HIGHLANDS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION INC.

ARTICLE II

ADDRESS:

The address of the principal office of the corporation in the State of Florida shall be One East Main Street, Avon Park, Florida 33825. The Board of Directors may from time to time move the principal office to any other address in the State of Florida.

ARTICLE III

PURPOSE:

The corporation is organized and shall be operated exclusively for charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, including, without limitation, promoting social welfare by lessening the burdens of government. In furtherance of such purposes, the corporation shall act as the

economic development organization for Highlands County located in the State of Florida, utilizing private sector and public sector expertise in collaboration with the Highlands County government and Enterprise Florida Inc. to:

(a) increase private investment in Highlands County Florida; b) advance international and domestic trade opportunities (c) market Highlands County, Florida as a pro-business location for new investment; (d) revitalize industrial sector growth e.g. manufacturing, Financial & professional service, Aviation, information technology, life science and Alternative & clean Energy technologies as well as promote emerging complementary industries.(e) promote opportunities for minority-owned businesses; (f) assist and market professional and amateur sports teams and sporting events in the State of Florida; and

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its officers, directors or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes herein set forth. 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 any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles the corporation will not conduct or carry on any activities not permitted to be conducted or carried on by an organization exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code.

ARTICLE IV

GENERAL POWERS:

The corporation shall have and exercise all rights and powers that are permitted by the laws of the State of Florida. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the corporation shall exercise only such powers as are in furtherance of the exempt purposes for which corporations not for profit may be organized, so far as is or maybe permitted by the Laws of the State of Florida and Section 501(c)(3) of the Code.

ARTICLE V
MEMBERSHIP:

The corporation shall have no members.

ARTICLE VI
EXISTENCE:

The corporation shall have perpetual existence.

ARTICLE VII
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

In accordance with Section 617.0202(d) Florida Statutes, the method of election of directors shall be stated in the bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII
OFFICERS

All officers of the corporation shall be elected or appointed in accordance with the Bylaws of the corporation.

ARTICLE IX
BYLAWS:

The Board of Directors shall adopt Bylaws consistent with these Articles. The Board of Directors shall have the power to make, alter, or rescind any Bylaws on behalf of the Corporation.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENT TO ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION:

These Articles may be altered, amended or repealed by resolution of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XI

DISSOLUTION:

In the event of the voluntary or involuntary liquidation or dissolution of the corporation, no person or entity shall be entitled as such to any distribution or division of its remaining property or its proceeds, and the balance of all money and other property received by the corporation from any source after payment of all debts and obligations of the corporation, shall be used or distributed to other organizations which are exempt under Section 501(c)(3) and are engaged in activities that are in furtherance of the purpose of the corporation set forth in Article III above.

ARTICLE XII

EFFECTIVE DATE:

The effective date of the Articles of Incorporation shall be November 15, 2013

ARTICLE XIII

INITIAL OFFICERS/DIRECTORS:

Name and Title: Paul McGehee, Chairman

Address 214 SR 70 West
Lake Placid, Florida 33852

Name and Title Carol Howard, Vice Chairman

Address 712 Sunset Pointe Dr.
Lake Placid, Florida 33852

Name and Title Donna Doubleday, Secretary

Address 5901 US Hwy 27 S. Suite 1
Sebring, Florida 33870

Name and Title Wade Taveniere, Treasure

Address 1105 US Hwy 27 S.
Sebring, Florida 33870

ARTICLE XIV

REGISTERED AGENT:

Name John Shoop

Address 2600 US Hwy 27 N
Sebring, Florida 33870

ARTICLE XV

INCORPORATOR:

Name Stephen C. Weeks

One East Main Street

Avon Park, Florida 33825


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.


Required Signature of Registered Agent

10/23/13

Date

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.


Required Signature of Incorporator

10/23/13

Date

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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA