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# **COVER LETTER**

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

SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_ The Common Ground Project, Inc.

(PROPOSED CORPORATE NAME - MUST INCLUDE SUFFIX)

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

S70.00 Filing Fee

S78.75 Filing Fee & Certificate of Status S78.75 Filing Fee & Certified Copy

S87.50 Filing Fee. Certified Copy & Certificate

ADDITIONAL COPY REQUIRED

Ronald G. Meyer FROM:

Name (Printed or typed)

131 North Gadsden Street

Address

Tallahassee, FL 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>

#### THE COMMON GROUND PROJECT, INC.

The undersigned, acting as 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 and Principal Place of Business

The name of the corporation is "The Common Ground Project, Inc. The initial principal place of business and mailing address is: 2578 Floridiane Drive, Melbourne, Florida 32935.

#### 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.

#### ARTICLE III 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 gather, analyze and disseminate data and information relating to Fues, initiatives and policies at all levels of government in the State of Florida, as well as to pursue reforms and initiatives that improve the lives of the voting public.

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(2) To serve as a core organization to bring together citizens, governmental agencies and representatives of other organizations which have a common interest in issues, initiatives and policies relating to all levels of government within the State of Florida;

- (3) To conduct fundraising activities for the production of revenues adequate to carry on the purposes of the corporation;
- To employ staff, consultants, attorneys and accountants as are necessary for the proper operation of the corporation;
- (5) To disseminate to the public, civic and governmental organizations and other nonprofit and business entities information relating to the purposes of the corporation and such other subjects as may from time to time arise;
- (6) To exercise powers permitted by Florida law of a corporation not for profit;
- (7) To register, if it becomes necessary, and function as a ballot issue political committee pursuant to Chapter 106. Florida Statutes or the corresponding section of any later adopted statutes;
- (8) To conduct such other related activities permitted to be conducted by an organization 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 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 and carrying out the objectives of the corporation.

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# 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 Registered Office and Agent

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

131 North Gadsden Street Tallahassee, Florida 32301

The name of the initial registered agent at such address is Ronald G. Meyer, Esquire.

## ARTICLE VII Board of Directors

The affairs of the corporation shall be managed by the Board of Directors; provided, in the Board's discretion it may, but is not required to, provide in the by-laws for appointment of Officers.

The number of persons constituting the Board of Directors of the corporation shall not be less than three (3) nor more than twenty (20) members as determined in the by-laws. The byby-laws shall provide the process for the selection of Directors; provided, however, the Incorporator shall appoint the initial Directors. There shall be no limit on the number of terms a Director may serve. Board members shall serve with no compensation; provided, however, the Board 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 receiving compensation for serving the corporation in any other capacity and receiving compensation therefore.

## ARTICLE VIII Officers

If the Board of Directors determines to appoint Officers of the corporation it shall do so as may be provided for in the by-laws. The manner of selection of Officers shall also be provided for in the by-laws. If the Board of Directors determines to provide for the appointment of Officers in the by-laws, the corporation shall have at least the following Officers:

- 1. Chairperson/President
- 2. Secretary
- 3. Treasurer

An individual may hold more than one office in the corporation. Duties of Officers, if appointed, shall be described in the by-laws.

## ARTICLE IX Indemnification of Officers and Directors

As provided in the by-laws, Officers (if any) 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. The corporation may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of all Officers (if any) 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.

# <u>ARTICLE X</u>

# Non-Stock Basis

This corporation is organized on a non-stock basis.

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#### ARTICLE XI Dissolution

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.

## ARTICLE XII Amendments

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 purposes.

# ARTICLE XIII Incorporator

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

Ronald G. Meyer, Esquire 131 North Gadsden Street Tallahassee, Florida 32301

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned Incorporator, pursuant to the laws of the State of Florida does hereby make and file in the office of the Secretary of State of Florida these Articles of Incorporation and further certifies that the facts stated herein are true and correct.

RONALD &. MEYER, ESQUIRE **INCORPORATOR** 

# **VERIFICATION**

STATE OF FLORIDA ) COUNTY OF LEON )

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this  $\frac{4^{\mu}}{4}$  day of April, 2019, by Ronald G. Meyer, who is presonally known to me or D has produced satisfactory evidence of identification. (Type of Identification Produced:

WITNESS my hand and seal in the County and State named above on this  $\frac{\mathcal{Y}^{\mathcal{Y}}}{\mathcal{Y}}$  day of April, 2019.

Y PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:

LYNN T. THOMAS Commission # GG 207825 Expires July 28, 2022 Bonded Thru Troy Fain Insurance 800-385-7019 Notary Public: Lynn T. Thomas Printed Name

# ACCEPTANCE BY REGISTERED AGENT

Ronald G. Meyer. Esquire, the Registered Agent named in the foregoing Articles of Incorporation. by the execution of this acceptance, does hereby agree to abide by the provisions of Section 617.0501. Florida Statutes, with respect to the duties of such registered agent and agrees to maintain normal business hours at the following address: 131 North Gadsden Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301.

RONALD G. MEYER, ESQUIRE

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