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### COVER LETTER

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

BJECT:	(PROPOSED CORP	ORATE NAME - <u>MUST IN</u>	CLUDE SUFFIX)
closed is an original a	nd one (1) copy of the Ar	ticles of Incorporation and	a check for:
S70.00 Filing Fee	☐ \$78.75 Filing Fee & Certificate of Status	■\$78.75 Filing Fee & Certified Copy  ADDITIONAL CO	& Certificate
FROM:	Jamie Ebling		-
	Name (Printed or typed)  3700 S. Tamiami Trial, Suite 200		_
	Sarasota, FL 34239	Address	
	Sarasota, FL 34239	City, State & Zip	_

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

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

Daytime Telephone number

## ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF EPOCH CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC.

The undersigned hereby associate themselves for the purpose of forming a corporation not for profit under Chapter 617 and Chapter 718, Florida Statutes, and Rule 61B of the Florida Administrative Code, and agree and certify as follows:

#### ARTICLE 1.

## Association Name, Principal Office, Address and Registered Agent Identity

- 1.1) Name. The name of the corporation shall be EPOCH CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC., a corporation not for profit (hereafter referred to as the "Association"). The principal business address of the Association is 53 South Palm Avenue, Sarasota, Florida 34236.
- 1.2) Address and Registered Agent. The street address of the initial registered office of the Association is 53 South Palm Avenue, Sarasota, Florida 34236. The name of the Association's initial registered agent at such address is Patrick N. DiPinto, III (hereinafter referred to as the "Registered Agent").

#### ARTICLE 2.

#### Purpose

- 2.1) <u>Purpose</u>. The purpose for which the Association is organized is to provide an entity pursuant to the Florida Condominium Act (Chapter 718, Florida Statutes) as it exists on the date hereof for the maintenance, operation and management of a condominium known as EPOCH, a Condominium (herein "EPOCH"), being a proposed condominium development located in Sarasota County, Florida. EPOCH is being developed by South Palm Holdings, LLC, a Florida limited liability company, its successors and assigns (herein the "Developer").
- 2.2) <u>Distribution of Income</u>. The Association shall make no distribution of income to and no dividend shall be paid to its members, directors, or officers.
  - 2.3) No Shares of Stock. The Association shall not have or issue shares of stock.
- 2.4) Use of Certain Terms. EPOCH is sometimes referred to herein as the "Condominium." A Condominium Unit in the Condominium is sometimes hereinafter referred to as a "Unit," and the owner of a Unit is sometimes hereinafter referred to as an "Owner" or a "Unit Owner". The Property of the Condominium is sometimes referred to as "Condominium Property."

#### ARTICLE 3.

#### <u>Powers</u>

- 3.1) Common Law and Statutory Powers. The Association shall have all of the common Jaw and statutory powers of a corporation not for profit under Florida law not in conflict with the terms of Rese Articles of Incorporation or the Florida Condominium Act.
- 3.2) <u>Specific Powers</u>. The Association shall have all of the powers and duties of an association set forth in the Florida Condominium Act and all of the powers and duties reasonably necessary to manage,

maintain and operate EPOCH pursuant to the Declaration of Condominium for EPOCH as it may be amended from time to time, including but not limited to the following:

- (a) To make and collect assessments (regular, special and emergency) against members as Unit Owners to defray the costs, expenses and losses incurred in the management, maintenance, operation, repair and replacement of the Condominium and property and facilities serving the Condominium and Association Property, if any.
- (b) To use the proceeds of assessments in the exercise of its powers and duties.
- (c) If provided in the Declaration of Condominium or the rules and regulations for the Condominium, to charge interest and late charges on delinquent or past due assessments and to accelerate the assessments of a Unit Owner in such Condominium delinquent in payment of any installment of assessments for Common Expenses.
- (d) If provided in the Declaration of Condominium for the Condominium, to charge a use fee against Unit owners in such Condominium for the use of designated Association Property, if any, or certain designated portions of the Common Elements.
- (c) If provided in the Declaration of Condominium for the Condominium, to require as a condition to the letting or renting of a Unit in such Condominium a security deposit to protect against damages to the Common Elements and/or the Association Property, if any.
- (f) To acquire, own, maintain, manage, repair, replace and operate the Condominium Property and all other property, improvements and facilities serving the Condominium or their respective Unit Owner members, whether located within or without the Condominium, including the maintenance, repair and replacement of the surface water management system as permitted by the Southwest Florida Water Management District and by the City of Sarasota and/or Sarasota County, including all lakes, retention areas, water management areas, ditches, culverts, structures and related appurtenances serving the Condominium and the Association Property, if any.
- (g) To purchase insurance upon the Condominium Property and Association Property, if any, and insurance for the protection of the Association and its members as Unit Owners.
- (h) To assist in the rentals of Units and the residence thereon for the convenience of the Unit Owners, unless otherwise prohibited by law or unless registration is required by law.
- (i) To make and amend reasonable Rules and Regulations respecting the use and occupancy of the Condominium Property, including the Units and the residences thereon and Association Property, if any, for the health, comfort, safety and welfare of the Unit Owners. All such Rules and Regulations and amendments thereto shall be approved by the Board of Directors of the Association.
- (j) To approve or disapprove the transfer, lease, loan, mortgage and ownership of Units in the Condominium, if so provided in the Declaration of Condominium for such Condominium.
- (k) To enforce by legal means the provisions of the Condominium Act of the State of Florida, the Declaration of Condominium of the Condominium, these Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws of the Association and the Rules and Regulations for use of the Condominium Property and Association Property, if any.

- (1) To contract for the management of the Condominium with third party contractors and to delegate to such contractor all powers and duties of the Association, except as such are specifically required by the Declaration of Condominium or the Florida Condominium Act to have the approval of the Board of Directors or the members of the Association.
- (m) To contract for the management or operation, of all the portions of the Common Elements and Association Property, if any, susceptible to separate management or operation.
- (n) To employ personnel to perform the services required for proper management, maintenance and operation of the Condominium and Association Property, if any.
- (o) To acquire or enter into (prior or subsequent to the recording of the Declaration of Condominium of the Condominium) agreements whereby it acquires leaseholds, memberships or other possessory or use interests in real and personal property, including, but not limited to, country clubs, golf courses, marinas, and other recreational facilities, whether or not contiguous to the lands of the Condominium intended to provide for the enjoyment, recreation or other, use or benefit of the Unit Owners, to declare expenses in connection therewith to be Common Expenses, and to adopt covenants and restrictions relating to the use thereof and to operate under a fictitious name.
- (p) To purchase and own Units in the Condominium, and to acquire and hold, lease, mortgage and convey the same, subject however, to the provisions of the Declaration of Condominium and the Bylaws of the Association relative thereto.
- (q) To obtain loans to provide funds for operating, maintaining, repairing, replacing and improving the respective Condominium and Association Property, if any, and to pledge the income of the Association from assessments against Unit Owners in the Condominium as security for such loans.
  - 3.3) Assets Held in Trust. All funds and properties acquired by the Association and the proceeds thereof shall be held in trust for the members in accordance with the provisions of the Declaration of Condominium of the Condominium, these Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Association.
  - 3.4) <u>Limitation on Exercise of Powers</u>. The powers of the Association shall be subject to and shall be exercised in accordance with the provisions of the Declaration of Condominium of the Condominium and the Bylaws of the Association and the Florida Condominium Act.

## ARTICLE 4. Members

#### 4.1) Members.

- (a) The members of the Association shall consist of all of the record owners of Units in the Condominium from time to time, and after termination of the Condominium, shall consist of those who are members at the time of such termination and their successors and assigns.
- (b) Until the Declaration of Condominium of EPOCH is recorded in the Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida, the subscriber(s) (Incorporator(s)) to these Articles shall be the sole member(s) of

the Association and shall cast all the votes. Upon the recording of the Declaration of Condominium for EPOCH, the subscriber(s) shall automatically cease to be member(s) of the Association.

- 4.2) Termination and Change of Membership. Membership in the Association shall terminate automatically and immediately as a member's vested present interest in the title to a Condominium Unit terminates. After receiving any approval of the Association required by the Declaration of Condominium of the Condominium, change of membership in the Association shall be established by the recording in the Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida, of a deed or other instrument establishing a change of record title to a Unit in the Condominium and the delivery to the Association of a certified copy of such instrument. The Unit Owner(s) designated by such instrument thereby automatically becomes a member of the Association and the membership of the prior Unit Owner(s) is terminated.
- 4.3) <u>Limitation on Transfer of Shares of Assets.</u> The share of a member in the funds and assets of the Association cannot be assigned, hypothecated or transferred in any manner, except as an appurtenance to the member's Unit.
- 4.4) Voting. Each member shall be entitled to vote in the same proportion as said Unit Owner's percentage share in common elements, as set forth in Article 7 of the Declaration. If, after the recording of a Declaration, two or more units are combined to form a single unit ("Combined Unit"), then the Combined Unit shall have the number of votes equal to the sum of the votes for each of the Units so combined. All of the Voting Interest for each Unit in the Condominium shall be cast together. The manner of exercising voting rights shall be determined by the Bylaws of the Association.

## ARTICLE 5. <u>Directors</u>

#### 5.1) Developer's Right to Control Association and Board of Directors.

Developer reserves the right to maintain control of the Association under the Condominium Act and in accordance with this Section and Florida Statute Section 718.301.

- (a) If unit owners other than the developer own 15 percent or more of the units in a condominium that will be operated ultimately by an association, the unit owners other than the developer are entitled to elect at least one-third of the members of the board of administration of the association. Unit owners other than the developer are entitled to elect at least a majority of the members of the board of administration of an association, upon the first to occur of any of the following events: Three years after 50 percent of the Units that will be operated by the Association have been conveyed to purchasers;
- (b) Three months after 90 percent of the Units that will be operated by the Association have been conveyed to purchasers;
- (c) When all the Units that will be operated ultimately by the Association have been completed, some of them have been conveyed to purchasers, and none of the others are being offered for sale by the Developer in the ordinary course of business;
- (d) When some of the Units have been conveyed to purchasers and none of the others are being constructed or offered for sale by the Developer in the ordinary course of business;

- (e) When Developer files a petition seeking protection in bankruptcy;
- (f) When a receiver for Developer is appointed by a circuit court and is not discharged within 30 days after such appointment, unless the court determines within 30 days after appointment of the receiver that transfer of control would be detrimental to the Association or its members; or
- (g) Seven years after the date of the recording of the certificate of a surveyor and mapper pursuant to Florida Statute Section 718.104(4)e or the recording of an instrument that transfers title to a Unit which is not accompanied by a recorded assignment of developer rights in favor of the grantee of such Unit, whichever occurs first; or, in the case of an association that may ultimately operate more than one condominium, 7 years after the date of the recording of the certificate of a surveyor and mapper pursuant to s. 718.104(4)(e) or the recording of an instrument that transfers title to a unit which is not accompanied by a recorded assignment of developer rights in favor of the grantee of such unit, whichever occurs first, for the first condominium it operates; or, in the case of an association operating a phase condominium created pursuant to s. 718.403, 7 years after the date of the recording of the certificate of a surveyor and mapper pursuant to s. 718.104(4)(e) or the recording of an instrument that transfers title to a unit which is not accompanied by a recorded assignment of developer rights in favor of the grantee of such unit, whichever occurs first.

The developer is entitled to elect at least one member of the board of administration of an association as long as the developer holds for sale in the ordinary course of business at least 5 percent, in condominiums with fewer than 500 units, and 2 percent, in condominiums with more than 500 units, of the units in a condominium operated by the association. After the developer relinquishes control of the association, the developer may exercise the right to vote any developer-owned units in the same manner as any other unit owner except for purposes of reacquiring control of the association or selecting the majority members of the board of administration.

Notwithstanding anything hereinbefore or hereinafter contained or implied to the contrary, the Developer hereby reserves unto itself, its successors, designees, and assigns, pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.1 hereof, the exclusive right to elect, to remove and to replace from time to time members of the first Board of Directors of the Association.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Developer, while exercising control of the Association during the development and sales period for the Condominium, shall observe all the formalities of the Association's corporate structure and regime and the requirements of the Florida Condominium Act and the rules of the Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes.

- 5.2) Board of Directors. The affairs of the Association shall be managed by the Board of Directors consisting of the number of Directors determined by the Bylaws, but not less than three (3) Directors, and in the absence of such determination shall consist of three (3) Directors. Directors, except those persons named as the members of the First Board of Directors and those persons designated by the Developer, if any, to replace such persons, shall be members of or officers of corporate members of the Association.
- 5.3) <u>Election of Directors</u>. The Directors of the Association shall be elected at the annual meeting of the members in the manner determined by the Bylaws of the Association. Directors may be removed and vacancies on the Board of Directors shall be filled in the manner provided by the Bylaws of the Association.

- 5.4) First Election of Directors. The first election of Directors by the membership shall occur as provided in Article 5.1 hereof. The First Board of Directors named in these Articles shall serve until such election and any vacancies in their number occurring before the first election shall be filled by the Developer, or in the event of its failure to do so, by the remaining Directors, except as otherwise specifically provided in Article 5.1 hereof. The transfer of control of the Association by the Developer to the members shall be as provided in Article 5.1 hereof.
- 5.5) <u>First Board of Directors</u>. The names and addresses of the members of the first Board of Directors who shall hold office until their successors are elected and have qualified, or until removed, are as follows:

NAME

**ADDRESS** 

Patrick N. DiPinto, III

53 South Palm Avenue

Sarasota, Florida 34236

David D.R. Hargreaves

53 South Palm Avenue

Sarasota, Florida 34236

Evan N. Berlin

3700 S. Tamiami Trail, Suite 200

Sarasota, Florida 34239

ARTICLE 6. Officers

6.1) Officers. The affairs of the Association shall be administered by a President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer and such other offices as may be designated in the Bylaws of the Association. The officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors at its first meeting following the annual meeting of the members of the Association and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors. The names and addresses of the officers who shall serve until their successors are designated and elected by the Board of Directors as follows:

NAME .	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Patrick N. DiPinto, III	President/ Treasurer	53 South Palm Avenue Sarasota, Florida 34236
David D.R. Hargreaves	Vice President/ Secretary	53 South Palm Avenue Sarasota, Florida 34236

The Directors and Officers may lawfully and properly exercise the powers set forth in Article 3 (including those set forth in Section 3.2(1), (m), (n), (o) and (p)), notwithstanding the fact that some or all of them may be directly or indirectly involved in the exercise of such powers and in the negotiation and/or consummation of agreements executed pursuant to such powers are some or all of the persons with whom the Association enters into such agreements or who own some or all of the proprietary interests in the entity or entities with whom the Association enters into such agreements. Disclosure of such agreements in the Declaration of Condominium for the Condominium, as initially declared or subsequently amended, shall stand as an

absolute confirmation of such agreements and the valid exercise by the Directors and Officers of this Association of the powers pertinent thereto.

## ARTICLE 7. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

7.1) Indemnity. The Association shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or contemplated action, suit or proceedings, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a director, employee, officer or agent of the Association, against all liabilities and expenses (including attorneys' fees, costs and appellate attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with such action, suit or proceedings, unless (a) a court of competent jurisdiction determined, after all available appeals have been exhausted or not pursued by the proposed indemnity, that he or she did not act in good faith, nor in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the Association, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, that he or she had reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful, and (b) such court further specifically determines that indemnification should be denied. The termination of any action, suit or proceedings by judgment, order, settlement, conviction or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the Association, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

A Director, other than a person appointed by the Developer to the Board, shall not be personally liable for monetary damages to the Association or any other person for any statement, vote, decision, or failure to act, regarding corporate management or policy, unless subsection (1)(a), (1)(b)(1), (1)(b)(2) or (1)(b)(3) of Section 617.0834, Florida Statutes, shall be found applicable.

- 7.2) Expenses. To the extent that a director, officer, employee or agent of the Association has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit or proceeding referred to in Article 7.1 above, or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, he or she shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorney's fees and appellate attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection therewith.
- 7.3) Advances. Expenses incurred in defending a civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding shall be paid by the Association in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceedings upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the affected director, officer, employee or agent to repay such amount unless it shall ultimately be determined that he or she is not entitled to be indemnified by the Association as authorized in this Article 7.
- 7.4) <u>Miscellaneous</u>. The indemnification provided by this Article shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those seeking indemnification may be entitled under any bylaw, agreement, vote of members or otherwise, and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a director, officer, employee or agent and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs and personal representatives of such person.
- 7.5) <u>Insurance</u>. The Association shall have the power to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person, who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the Association, or is or was serving, at the request of the Association, as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise; against any liability asserted against him and incurred by him in any

such capacity, or arising out of his or her status as such, whether or not the Association would have the power to indemnify him or her against such liability under the provisions of this Article.

7.6) Amendment. Anything to the contrary herein notwithstanding, the provisions of this Article 7 may not be amended without the prior written consent of all persons whose interest would be adversely affected by such amendment.

## ARTICLE 8. Bylaws

8.1) Bylaws. The Bylaws of the Association shall be adopted by the Board of Directors of the Association and may be altered, amended or rescinded in certain instances by the Board of Directors and in certain instances by the membership in the manner provided by the Bylaws.

## ARTICLE 9. Amendments

- 9.1) <u>Amendments</u>. Subject to the provisions of Sections 9.2 and 9.3 of this Article 9, amendments to the Articles of Incorporation shall be proposed and adopted in the following manner:
  - (a) Notice of the subject matter of a proposed amendment shall be included in the notice of any meeting at which a proposed amendment is to be considered.
  - (b) A resolution for the adoption of a proposed amendment shall be adopted by the Board of Directors setting forth the proposed amendment and directing that it be submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members of the Association. Except as elsewhere provided, such approvals must be by not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the entire membership of the Board of Directors and by not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the votes (Voting Interests) of the entire membership. Directors and members not present in person or by proxy at the meeting considering the amendment may express their approval in writing, providing such approval is delivered to the Secretary at or prior to the meeting.
  - (c) A copy of each amendment filing shall be certified by the Secretary of State and shall be recorded in the Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida, with identification on the first page thereof of the Book and Page of the Public Records where the Declaration of Condominium is recorded.
- 9.2) <u>Limitation on Amendments</u>. No amendment shall make any changes in the qualifications for membership nor the voting rights of members, nor make any change in Section 3.2 of Article 3, in Sections 5.1, 5.4 and 5.5 of Article 5 or in Article 7, without approval in writing by the Developer, all members and the joinder of all record owners of mortgages upon all or any portion of the Condominium. No amendment shall be made that is in conflict with the Florida Condominium Act, the Declaration of Condominium or which deletes or modifies any of the rights of the Developer hereunder without the prior written consent of the Developer.
- 9.3) <u>Initial Amendments May be Made Only by First Board of Directors</u>. Notwithstanding anything herein contained to the contrary, until the first election of directors by the members, amendments to these Articles

of Incorporation may be proposed and adopted only by the unanimous action of the First Board of Directors named in these Articles or their replacements.

## ARTICLE 10. Term

10.1) Term. The term of the Association shall be perpetual, unless the Condominium is terminated pursuant to the provisions of the Declaration, and, in the event of such termination, the Association shall be dissolved in accordance with the law unless its members shall unanimously determine otherwise. Upon such dissolution, the Property consisting of the surface water management system shall be conveyed to an appropriate agency of Sarasota County, Florida, and if not accepted for such conveyance, then such surface water management system shall be dedicated to a similar non-profit corporation.

## ARTICLE 11. Restriction Upon Commencement of Litigation

- 11.1) <u>Restriction</u>. Notwithstanding anything contained herein, or within the Bylaws of this Association to the contrary, the Association shall be required to obtain the approval of at least eighty percent (80%) of all Unit Owners in the Condominium prior to the employment of and payment of legal or other fees to persons or entities engaged by the Association for the purposes of suing or making, preparing, or investigating any lawsuit or commencing any lawsuit, other than for the following purposes:
  - (a) The collection of assessments against members as Unit Owners including the preparation and filing of liens for unpaid assessments and the foreclosure of such liens;
  - (b) The collection of other charges and fees which Unit Owners are obligated to pay pursuant to the Declaration of Condominium of the Condominium, these Articles, and/or the Bylaws and/or Rule and Regulations of this Association;
  - (c) The enforcement of the use and occupancy and other restrictions contained within the Declaration of Condominium, other condominium documents, including but not limited to the Rules and Regulations, including but not limited to those respecting tenants and guests;
  - (d) An emergency where awaiting to obtain the approval of the required number of Unit Owners would create a substantial risk of irreparable injury to the Association, the Condominium, and/or the Association Property, if any, or any portion thereof.

Any such approval shall be obtained at a meeting duly called and the notice for which shall specifically state its purpose.

## ARTICLE 12. Definitions

12.1) Definitions. The terms used in these Articles shall have the same definitions and meaning as set forth in the Declaration of Condominium for EPOCII unless herein provided to the contrary or unless the context otherwise requires.

## ARTICLE 13. Subscribers (Incorporators)

13.1) Names and Addresses. The name and residence address of the subscriber (incorporator) of these Articles of Incorporation are as follows:

NAME	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Patrick N. DiPinto, III	53 South Palm Avenue Sarasota, Florida 34236

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the subscriber (incorporator) has hereto affixed his signature of this aday of November, 2020.

Patrick N. DiPinto III (Incorporator

STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF SARASOTA

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by means of physical presence on this 9th day of November, 2020 by Patrick N.DiPinto, III, who is personally known to me or has produced

Driver License as identification.

February 25, 2023

Type Name: Elizabeth C. Hall

Notary Public:

My Commission Expires: February 25, 2023

## CERTIFICATE DESIGNATING PLACE OF BUSINESS FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS WITHIN THIS STATE AND NAMING AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS MAY BE SERVED

Pursuant to Chapter 48.091 and 617.0501, Florida Statutes, the following is submitted in compliance with said Act:

That EPOCH CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC., a corporation not for profit, desiring to organize under the laws of the State of Florida, with its principal offices at 53 South Palm Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236, has named Patrick N. DiPinto, III, whose office is located at 53 South Palm Avenue, Sarasota, Florida, 34236, as its agent to accept service of process within the State.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Having been named as registered agent to accept service of process for the above-stated corporation, at the place designated in this certificate, I 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.

PATRICK N. DIPINTO, III

Dated: 9th day of November , 2020.

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