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Florida Department of State  
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**FLORIDA PROFIT/NON PROFIT CORPORATION**  
**Protecting The Gulf Together Inc.**

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**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
OF  
PROTECTING THE GULF TOGETHER INC.**

I, the undersigned incorporator, hereby make, subscribe, acknowledge and file with the Secretary of State of the State of Florida these Articles of Incorporation for the purpose of forming a corporation not for profit in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida.

**ARTICLE I  
Name and Address**

The name of the corporation shall be:

**PROTECTING THE GULF TOGETHER INC.**

The address of the corporation shall be 18395 Gulf Blvd., Suite 204, Indian Shores, Florida 33785, or such other address within the State of Florida as the Board of Directors may from time to time designate.

**ARTICLE II  
Purposes**

(a) The corporation is organized and shall be operated exclusively for scientific, educational or charitable purposes. The corporation shall receive and maintain funds of real and/or personal property, and subject to the restrictions and limitations hereinabove and hereinafter set forth, shall use the whole or any part of the income therefrom and the principal thereof exclusively for its charitable, scientific or educational purposes.

(b) No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to any member, trustee or officer of the corporation, or any private individual (except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the corporation affecting one or more of its purposes), and no member, trustee or officer of the corporation, or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets on dissolution of the corporation. 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 publication or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

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(c) Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Articles of Incorporation, the corporation shall not conduct or carry on any activities not permitted to be conducted or carried on by an organization exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), or the Treasury Regulations promulgated thereunder, or by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (c)(2) of the Code and Treasury Regulations issued there under.

(d) In the event of dissolution or final liquidation of the corporation, the residual assets of the corporation will be distributed to one or more organizations which themselves are exempt as organizations described in Sections 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the Code or corresponding sections of any prior or future Code, or to the Federal, state, or local government exclusive public purpose.

### ARTICLE III Powers

The corporation shall have and exercise all powers provided by the laws of the State of Florida pertaining to corporations not for profit including, but not limited to, Chapter 617 of the Florida Statutes and future amendments thereto, or succeeding statutes pertaining to corporations not for profit in the State of Florida, necessary or convenient to effect any and all of the charitable, scientific and educational purposes for which the corporation is organized, subject, however, to the following:

(a) The corporation shall be operated exclusively for, and shall only have the power to perform, activities exclusively within the meaning, requirements and effect of Section 501(c)(3) of the Code.

(b) The corporation shall not engage in any act of self-dealing as defined in Section 4941(d) of the Code or corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal tax law.

(c) The corporation shall distribute its income for each taxable year at such time and in such manner as not to become subject to the tax on undistributed income imposed by Section 4942 of the Code or corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal tax laws.

(d) The corporation shall not retain any excess business holdings as defined in Section 4943(c) of the Code or corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal tax laws.

(e) The corporation shall not make any investments in such manner as to subject it to tax under Section 4944 of the Code or corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal tax laws.

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(f) The corporation shall not make any taxable expenditures as defined in Section 4945(d) of the Code or corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal tax laws.

(g) The corporation shall not engage in any prohibited transaction as defined in Section 503(b) of the Code or corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal tax laws.

#### **ARTICLE IV** **Term of Existence**

The term for which the corporation is to exist shall be perpetual.

#### **ARTICLE V** **Incorporator**

The name and address of the incorporator to these Articles of Incorporation is as follows:

J. Matthew Marquardt  
625 Court Street, Suite 200  
Clearwater, Florida 33756

#### **ARTICLE VI** **Officers and Directors**

The affairs of the corporation shall be managed by a Board of Directors who shall be elected initially by the incorporator of the corporation, at a duly called meeting, and thereafter as provided in the bylaws and by officers who shall be elected annually by majority vote of the Board of Directors of the corporation. The officers thus to be elected shall be a president, a vice president, a secretary and a treasurer and such other officers as may be provided for in the bylaws of the corporation. Any two offices, except those of president and vice president, may be held by the same person. The duties of the respective officers and the manner of filling vacancies in the office of the corporation shall be provided in the bylaws.

The number of directors and the manner of filling vacancies in the Board of Directors shall be provided in the bylaws of the corporation. The number shall not be fewer than three (3) but may be any number in excess thereof. A quorum for the transaction of business shall be a majority of the directors qualified and active, and the

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act of a majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the directors. Meetings of the directors may be held within or without the State of Florida.

**ARTICLE VII**  
**Initial Directors**

The Corporation initially shall have three (3) directors, whose names and addresses are as follows:

Frank Chivas  
18395 Gulf Blvd., Suite 204  
Indian Shores, Florida 33785

Brian J. Aungst  
625 Court Street, Suite 200  
Clearwater, Florida 33756

J. Matthew Marquardt  
625 Court Street, Suite 200  
Clearwater, Florida 33756

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**Registered Office and Registered Agent**

The name of the corporation's initial registered agent is **J. Matthew Marquardt, Esq.**, and the street address of the corporation's initial registered office is 625 Court Street, Suite 200, Clearwater, Florida 33756. The corporation may change its registered office or its registered agent both by filing with the Department of State of the State of Florida a statement complying with Section 617.0502, Florida Statutes.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**Bylaws**

The bylaws of the corporation may be made, altered or rescinded from time to time in whole or in part by a majority vote of the Board of Directors of the corporation present at any meeting duly called and convened; provided, however that a quorum is present at the meeting of the Board of Directors and notice of the proposed action with respect to the bylaws shall have been waived by a majority of the Board of Directors or

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mailed by the secretary of the corporation to each director at least three (3) days before the meeting.

**ARTICLE X**  
**Amendment of Articles of Incorporation**

These Articles of Incorporation may be amended by resolution adopted by the majority vote of the Board of Directors of the corporation present at any meeting duly called and convened; provided, however, that notice of the proposed action with respect to the Articles of Incorporation shall have been waived by a majority of the Board of Directors of the corporation or ten (10) days' advance notice of the amendment or amendments, to be considered at such meeting, shall have been given in writing personally or by mail to each director of the corporation prior to such meeting. All actions, including but not limited to, Amendment of Articles of Incorporation, required to be taken at any meeting may be taken by written consent as provided in Florida Statutes, as now amended or as same may be amended in the future.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed these Articles of Incorporation for the uses and purposes therein expressed on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.

  
J. Matthew Marquardt  
Incorporator

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**CERTIFICATE OF DESIGNATION OF  
REGISTERED AGENT/REGISTERED OFFICE**

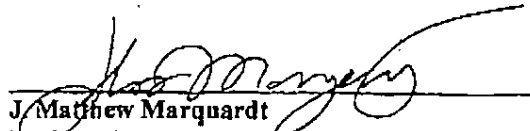
PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 617.0501, FLORIDA  
STATUTES, THE UNDERSIGNED CORPORATION SUBMITS THE FOLLOWING  
STATEMENT IN DESIGNATING THE REGISTERED OFFICE/REGISTERED  
AGENT, IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

1. The name of the corporation is: **Protecting the Gulf Together Inc.**
2. The name and address of the registered agent and office is:

**J. Matthew Marquardt  
625 Court Street, Suite 200  
Clearwater, Florida 33756**

Having been named as registered agent and to accept service of process for the  
above stated corporation at the place designated in this certificate, I hereby accept the  
appointment as registered agent and agree to act in this capacity. I further agree to  
comply with the provisions of all statutes relating to the proper and complete  
performance of my duties, and I am familiar with and accept the obligations of my  
position as registered agent.

Dated this 30<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.

  
J. Matthew Marquardt  
Registered Agent

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