

6/29/22, 3:02 PM

N2200007400

Florida Department of State
Division of Corporations
Electronic Filing Cover Sheet

Note: Please print this page and use it as a cover sheet. Type the fax audit number (shown below) on the top and bottom of all pages of the document.

((H220002241123)))



H220002241123ABCQ

Note: DO NOT hit the REFRESH/RELOAD button on your browser from this page. Doing so will generate another cover sheet.

To: Division of Corporations
Fax Number : (850)617-6381

From: Account Name : SAXON GILMORE NON-TRUST FUNDS
Account Number : I20180000023
Phone : (813)314-4551
Fax Number : (813)314-4555

****Enter the email address for this business entity to be used for future annual report mailings. Enter only one email address please.****

Email Address: flcorp@saxongilmore.com

**FLORIDA PROFIT/NON PROFIT CORPORATION
FORWARD 1, INC.**

Certificate of Status	1
Certified Copy	1
Page Count	06
Estimated Charge	\$87.50

HL

RECEIVED

2022 JUN 29 PM 5:19

FLORIDA
DIVISION OF
CORPORATIONS

SECRETARY OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

2022 JUN 29 PM 12:13

FILED

Electronic Filing Menu

Corporate Filing Menu

Help

(((H22000224112 3)))

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF
FORWARD 1, INC.**

I, the undersigned, being the Incorporator of FORWARD 1, INC., a Florida not for profit corporation, hereby file the following Articles of Incorporation (the "Articles of Incorporation") that comply with the requirements of Florida Statutes Chapter 617 (Florida Not For Profit Corporation Act):

ARTICLE I- NAME

The name of the Corporation is FORWARD 1, INC., a Florida not for profit corporation (hereinafter the "Corporation").

**ARTICLE II- REGISTERED OFFICE AND AGENT AND
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS AND MAILING ADDRESS**

The registered office of the Corporation shall be located at 201 East Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 600, Tampa, Florida 33602, and the initial registered agent of the Corporation at that address shall be Ricardo L. Gilmore, Esquire.

The principal place of business and the mailing address of the Corporation shall be: FORWARD 1, INC., 2653 Avenue C S.W., Winter Haven, FL 33880.

ARTICLE III - PURPOSES AND POWERS

The general nature of the objects, purposes, powers, and limitations of the Corporation shall be as follows:

ITEM (a) IS WHAT THE CLIENT SENT US

(a) to engage in or assist in the development of and empower opportunities to the underserved population, to build back their communities through entrepreneurship. Mission to ignite the talent in underserved populations of non-traditional aspiring entrepreneurs by helping them realize their business dreams, simultaneously rebuilding their communities commercially. Will serve as a business accelerator and pre-sees venture fund, primarily located in, but not limited to, Winter Haven, Florida and also developments in the surrounding areas of Polk County, Florida;

(b) to act as an instrumentality of the Winter Haven Housing Authority (hereinafter the "Authority") and solicit funds and/or re-invest on its behalf to benefit and support the programs and goals of the Authority;

(((H22000224112 3)))

2022 JUN 29 PM 12:13
 DEPT. OF STATE
 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED

(((H22000224112 3)))

(c) to operate in any manner for such nonprofit, charitable, and/or educational purposes as will qualify the Corporation as a charitable organization exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3);

(d) to accept a substantial part of its support (exclusive of income received in the exercise or performance by such organization of its charitable, educational or other purpose or function constituting the basis for its exemption) from a governmental unit or from direct or indirect contributions from the general public, the Corporation's organizers, corporations, foundations, and any other public or private sources;

(e) to generally perform any function necessary to engage in any lawful purpose or purposes not for pecuniary profit;

(f) no part of the earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, officers or other private persons, except that the Corporation may be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and products purchased and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes hereinafter 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;

(g) notwithstanding any other provisions of these Articles, the Corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (i) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or (ii) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of such Code as it now exists or as it may be amended;

(h) the Corporation will distribute its income for each tax 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 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or corresponding section of any other federal tax code;

(i) the Corporation will not engage in any act of self-dealing as defined in Section 4941(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or corresponding section of any future federal tax code without providing for fair, adequate, and reasonable compensation;

(j) the Corporation will not retain any excess business holdings as defined in Section 4943(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or corresponding section of any future federal tax code;

(k) the Corporation will not make any investments in such manner as to subject it to tax under Section 4944 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or corresponding section of any future federal tax code; and

(l) the Corporation will not make any taxable expenditures as defined in Section 4945(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

The Corporation shall have the power to:

(a) have succession by its corporate name for the period set forth in its Articles of Incorporation;

(b) sue and be sued and appear and defend in all actions and proceedings in its

(((H22000224112 3)))

2022 JUN 29 PM 12:13

FILED

(((H22000224112 3)))

corporate name to the same extent as a natural person;

(c) adopt and use a common corporate seal and alter the same provided, however, that such seal shall always contain the words "not for profit corporation,"

(d) elect or appoint such officers and agents as its affairs shall require and allow them reasonable compensation, if so voted by a majority of the Directors of the Corporation;

(e) adopt, change, amend, and repeal bylaws, not inconsistent with law or its Articles of Incorporation, for the administration of the affairs of the Corporation and the exercise of its corporate powers;

(f) make contracts and incur liabilities, borrow money at such rates of interest as the Corporation may determine, issue notes, bonds, and other obligations, and secure any of its obligations by mortgage and pledge of all or any of its property, franchises or income;

(g) conduct its affairs, carry on its operations, and have offices and exercise the powers granted herein in any state, territory, district or possession of the United States or any foreign country;

(h) purchase, take, review, lease, take by gift, devise or bequest or otherwise acquire, own, hold, improve, use or otherwise deal in and with real or personal property or any interest therein, wherever situated;

(i) acquire, enjoy, utilize, and dispose of patents, copyrights, and trademarks and any licenses and other rights or interests thereunder or therein;

(j) sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, transfer or otherwise dispose of all or any part of its property and assets;

(k) purchase, take, receive, subscribe for or otherwise acquire, own, hold, vote, use, employ, sell, mortgage, lend, pledge or otherwise dispose of and otherwise use and deal in and with, shares and other interests in, or obligations of other domestic or foreign corporations, whether for profit or not for profit, associations, partnerships or individuals or direct or indirect obligations of the United States or of any other government, state, territory, governmental district, municipality or of any instrumentality thereof;

(l) lend money for its corporate purposes, invest and reinvest its funds, and take and hold real and personal property as security for the payment of funds so loaned or invested;

(m) make donations and work together with public or private entities to encourage and facilitate the provision of affordable housing opportunities to persons and families of low and moderate income, for the public welfare, and for religious, charitable, scientific, educational or other similar purposes;

(n) have and exercise all powers necessary or convenient to effect any or all of the purposes for which the Corporation is organized; and

(o) the above stated powers shall in no way be a limitation of those corporate powers set forth in Florida Statutes Section 617.0302, which powers are included herein by reference.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERS

The Corporation shall have no members and no stockholders.

ARTICLE V – EXISTENCE

The existence of the Corporation shall be perpetual.

(((H22000224112 3)))

(((H22000224112 3)))

ARTICLE VI - DIRECTORS

The affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by the Board of Directors, which initially shall consist of the following five (5) members, who are all Commissioners of the Authority:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Muriel Thome	2653 Avenue C S.W. Winter Haven, FL 33880
Breezi K. Hicks	2653 Avenue C S.W. Winter Haven, FL 33880
Jimmie Leo Hudson	2653 Avenue C S.W. Winter Haven, FL 33880
James E. Hogan	2653 Avenue C S.W. Winter Haven, FL 33880
Kyree Wilson	2653 Avenue C S.W. Winter Haven, FL 33880

2022 JUN 29 PM 12:13
 SECRETARY OF STATE
 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED

The number of Directors may be raised or lowered to correspond to the number who serve on the Board of Commissioners of the Authority, but shall in no case be less than three (3). The Board of Directors must be composed of the then current Board of Commissioners of the Authority, and any and all members of the Board of Directors are only eligible to serve as long as they are current Board members of the Authority.

ARTICLE VII- BYLAWS

The bylaws of the Corporation shall be made and adopted by the Board of Directors and may be amended, altered or rescinded by a majority of the entire Board of Directors present at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose.

ARTICLE VIII- DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the Corporation exclusively for the purpose of the Corporation by transferring such assets to any charitable, scientific, religious or educational organization as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law), or to any governmental or other entities with purposes similar to the Corporation's, such disposition to be as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any assets remaining after such disposition by the Board of Directors shall be disposed of by the Circuit Court of the county in which the Corporation's principal offices are located, pursuant to the procedures for judicial dissolution, Florida Statutes Section 617.1431.

(((H22000224112 3)))

(((H22000224112 3)))

ARTICLE IX - INCORPORATOR(S)

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

NAMEADDRESS

Lisa Jones Watkins
Executive Director & Secretary

2653 Avenue C S.W.
Winter Haven, FL 33880

2022 JUN 29 PM 12:13
CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation shall be adopted by a majority of the entire Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose.

IN WITNESS OF THE FOREGOING, I hereby set my hand this 28th day of June, 2022.

FORWARD 1, INC., a Florida not for profit corporation

By:

Lisa Jones Watkins
Lisa Jones Watkins
Executive Director & Secretary

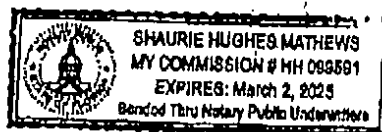
STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF POLK

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by means of ☒ physical presence or ☐ online notarization this 28th day of June, 2022, by Lisa Jones Watkins, and she executed the foregoing Articles of Incorporation as Executive Director & Secretary of FORWARD 1, INC., a Florida not for profit corporation. She is personally known to me or has produced _____ as identification.

Shaurie H. Mathews
Notary Public, State of Florida

Print/Stamp Name

Shaurie H. Mathews



(((H22000224112 3)))

(((H22000224112 3)))

CERTIFICATE

That FORWARD 1, INC., desiring to organize under the laws of the State of Florida, with its principal office at 2653 Avenue C S.W., City of Winter Haven, County of Polk, State of Florida 33880, has named Ricardo L. Gilmore, Esq., located at 201 East Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 600, City of Tampa, County of Hillsborough, State of Florida 33602, as its registered agent to accept service of process within this State.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Having been named to accept service of process for the above-named Corporation, at the place designated in this Certificate the undersigned agrees to act in this capacity and agrees to comply with the provisions of Florida law relative to keeping designated office open.


RICARDO L. GILMORE, ESQ.

FILED

2022 JUN 29 PM 12:13

SECRETARY OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

(((H22000224112 3)))