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Thank you!

## ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF COMMUNITY NEWS COLLABORATIVE, INC.

I, the undersigned incorporator, hereby makes, subscribes, acknowledges and files with the Department 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 this corporation shall be:

#### COMMUNITY NEWS COLLABORATIVE, INC.

The principal address of this corporation shall be 1661 Ringling Boulevard, Sarasota, FL 34230 and the mailing address shall be PO Box 99, Sarasota, Florida 34230, 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 charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. In particular, the organization's primary charitable purpose is to produce independent, nonpartisan, journalism for Florida's West Coast communities. The focus of the corporation will be to produce and distribute free journalistic content not normally covered by today's shrinking media landscape, in areas such as education, environmental and other social issues. The corporation is organized to accept, hold, administer and disburse such funds as may from time to time be contributed to the corporation for charitable and educational purposes, including for such purposes the making of distributions to organizations described in section 501(c)(3) and the conduct of other charitable activities as determined by the corporation's Board of Directors.
- (b) No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its directors, officers or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purpose set forth herein.
- (c) The corporation itself shall not carry on propaganda or otherwise attempt in any way to influence legislation or participate or intervene in (including the publishing

or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

- (d) Notwithstanding any provisions of these Articles of Incorporation, the corporation (a) shall not (1) carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on (i) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3), or (ii) by a corporation, contributions for which are deductible under section 170(c)(2), (2) engage in any act of self-dealing (as defined in section 4941(d)), (3) retain any excess business holdings (as defined in section 4943(c)), (4) make any investments in such manner as to subject the corporation to tax under section 4944, or (5) make any taxable expenditures (as defined in section 4945(d); and (b) shall distribute its income for each taxable year at such time and in such manner as to not subject the corporation to tax under section 4942.
- (e) Upon dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Directors of the corporation shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations operated exclusively for charitable purposes as shall at that time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501(c)(3), as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the court of general jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

## ARTICLE III Powers

This 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 Statues 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 for athletic purposes for fostering amateur sports for which the corporation is organized, subject, however, to the following:

- (a) This 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) This 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) This 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) This 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) This 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.
- (f) This 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) This 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 this 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:

David B. Heedy c/o Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP PO Box 49948 Sarasota, Florida 34230-6948

#### ARTICLE VI Officers and Directors

The corporation will have no members. The officers shall be elected annually by majority vote of the Board of Directors. The officers thus to be elected shall be a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer and such other officers as may be provided for in the bylaws of the corporation. Multiple offices 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 of the corporation.

All powers of the corporation shall be exercised solely and exclusively through its Board of Directors. The corporation initially shall have three (3) directors. The number of directors may be either increased or decreased from time to time in accordance with the bylaws of the corporation, provided that the number of directors shall never be fewer than three (3). The method of election and removal of directors shall be as set forth in the bylaws of the corporation. The names and addresses of the initial Directors are as follows:

Maria Vesperi 950 Bay Street NE

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Timothy J. Clarke 1540 Harbor Cay Lane

Longboat Key, Florida 34228

Charles L. Huisking III 7304 Chelsea Court

University Park Florida 34201

The initial Officers shall be:

President Maria Vesperi

950 Bay Street NE

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Treasurer & Secretary Timothy J. Clarke

1540 Harbor Cay Lane

Longboat Key, Florida 34228

## ARTICLE VII Indemnification

The corporation may indemnify the incorporator, any officer or director, or any former officer or director, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

## ARTICLE VIII Registered Office and Registered Agent

The corporation's initial registered agent shall be Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP, and the street address of the corporation's initial registered office is Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP, Attn: David B. Heedy, Esq., 240 South Pineapple Avenue, 9th Floor, Sarasota, Florida 34236. 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.

Signature Page Follows

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed these Articles of Incorporation for the uses and purposes therein expressed on this 24th day of October, 2023.

DocuSigned by:

David Herdy

David B. Heedy, Incorporator

## CERTIFICATE OF DESIGNATION OF REGISTERED AGENT

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

1. The name of the corporation is:

#### COMMUNITY NEWS COLLABORATIVE, INC.

2. The name and address of the registered agent and office is:

Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP
Attn: David B. Heedy, Esq.
240 South Pineapple Avenue, 9th Floor
Sarasota, Florida 34236

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

Dated this 24th day of October, 2023.

Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP

DocuSigned by:

By: Juan C. Villaveus
Name: Juan C. Villaveus

Title: Partner