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Division of Corporations  
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FLORIDA NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

Gulf Coast African American Chamber of Commerce

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Katherine Harris  
Secretary of State

May 27, 1999

EMMANUEL SHEPPARD & CONDON

SUBJECT: GULF COAST AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
REF: W99000012457

We received your electronically transmitted document. However, the document has not been filed. Please make the following corrections and refax the complete document, including the electronic filing cover sheet.

The name of the corporation must contain a corporate suffix. This suffix may be: CORPORATION, CORP., INCORPORATED, or INC. Sections 617.0401(1)(a) and 617.1506(1), Florida Statutes, prohibits the use of the word COMPANY or CO. in the name of a non-profit corporation.

You must list at least one incorporator with a complete business street address.

If you have any further questions concerning your document, please call (850) 487-6067.

Neysa Culligan  
Document Specialist

FAX Aud. #: E99000012814  
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## ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

## GULF COAST AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INC.

WE, the undersigned have associated ourselves as a body corporate with all the rights and privileges granted by the laws of the State of Florida and do hereby adopt Articles of Incorporation as follows:

ARTICLE ONE: The name of the corporation shall be Gulf Coast African American Chamber of Commerce, Inc., with its principal place of business at 2737 North "E" Street, Pensacola, FL 32501.

## ARTICLE TWO:

Section 1. This Chamber of Commerce is organized for the purpose of advancing the economic, industrial, professional, cultural and civic welfare of the Gulf Coast, the Black Community; the promotion of the general welfare and prosperity of the city, county and surrounding territory; and the stimulation of public sentiment to these ends.

Section 2. This organization, in its activities, shall be non-profit, non-partisan, non-sectarian. It shall not, by resolution or otherwise, be committed to the support or endorsement of any candidate for public office.

ARTICLE THREE: The corporation may acquire, take by gift, purchase, devise or bequest real and personal property for purposes appropriate in the exercise of its powers, and may lease, mortgage and dispose of real and personal property including the right to take, hold and dispose of shares of stock in other corporations.

ARTICLE FOUR: This corporation will be perpetual in existence.

Gerald McKenzie  
Emmanuel, Sheppard & Condon  
P. O. Drawer 1271  
Pensacola, Florida 32596  
(850) 433-6581  
FL BAR #: 869384

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ARTICLE FIVE: The affairs of this corporation shall be conducted by a Board of Directors, who shall be members of the corporation, and such officers and committees as said Board of Directors may appoint in conformity with these Articles and Bylaws of this corporation. The Board shall consist of not less than (7) members who shall be nominated and elected in the manner prescribed in the Bylaws. The initial officers shall be:

President	Eugene Franklin
Vice-President	Bob Hayes
Executive Vice-President	Linda Thompson
Secretary-Treasurer	Georgia Blackmon

ARTICLE SIX: All persons, corporations or associations who may pay the annual dues prescribed by the Bylaws shall, by virtue of such payment, be members of this corporation. The Bylaws may provide for the termination of membership in the corporation for nonpayment of dues.

ARTICLE SEVEN: The Board of Directors shall adopt, amend, or repeal such Bylaws as they deem necessary for the regulation of the affairs of this corporation, the same shall apply to the proposal and adoption of amendments to the Articles.

ARTICLE EIGHT: The private property of the members of this corporation shall not be liable for the debts of this corporation but shall be wholly exempt therefrom.

ARTICLE NINE: The general nature, purposes and objectives of this corporation shall be to advance the economic, industrial, professional, cultural and civic welfare of the Gulf Coast, the Black Community. In the pursuit of these objectives, this corporation may do any and all things necessary for the success thereof, including the solicitation and acceptance of funds, cooperating with other corporations and organizations for the

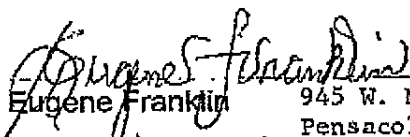
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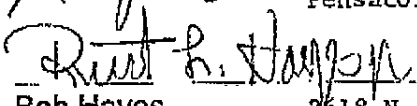
attainment of these purposes including, but not limited to making distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Laws.

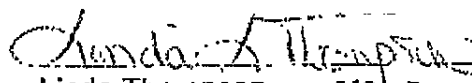
#### ARTICLE TEN--INITIAL REGISTERED OFFICE AND AGENT

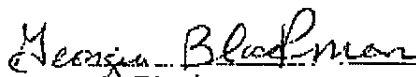
The name of the initial registered agent of this corporation is Gerald McKenzie, Attorney-at-Law, whose street address is: 6 North "H" Street, Pensacola, FL 32501.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have made and subscribed these Articles of Incorporation at Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida for the uses and purposes aforesaid.

 (Seal)  
Eugene Franklin 945 W. Michigan Avenue, Suite 10  
Pensacola, FL 32505

 (Seal)  
Bob Hayes 2618 N. Alcaniz Street  
Pensacola, FL 32503

 (Seal)  
Linda Thompson 3624 Barrancas Avenue  
Pensacola, FL 32507

 (Seal)  
Georgia Blackmon 2737 N. "E" Street  
Pensacola, FL 32501

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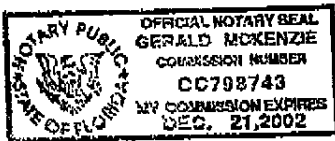
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STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF ESCAMBIA

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, personally appeared Eugene Franklin, known to be the person described in and who subscribed to the foregoing Articles of Incorporation; and 'freely and voluntarily acknowledged before me according to the law that he made and subscribed the same for the uses and purposes therein mentioned and set forth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal at Escambia County, FL, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of MAY, 1999.



Gerald McKenzie  
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of Florida, at Large

MY commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

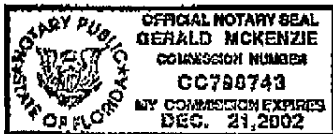
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STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF ESCAMBIA

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, personally appeared Georgia Blackmon, known to be the person described in and who subscribed to the foregoing Articles of Incorporation; and 'freely and voluntarily acknowledged before me according to the law that she made and subscribed the same for the uses and purposes therein mentioned and set forth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal at Escambia County, FL, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of MAY, 1999.



Gerald McKenzie  
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of Florida at Large

MY commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

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STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF ESCAMBIA

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, personally appeared Bob Hayes, known to be the person described in and who subscribed to the foregoing Articles of Incorporation; and freely and voluntarily acknowledged before me according to the law that he made and subscribed the same for the uses and purposes therein mentioned and set forth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal at Escambia County, FL, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 1999.



Gerald McKenzie  
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of Florida at Large

MY commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

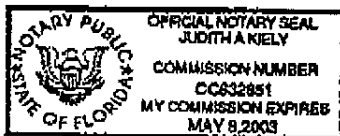
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STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF ESCAMBIA

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, personally appeared Linda Thompson, known to be the person described in and who subscribed to the foregoing Articles of Incorporation; and freely and voluntarily acknowledged before me according to the law that she made and subscribed the same for the uses and purposes therein mentioned and set forth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal at Escambia County, FL, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1999.



Judith A. Kelly  
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of Florida at Large

MY commission expires: 5/9/2003

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**ACCEPTANCE OF APPOINTMENT AS REGISTERED AGENT**

I, GERALD McKENZIE, am familiar with and hereby accept the appointment as Registered Agent for GULF COAST AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INC., as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation filed simultaneously herewith.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 27th day of May, 1999.

  
GERALD McKENZIE

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