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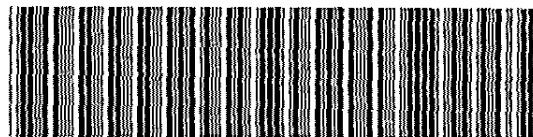
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SECRETARY OF STATE
DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS
05 APR - 1 PM 3: 09

D. Brown APR - 6 2005

SMITH MACKINNON, PA

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

SUITE 800
CITRUS CENTER
255 SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE
ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32801

March 29, 2005

POST OFFICE BOX 2254
ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32802-2254

TELEPHONE (407) 843-7300
FACSIMILE (407) 843-2448
E-MAIL: JPG7300@AOL.COM

JOHN P. GREELEY

Florida Secretary of State
Division of Corporations
Bureau of Corporate Records
Post Office Box 6327
Tallahassee, FL 32314

Re: Gateway Financial Holdings, Inc.

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed are the following documents relating to the above-referenced corporation:

1. Original Articles of Incorporation submitted for filing;
2. A check in the amount of \$87.50 (\$35.00 for filing fee, \$35.00 for registered agent designation and \$17.50 for two certified copies of the Articles of Incorporation); and
3. Two photocopies of the executed Articles of Incorporation.

Please file the enclosed document as soon as possible and return to us two certified copies of the Articles. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed, please do not hesitate to call me at your convenience.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,



John P. Greeley

JPG:erw
Enclosures

Copy to: David Maholias, President and Chief Executive Officer
Gateway Financial Holdings, Inc.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF
GATEWAY FINANCIAL HOLDINGS, INC.

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DIVISION OF CORPORATION
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The undersigned, being of legal age and desiring to form a corporation (hereinafter referred to as the "Corporation") pursuant to the provisions of the Florida Business Corporation Act, as amended (such Act, as amended from time to time, is hereinafter referred to as the "Act"), executes the following Articles of Incorporation.

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of the Corporation is Gateway Financial Holdings, Inc.

ARTICLE II

Duration

This Corporation shall commence its existence immediately upon the filing of these Articles of Incorporation and shall have perpetual duration unless sooner dissolved according to law.

ARTICLE III

Purpose and General Powers

The general purpose of the Corporation shall be the transaction of any and all lawful business for which corporations may be incorporated under the Act. The Corporation shall have all of the powers enumerated in the Act and all such other powers as are not specifically prohibited to corporations for profit under the laws of the State of Florida.

ARTICLE IV

Capital Stock

A. Number and Class of Shares Authorized; Par Value.

The Corporation is authorized to issue the following shares of capital stock:

(1) Common Stock. The aggregate number of shares of common stock (referred to in these Articles of Incorporation as "Common Stock") which the Corporation shall have authority to issue is 50,000,000 with a par value of \$5.00 per share.

(2) Preferred Stock. The aggregate number of shares of preferred stock (referred to in these Articles of Incorporation as "Preferred Stock") which the Corporation shall have authority to issue is 5,000,000 with a par value of \$5.00 per share.

B. Description of Remaining Shares of Preferred Stock.

The terms, preferences, limitations and relative rights of the shares of Preferred Stock are as follows:

(1) The Board of Directors is expressly authorized at any time and from time to time to provide for the issuance of shares of Preferred Stock in one or more series, with such voting powers, full or limited (including, by way of illustration and not limitation, in excess of one vote per share), or without voting powers, and with such designations, preferences and relative participating, option or other rights, qualifications, limitations or restrictions, as shall be fixed and determined in the resolution or resolutions providing for the issuance thereof adopted by the Board of Directors, and as are not stated and expressed in these Articles of Incorporation or any amendment hereto, including (but without limiting the generality of the foregoing) the following:

(a) The distinctive designation of such series and the number of shares which shall constitute such series, which number may be increased (except where otherwise provided by the Board of Directors in creating such series) or decreased from time to time by resolution of the Board of Directors; and

(b) The rate and manner of payment of dividends payable on shares of such series, including the dividend rate, date of declaration and payment, whether dividends shall be cumulative, and the conditions upon which and the date from which such dividends shall be cumulative; and

(c) Whether shares of such series shall be redeemed, the time or times when, and the price or prices at which, shares of such series shall be redeemable, the

redemption price, the terms and conditions of redemption, and the sinking fund provisions, if any, for the purchase or redemption of such shares; and

(d) The amount payable on shares of such series and the rights of holders of such shares in the event of any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the affairs of the Corporation; and

(e) The rights, if any, of the holders of shares of such series to convert such shares into, or exchange such shares for, shares of Common Stock, other securities, or shares of any other class or series of Preferred Stock and the terms and conditions of such conversion or exchange; and

(f) The voting rights, if any, and whether full or limited, of the shares of such series, which may include no voting rights, one vote per share, or such higher number of votes per share as may be designated by the Board of Directors; and

(g) The preemptive or preferential rights, if any, of the holders of shares of such series to subscribe for, purchase, receive, or otherwise acquire any part of any new or additional issue of stock of any class, whether now or hereafter authorized, or of any bonds, debentures, notes, or other securities of the Corporation, whether or not convertible into shares of stock with the Corporation.

(2) Except in respect of the relative rights and preferences that may be provided by the Board of Directors as hereinbefore provided, all shares of Preferred Stock shall be identical, and each share of a series shall be identical in all respects with the other shares of the same series. When payment of the consideration for which shares of Preferred Stock are to be issued shall have been received by the Corporation, such shares shall be deemed to be fully paid and nonassessable.

C. Common Stock Voting Rights.

Each record holder of Common Stock shall be entitled to one vote for each share held. Holders of Common Stock shall have no cumulative voting rights in any election of directors of the Corporation.

D. Preemptive Rights.

Holders of Common Stock shall not have as a matter of right any preemptive or preferential right to subscribe for, purchase, receive, or otherwise acquire any part of any new or additional issue of stock of any class, whether now or hereafter authorized, or of any bonds, debentures, notes, or other securities of the Corporation, whether or not convertible into shares of stock of the Corporation.

ARTICLE V

Initial Registered Office and Agent; Principal Place of Business

The initial registered office of this Corporation shall be located at the City of Ormond Beach, County of Volusia and State of Florida, and its address there shall be, at present, 1 Huntsman Look, Ormond Beach, Florida 32174, and the initial registered agent of the Corporation at that address shall be David Maholias. The Corporation may change its registered agent or the location of its registered office, or both, from time to time without amendment of these Articles of Incorporation. The principal place of business and the mailing address of the Corporation shall be: 1 Huntsman Look, Ormond Beach, Florida 32174.

ARTICLE VI

Directors

The number of Directors of the Corporation shall be the number from time to time fixed in accordance with the provisions of the bylaws of the Corporation, but at no time shall the number of Directors be less than one.

ARTICLE VII

Incorporator

The name and street address of the person signing these Articles of Incorporation as Incorporator are:

David Maholias
1 Huntsman Look
Ormond Beach, Florida 32174

ARTICLE VIII

Bylaws

The power to adopt, alter, amend or repeal bylaws shall be vested in the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX

Amendment

This Corporation reserves the right to amend or repeal any provisions contained in these Articles of Incorporation, or any amendment hereto, and any right conferred upon the shareholders is subject to this reservation.

ARTICLE X

Headings and Captions

The headings or captions of these various Articles of Incorporation are inserted for convenience and none of them shall have any force or effect, and the interpretation of the various articles shall not be influenced by any of said headings or captions.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned does hereby make and file these Articles of Incorporation declaring and certifying that the facts stated herein are true, and hereby subscribes thereto and hereunto sets his hand and seal this 22 day of March, 2005.

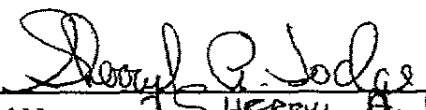

David Maholias

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 22 day of MARCH, 2005, by David Maholias.



Sherryl A. Lodge
Commission # DD383898
Expires February 1, 2009
Bonded Troy Fair - Insurance, Inc. 800-388-7019


Printed Name: SHERRYL A. LODGE
Notary Public, State of Florida

Personally Known ☒ or Produced Identification ☐
Type of Identification Produced _____

**CERTIFICATE DESIGNATING PLACE OF BUSINESS FOR THE
SERVICE OF PROCESS WITHIN FLORIDA AND REGISTERED
AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS MAY BE SERVED**

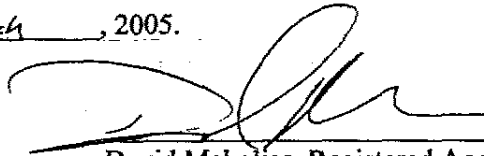
In compliance with Sections 48.091 and 607.0501, Florida Statutes, the following is submitted:

Gateway Financial Holdings, Inc. (the "Corporation") desiring to organize as a domestic corporation or qualify under the laws of the State of Florida has named and designated David Maholias as its Registered Agent to accept service of process within the State of Florida with its registered office located at 1 Huntsman Look, Ormond Beach, Florida 32174.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Having been named as Registered Agent for the Corporation at the place designated in this Certificate, I hereby agree to act in this capacity; and I am familiar with and accept the obligations relating to service as a registered agent, as the same may apply to the Corporation; and I further agree to comply with the provisions of Florida Statutes, Section 48.091 and all other statutes, all as the same may apply to the Corporation relating to the proper and complete performance of my duties as Registered Agent.

Dated this 22 day of March, 2005.



David Maholias, Registered Agent

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