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FOR REGISTRATION REGISTER OF DEEDS  
REBECCA P. SMITH  
NEW HANOVER COUNTY, NC  
2008 FEB 07 09:21:42 AM  
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INSTRUMENT # 2008005126

(Top portion for recording purposes)

**THIS DOCUMENT REGULATES OR PROHIBITS THE DISPLAY OF POLITICAL SIGNS**

**THIS DOCUMENT REGULATES OR PROHIBITS THE DISPLAY OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OR STATE FLAG OF NORTH CAROLINA.**

**DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, AND RESTRICTIONS FOR THE CARRINGTON WOODS COMMUNITY**

THIS DECLARATION is made on the date hereinafter set forth by Bill Clark Homes of Wilmington, L.L.C., a North Carolina limited liability company (hereinafter referred to as "Declarant"):

**WITNESS TO:**

WHEREAS, Declarant is the owner of certain real property located in New Hanover County, North Carolina, which is more particularly described on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the "Property").

WHEREAS, Declarant desires to create on such property an exclusive residential community of single-family homes to be known as Carrington Woods (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "Subdivision");

WHEREAS, Declarant desires to provide for the maintenance and upkeep of the common area within the Subdivision and to provide for enforcement of covenants and restrictions applicable to the Subdivision, and, to that end, desires to create a planned community pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 47F of the General Statutes of North Carolina (the "Act"), and to subject all of the property within the Subdivision to the covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, charges and liens hereinafter set forth, each and all of which is and are for the benefit of said property and each owner thereof;

WHEREAS, Declarant has deemed it advisable to create an organization to own, maintain and administer the Common Area (as hereinafter defined), to administer and enforce

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covenants and restrictions applicable to the Subdivision, and to collect and disburse the assessments and charges hereinafter created, and Declarant has therefore incorporated under North Carolina law as a non-profit corporation, the CARRINGTON WOODS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC., for the purpose of exercising the aforesaid functions;

NOW, THEREFORE, Declarant declares that the Properties and such additions thereto as may hereafter be made pursuant to Article II hereof, is and shall be owned, held, transferred, sold, conveyed, used and occupied subject to the covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, charges and liens set forth in this Declaration, all of which shall run with the real property and be binding on all parties owning any right, title or interest in said real property or any part thereof, their heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns, and shall inure to the benefit of each owner thereof.

## **ARTICLE I DEFINITIONS**

Section 1. "Act" shall mean and refer to Chapter 47F of the General Statutes of Carolina, designated as the North Carolina Planned Community Act.

Section 2. "Association" shall mean and refer to the CARRINGTON WOODS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC., a North Carolina non-profit corporation, its successors and assigns.

Section 3. "Builder" shall mean and refer to any persons, firms or entities to whom or which Declarant conveys one or more Lots within the Properties for the purpose of constructing a Dwelling thereon.

Section 4. "Common Area" shall mean and refer to any and all real property, together with any improvements thereon, shown on any recorded subdivision plat of the Properties, with the exception of: a) any Lots, as said term is defined in this Declaration; b) any public street rights-of way as same are shown on any recorded subdivision plat of the Properties; c) any real property that is conveyed to a separate Association; and (d) passive and active open space. Except as otherwise provided in this Declaration, the Common Area shall be maintained by the Association or its successors in interest unless dedicated to public use as set forth herein.

Section 5. "Declarant" shall mean and refer to Bill Clark Homes of Wilmington, L.L.C.. It shall also mean and refer to any person, company or entity to whom or which Declarant shall assign or delegate the rights and obligations of Declarant by an assignment of Declarant's rights recorded in the applicable public registry for New Hanover County, North Carolina.

Section 6. "Lot" shall mean and refer to any plot of land, with delineated boundary lines, shown on any recorded subdivision plat of the Properties, with the exception of any Common Area owned in fee by the Association and any public street rights-of-way shown on such recorded plat. In the event that any Lot is increased or decreased in size by recombination or re-subdivision through recordation of new subdivision plats, any newly-platted Lot shall thereafter constitute a Lot.

Section 7. "Member" shall mean and refer to every person or entity who or which holds membership in the Association.

Section 8. "Owner" shall mean and refer to the record owner, whether one or more persons or entities, of fee simple title to any Lot which is a part of the Properties, including contract sellers, but excluding those having an interest in a Lot solely as security for the performance of an obligation.

Section 9. "Properties" shall mean and refer to the property described in Exhibit A to this Declaration and any additional property annexed pursuant to Article II of this Declaration.

Section 10. "Subassociation" shall mean and refer to any homeowners association formed for the purpose of owning or maintaining real property and improvements thereon reserved for the exclusive use and benefit of Owners of Lots or Units within a specific phase or section of the Properties.

Section 11. "Unit" or " Dwelling" shall mean and refer to any building or portion thereof within the Properties which is designated and intended for use and occupancy as a residence by a single family, whether by the Owner of such Unit or by tenants or lessees of such Owner.

**ARTICLE II  
PROPERTY SUBJECT TO THIS DECLARATION  
AND WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE  
CARRINGTON WOODS COMMUNITY**

Section 1. Existing Property. The real property which is and shall be held, transferred, sold, conveyed, used and occupied subject to this Declaration as of the date of recording hereof, which is within the jurisdiction of the Association, and which is described on Exhibit A attached hereto.

Section 2. Annexation of Additional Property . At any time prior to December 31, 2030, additional land within the property described in Exhibit B attached hereto and made a part hereof (the "Exhibit B Property") may be annexed by the Declarant without the consent of the Members and therefore become subject to this Declaration by the recording by Declarant of a plat showing such property to be annexed and of a supplementary declaration extending the operation and effect of this Declaration to the property to be annexed. Furthermore, at any time Declarant owns any Lot within the Properties, additional land not within the Exhibit B Property may be annexed by the Declarant without the consent of the Members and therefore become subject to this Declaration by the recording by Declarant of a plat showing such property to be annexed and of a supplementary declaration extending the operation and effect of this Declaration to the property to be annexed. Any property annexed must be contiguous to property already subject to this Declaration. Any property annexed pursuant to this subsection may be annexed and subjected to this Declaration as one parcel or as several parcels at different times. The addition of such property pursuant to this Section may increase the cumulative number of Lots within the Properties and, therefore, may alter the relative maximum voting strength of the various types of Members.

A supplementary declaration may contain such complementary additions to and modifications of the covenants and restrictions contained in this Declaration, including, without limitation, different voting rights and different annual and special assessments for the Lots or Units so annexed, as Declarant, in its sole discretion, may deem necessary or appropriate to reflect the different character or use of the property added. In no event, however, shall any

supplementary declaration revoke, modify or add to the covenants and restrictions established by this Declaration so as to materially and adversely affect any portion of the Properties already subject to this Declaration. A supplementary declaration annexing additional property need only be executed by the Declarant and, if applicable, by the owner of the property being annexed, and shall not require the joinder or consent of the Association or any of its Members.

Nothing contained in this Article shall be construed to obligate or require Declarant to make any additions to the Properties.

Section 3. Conveyance of Common Area in Annexed Property. Promptly upon request of Declarant, the owner of the annexed property shall convey any or all Common Area located within the newly annexed property to the Association or, if requested by the Declarant, to the Declarant. Title to such Common Area shall be conveyed in the same manner as set forth in Section 3 of Article IV of this Declaration.

Section 4. Merger. Additional property may also be made subject to this Declaration by merger or consolidation of the Association with another *non-profit* corporation formed for the same or similar purposes in accordance with the provisions of Sections 2-121 of the Act. The surviving or consolidated association shall administer the covenants and restrictions established by this Declaration within the Properties and the covenants and restrictions established upon property owned by the other association as one scheme. No such merger or consolidation shall cause any revocation, change or addition to this Declaration.

Section 5. Effect of Addition of Property. Except by amendment of this Declaration as provided in Section 3 of Article XIII hereof, no addition of property, whether by annexation, merger or consolidation, shall revoke or modify any provision of this Declaration as to the Properties already subject hereto or diminish the rights of the Owners of Lots and Units within the Properties, except for the dilution of voting strength that occurs as a result of inclusion of additional Members of the Association.

Section 6. Withdrawal of Property. Declarant reserves the right to amend this Declaration so long as it has a right to annex Additional Property pursuant to this Article for the purpose of removing any portion of the Properties then owned by Declarant or the Association from the coverage of this Declaration, to the extent originally included in error or as a result of any changes whatsoever in the plans for the Subdivision, provided such withdrawal is not unequivocally contrary to the overall, uniform scheme of development for the Subdivision.

Section 7. Good Faith Lender's Clause. Any violation of these covenants, conditions or restrictions shall not affect any lien or deed of trust of record held in good faith, upon any Lot or commercial Unit, which liens may be enforced in due course, subject to the terms of this Declaration.

### **ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING RIGHTS**

Section 1. Membership. Every Owner of a Lot which is subject to assessment by the Association shall be a Member of the Association. Membership shall be appurtenant to and may not be separated from ownership of any Lot which is subject to assessment.

Section 2. Voting Rights. The voting rights of the membership shall be appurtenant to the ownership of the Lots and may not be separated from ownership of any Lot.

There shall be two classes of Lots with respect to voting rights:

(a) Class A Lots. Class A Lots shall be all Lots except Class B Lots as the same are hereinafter defined. Ownership of a Class A Lot shall entitle the Owner of such Lot to one (1) vote. When more than one person owns an interest (other than a leasehold or security interest) in any Lot, all such persons shall be Members and the voting rights appurtenant to their Lot shall be exercised as they, among themselves, determine; but fractional voting shall not be allowed, and in no event shall more than one vote be cast with respect to any Class A Lot.

(b) Class B Lots. Class B Lots shall be all Lots owned by Declarant which have not been converted to Class A Lots as set forth below. The Declarant shall each be entitled to ten (10) votes for each Class B Lot it owns. The Class B Lots shall cease to exist and shall be converted to Class A Lots upon the earlier of the following to occur: (i) when no Declarant owns any Lots or Units within the Properties; (ii) upon written waiver of Class B membership by the Declarant; and/or (iii) December 31, 2030. When the Class B Lots cease to exist and are converted to Class A Lots, Declarant shall have the same voting rights as other Owners of Class A Lots.

(c) Declarant's Voting Rights. Until the Class B Lots cease to exist, as provided above, Declarant shall be vested with the sole voting rights of the Association on all matters (including election and removal of directors and officers of the Association), except such matters as to which the Declaration, the Articles of Incorporation, or the Bylaws of the Association specifically require a vote of the Class A Members.

## ARTICLE IV

### PROPERTY RIGHTS

Section 1. Owners' Easements of Enjoyment and Access. Except as limited by the provisions of this Section 1 and by the rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors of the Association, every Owner shall have a right and easement of enjoyment in, use of and access to, from, and over the Common Area, which right and easement shall be appurtenant to and shall pass with title to every Lot, subject to:

(a) the right of the Association to charge reasonable admission and other fees for the use of any recreational facilities situated or constructed on the Common Area and to limit the use of such facilities to Owners and to their families, tenants and guests, as provided in Section 2 of this Article IV.

(b) the right of the Association to suspend the voting rights of an Owner subject to a hearing or opportunity to present evidence in accordance with § 47F-3-107.1 of the Act for any period during which any assessment against his Lot remains unpaid, or for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days for any infraction of the published rules and regulations of the Association.

(c) the right of the Association to dedicate, sell or transfer all or any part of the Common Area to any public or quasi-public agency, authority or utility for such purposes and subject to such conditions as may be agreed upon by the Members. After Class B Lots cease to exist, no

such dedication or transfer shall be effective unless the Members entitled to at least 80% of the votes of the entire membership of the Association and at least three-fourths (3/4) of the votes appurtenant to each Class of Lots agrees to such dedication, sale or transfer and signify their agreement by a signed document recorded in the applicable public registry for New Hanover County, North Carolina. Nothing herein shall be deemed to prohibit the Board of Directors of the Association, without consent of the Members, from granting easements over and across the Common Area to any public agency, authority or utility for the installation and maintenance of sewage, utility (including cable television) or drainage facilities when, in the opinion of the Board, such easements are necessary for the convenient use and enjoyment of properties within the Subdivision. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Common Area shall be preserved for the perpetual benefit of the owners of Lots within the Subdivision and shall not be conveyed except to a governmental entity or another non-profit corporation organized for similar purposes.

(d) the right of the Association, to borrow money and, after Class B Lots cease to exist, with the assent of Members' entitled to at least 80% of the votes of the entire membership of the Association and at least two-thirds (2/3) of the votes appurtenant to each Class of Lots, mortgage, pledge, deed in trust, or hypothecate any or all of its real or personal property as security for money borrowed or debts incurred, provided that the rights of any such lender or mortgagee shall be subordinate to the property rights of the Members and the Association as set forth herein.

(e) the right of the Association to exchange all or part of the Common Area for other property and consideration of like value and utility, provided, however, that, after Class B Lots cease to exist, any such dedication shall require the assent of the Members as set forth in subparagraph (c) above, and further provided that, if the Board of Directors of the Association determines, in its sole discretion, that such exchange is necessary to cure an encroachment or setback violation on any Lot, the Board may effect such exchange without the consent of or approval by the Members.

(f) the right of the Association to open the Common Area and, in particular, the recreational facilities constructed thereon, for use by non-members of the Association.

(g) the right of the Association to expand or add to the Common Area and to improve, maintain and operate the Common Area.

(h) the right of the Association to adopt, promulgate and enforce rules and regulations concerning the use of the Common Area.

(i) the right of the Association to otherwise deal with the Common Area as provided in the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Association.

## Section 2. Delegation of Use.

(a) Family. The right and easement of enjoyment and access granted to every Owner by Section 1 of this Article may be exercised by members of the Owner's family who occupy the residence of the Owner within the Properties in New Hanover County, North Carolina.

(b) Tenants: Contract Purchasers. The right and easement of enjoyment and access granted to every Owner by Section 1 of this Article may be assigned by such Owner to his tenants or contract purchasers who occupy a residence within the Properties, or a portion of said residence, as their principal residence in New Hanover County, North Carolina. So as not to overburden the use of the Properties, if an Owner assigns said right and easement of enjoyment and access to Owner's tenants or contract purchasers, then so long as such assignment is in effect, Owner shall forfeit his right and easement of enjoyment and access.

(c) Guests. The right and easement of enjoyment and access granted to every Owner by Section 1 of this Article may be delegated to guests of such Owners, tenants or contract purchasers, subject to such rules and regulations as may be established by the Board of Directors.

(d) Suspension of Rights. The rights of any delegate or assignee of an Owner shall be suspended by, upon and during suspension of such Owner's rights as provided in Section 7 of Article XIII of this Declaration.

Section 3. Conveyance of Common Area To The Association. No later than the time Declarant no longer exercises voting control over the Association as provided in Article III hereof, Declarant shall convey, and the Association shall accept, fee simple title to all Common Area (except Common Area easements) within the Properties, and shall reserve for or grant to the Association all Common Area easements, all subject to such easements, reservations, conditions and restrictions as then may be of record, and the Association shall accept all such conveyances, grants and reservations, provided, however, that so long as Declarant owns any Lots within the Properties, Declarant reserves an easement over and across any Common Area deeded to the Association for the purpose of constructing and maintaining any improvements on the Common Area as it deems necessary or advisable, provided that any such improvements must comply with the requirements of the appropriate governmental authority. Any improvements placed on the Common Area by Declarant shall become the property of the Association upon completion of such improvements.

Section 4. Regulation and Maintenance of Common Area and Common Area Easements. It is the intent of the Declarant that the Common Area be preserved for the perpetual benefit of the Owners.

(a) Regulation of Common Area. The Association may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations governing the use of the Common Area by Owners and their family, tenants, guests and invitees. No Owner or other permitted user shall use the Common Area or any portion thereof in violation of the rules and regulations contained in this Declaration or subsequently adopted by the Association.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, no Owner or tenant, guest or invitee of an Owner shall, without the specific prior written consent of the Association: (i) damage or waste the Common Area or improvements thereon or remove any trees or vegetation therefrom; (ii) erect any gate, fence, structure or other improvement or thing on the Common Area; (iii) place any garbage receptacle, trash or debris on Common Area; (iv) fill or excavate any part of the Common Area; (v) landscape or plant vegetation on Common Area; or (vi) use the Common Area or any part thereof in a manner inconsistent with or in any way interfering with the rights of other Owners.

(b) Rights and Responsibilities of the Lot Owners as to Common Area Easements. Each Owner of a Lot upon which a Common Area easement lies shall pay all property taxes and other assessments levied against his Lot, including that portion of such tax or assessment as is attributable to such Common Area easement.

(c) Rights and Responsibilities of the Association as to Common Area. The Association shall have the right and obligation to ensure that the Common Area is preserved for the perpetual benefit of the Owners, and, to that end, shall: (i) maintain the Common Area in its natural or improved state, as appropriate, and keep it free of impediments to its use by the Owners, subject to the provisions of this Declaration; (ii) procure and maintain adequate liability insurance covering the Association and its Members, Directors and Officers, against any loss or damage suffered by any person, including the Owner of the Lot upon which Common Area lies, resulting from use of the Common Area, and adequate hazard insurance covering the real and personal property owned in fee by the Association; and (iv) pay all property taxes and other assessments levied against all Common Area owned in fee by the Association.

(d) Declarant's and Association's Right of Entry. The Declarant and the Association and the employees, agents, contractors and subcontractors of each, shall have a non-exclusive right and easement at all times to enter upon any portion of a Lot reserved or designated as a Common Area easement for the purposes of: (i) installing and maintaining subdivision entrance signs, features, fencing and landscaping; and (ii) making such improvements to the Common Area; and (iii) maintaining the Common Area easement in its natural or improved state.

## ARTICLE V

### COVENANT FOR MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENTS

Section 1. Creation of the Lien and Personal Obligation of Assessments. Each Owner of a Lot, by acceptance of a deed therefore, whether or not it shall be so expressed in such deed, is deemed to covenant and agree to pay to the Association annual assessments and special assessments, such assessments to be established and collected as hereinafter provided. All assessments which are unpaid when due, together with interest and late charges set forth in Section 9 of this Article V and all costs of collection, including reasonable attorney's fees, shall be a charge against and, a continuing lien upon the Lot against which such assessment is made subject to § 47F-3-116 of the Act, as amended. Each such assessment or charge, together with interest and costs of collection, including reasonable attorneys' fees, subject to notice provided in accordance with § 47C-3-116(e1) of the Act, shall also be the personal or corporate obligation of the person(s), firm(s) or corporation(s) owning such Lot at the time when the assessment fell due, but such personal obligation shall not be imposed upon such Owner's successors in title unless expressly assumed by them. Although unpaid assessments and charges are not the personal obligation of such Owner's successors in title unless expressly assumed by them, the unpaid assessments and charges shall continue to be a lien upon the Lot against which the assessment or charge was made.

It is the intent of the Declarant that any monetary fines imposed against an Owner pursuant to the Bylaws of the Association or Section 7 of Article XII of this Declaration and subject to §47F-3-107.1 of the Act shall constitute a lien against the Lot of such Owner to the same extent as if such fine were an assessment against such Lot.

Section 2. Purposes of Assessments. The assessments levied by the Association shall be used exclusively to promote the recreation, health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Subdivision and, in particular, for: (i) acquisition, improvement and maintenance of properties, services and facilities related to the use and enjoyment of the Common Area; (ii) repair and reconstruction of improvements on the Common Area, including, without limitation, the cost of repair, replacement and additions thereto and the cost of labor, equipment, materials, management and supervision thereof; (iii) payment of taxes and public assessments levied against the Common Area owned by the Association in fee; (iv) procurement and maintenance of insurance in accordance with the Section 4(c) of Article IV of this Declaration; (v) employment of attorneys, accountants and other persons or firms to represent the Association when necessary; (vi) payment of principal and interest on funds borrowed for Association purposes; (viii) such other needs as may arise; and (ix) payment for the maintenance and operation of street lights.

Section 3. Annual Assessments.

(a) Maximum Annual Assessment. Declarant shall establish the Maximum Annual Assessment and initial annual assessment for Class A Lots; thereafter, the terms "Maximum Annual Assessment", annual assessment, and special assessment shall mean the Maximum, annual and special assessments applicable to Class A Lots. Until January 1, 2009 the Maximum Annual Assessment shall be \$ 180.00 for each Class A Lot.

For so long as a Class B Lot(s) exists, the Board of Directors, in its sole discretion, shall have the authority to adopt an annual budget without a vote of the membership. Once Class B Lots cease to exist, the Maximum Annual Assessment may be increased by the Board of Directors effective January 1 of each year without a vote of the Members, but subject to the limitation that the percentage of any such increase shall not exceed 10% of the Maximum Annual Assessment for the previous year unless such increase is approved as set forth in Section 3(b), below.

(b) Annual Assessments: Ratification of Budgets. After Class B Lots cease to exist, the Board of Directors shall adopt a proposed budget (including the proposed annual assessment for each Class of Lots) at least annually. Within 30 days after adoption of the proposed budget, the Board of Directors shall send a copy of the proposed budget and shall give written notice to the Members of a meeting of the Members to consider ratification of the budget, such meeting to be held not sooner than 10 days nor more than 60 days after the mailing of such notice. Such meeting may, but need not be, combined with the annual meeting of the Members. Except as required by Section 7 below, there shall be no requirement that a quorum be present in order to vote on ratification of the budget (although a quorum must be present to vote on other matters). The budget shall be deemed ratified unless at that meeting Members having a majority of the votes of the entire membership vote to reject the budget. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the budget provides for annual assessments not greater than 10% larger than the assessment in effect for the immediately preceding year, such budget shall be deemed ratified unless Members having at least 80% of the votes of the entire membership vote to reject the budget. If the proposed budget is rejected, the budget last ratified by the Members shall be continued until such time as the Members ratify a subsequent budget proposed by the Board.

Any annual assessment ratified by the Members shall continue thereafter from year to year as the annual assessment until changed by the Board and ratified by the Members as set forth herein.

**Section 4. Special Assessments.** In addition to the annual assessments authorized above, the Association may levy, in any assessment year, special assessments for the purpose of defraying, in whole or in part, the cost of any construction, repair or replacement of a capital improvement on the Common Area, including fixtures and personal property related thereto, for repayment of indebtedness and interest thereon, or for any other purpose, provided that any such assessment shall have the same assent of the Members as provided in Section 3(b) of this Article.

**Section 5. Assessment Rate: Collection Period.** Except as provided in Section 6 of this Article V, the annual and special assessments shall be fixed at a uniform rate for all Lots within each subclass of Lots and may be collected on a yearly, semi-annually, quarterly or monthly basis, as determined by the Board of Directors.

**Section 6. Declarant's Assessments.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this Declaration or the Bylaws of the Association, the Declarant shall not be obligated for, nor subject to, any annual or special assessment for any Lot or other property that it owns within the Properties, provided, however, that the Declarant shall be responsible for paying the difference between: (i) the operating expenses of the Association; and (ii) the total revenues of the Association from all sources including, without limitation, annual and special assessments, revenues generated from fees charged by the Association for use of the Common Area, and investment income (said difference being hereinafter referred to as the "Operating Deficit"). For purposes of this Section, the term "operating expenses" shall not include contributions to any reserves for replacement, operating reserves, depreciation reserves, capital expenditures, or special assessments.

Declarant may, by written notice given by the Declarant to the Association on or before November 30 of any year, to be effective as of January 1, terminate its obligation to pay the Operating Deficit and waive its right to exclusion from assessments. In such event, each Lot owned by the Declarant which contains a Dwelling for which a certificate of occupancy has been issued shall be assessed at the rate of twenty-five percent (25%) of the annual assessment in effect for Class A Lots, as the same may change from time to time. Upon sale of such Lot by Declarant to any other person or entity, such Lot shall be assessed at Class A rate, commencing on the day on which title to such Lot is transferred to such third party. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Declaration, a Lot owned by the Declarant which contains a Dwelling occupied as a residence (but not as a model or sales center) shall be assessed at the rate applicable to Class A Lots.

**Section 7. Notice and Quorum for any Action Authorized Under Sections 3(a) and 4.** After Class B lots cease to exist, written notice of any meeting called for the purpose of taking any action authorized under Section 3(a) or 4 shall be sent to all Members not less than ten (10) days nor more than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting. At such meeting, the presence of Members, in person or by proxy, entitled to cast sixty (60%) percent of the votes of the entire membership shall constitute a quorum. If the required quorum is not present, another meeting may be called subject to the same notice requirements, and if called for a date not later than sixty (60) days after the date of the first meeting, the required quorum at the subsequent meeting shall be one-half (1/2) of the required quorum at the preceding meeting.

**Section 8. Date of Commencement of Annual Assessments: Amount of Initial and Subsequent Annual Assessments: Certificate of Payment.** Unless a different commencement date

is set by the Board of Directors, the annual assessments provided for herein shall commence as to all Lots in any phase on the first day of the month following the conveyance of a Lot or Unit within that phase to an Owner other than the Declarant. Unless a lower amount is set by the Board of Directors and ratified by the Members, the first annual assessment shall be the "Maximum Annual Assessment" set forth in Section 3 of this Article and shall be prorated according to the number of days remaining in the calendar year.

The Association shall, upon demand, and for such reasonable charge as the Board of Directors may determine, furnish a certificate signed by an officer of the Association setting forth whether the assessments on a specified Lot have been paid. If such certificate states that an assessment has been paid, such certificate shall be conclusive evidence of payment.

Section 9. Effect of Nonpayment of Assessments: Remedies. An assessment not paid within ten (10) days after the due date shall incur such late charge as the Board of Directors may from time to time establish, and, if not paid within thirty (30) days after the due date, shall also bear interest from the due date at the rate of eighteen percent (18%) per annum or the highest rate allowed by law, whichever is less. The Association may bring an action at law or in equity against the Owner personally obligated to pay the same and/or foreclose the lien against the Lot for which such assessment is due subject to § 47F-3-116 of the Act, as amended. Interest, late payment charges, reasonable attorneys' fees, and the costs of such action or foreclosure shall be added to the amount of such assessment. No Owner may waive or otherwise escape liability for the assessments provided for herein by non-use of the Common Area or by abandonment of his Lot.

Section 10. Subordination of the Lien to Mortgages. The liens provided for herein shall be subordinate to the lien of any first mortgage or first mortgage on a Lot. Sale or transfer of a Lot shall not affect any assessment lien; however, the sale or transfer of a Lot pursuant to foreclosure of a first mortgage, or any proceeding in lieu of foreclosure thereof, shall extinguish the lien of any assessment which became due prior to the date of such conveyance. No such sale or transfer shall relieve such Lot from liability for any assessment thereafter becoming due or from the lien thereof; but the liens provided for herein shall continue to be subordinate to the lien of any first mortgage.

Section 11. Initial Capital Contribution. At the time of closing of each sale of a Dwelling, including the initial sale of same, a sum equal to the annual assessment for Class A Lots in effect at the time of such sale shall be collected from the purchaser of such Dwelling and transferred to the Association as part of its working capital. The purpose of such working capital contributions is to ensure that the Association will have adequate cash available to defray operating costs, meet unforeseen expenditures or to acquire additional equipment or services deemed by the Board of Directors to be necessary or desirable. Amounts paid pursuant to this Section shall not be considered as an advance payment of any regular or special assessment.

Section 12. Exempt Property. All property dedicated to and accepted by a public authority and all property owned by a charitable or non-profit organization exempt from taxation by the laws of the State of North Carolina shall be exempt from the assessments created herein. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no land or improvements devoted to dwelling use shall be exempt from said assessments.

## ARTICLE VI

### RIGHTS OF LENDERS

Section 1. Books and Records. Any owner or holder of a first mortgage on any Lot, or its agent, shall have the right, during normal business hours, to examine copies of this Declaration, the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and the books and records of the Association and, upon written request to the Association, and payment of copying and mailing costs, to receive a copy of the financial statement for the immediately preceding fiscal year.

Section 2. Notice to Lenders. After Class B Lots cease to exist and upon written request to the Association, the owner or holder of a first mortgage on any Lot shall be entitled to timely written notice of:

(a) Any 60-day delinquency in the payment of assessments or charges owed by the Owner of the Lot securing its loan.

(b) A lapse, cancellation, or material modification of any insurance policy or fidelity bond maintained by the Association.

(c) Any proposed action that requires the consent of a specified percentage of owners or holders of first mortgages on the Lots.

Section 3. Approval of Owners and Holders of First Mortgage. After Class B Lots cease to exist, unless at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the owners and holders of the first mortgages on Lots located within the Properties have given their prior written approval, the Association shall not:

(a) By act or omission seek to abandon, partition, subdivide, encumber, sell or transfer any real estate or improvements thereon which are owned, directly or indirectly, by the Association. The granting of easements for utilities or other purposes shall not be deemed a transfer within the meaning of this subsection. Nothing herein shall be deemed to prohibit the Association from exchanging Common Area for other real property of like utility and value as provided in Section 1(c) of Article IV of this Declaration, or to require the approval of such exchange by the holders of first mortgages on the Lots;

(b) Change the method of determining the obligations, assessments, dues or other charges which may be levied against a Lot;

(c) Fail to maintain hazard insurance on insurable improvements on the Common Area on a current replacement cost basis in an amount not less than one hundred percent (100%) of the insurable value; or

(d) Use the proceeds of any hazard insurance policy covering losses to any part of the Common Area for other than the repair, replacement or reconstruction of the damaged improvements.

Section 4. Payment of Taxes and Insurance Premiums. The owners or holders of first mortgages on Lots, jointly or singly, may pay taxes or other charges which are in default and which have or may become a charge or lien against any of the Common Area and may pay

overdue premiums on hazard insurance policies or secure new hazard insurance coverage upon the lapse of a policy covering property owned by the Association. The persons, firms or corporations making such payments shall be owed immediate reimbursement therefore by the Association.

## **ARTICLE VII EASEMENTS**

Section 1. Access and Utility Easements. Easements for the installation and maintenance of driveways, walkways, water, gas, telephone, cable television and electric power transmission lines, sanitary sewer and storm water drainage facilities, and for other public utility installations are reserved as shown on the recorded plats of the Properties. The Association may reserve or grant easements over the Common Area as provided in Article IV, Section 1(c), of this Declaration. Within any such easement herein provided, no structure, planting or other material shall be placed or permitted to remain which may interfere with the installation or maintenance of the utilities installed thereon, or which may change the direction of flow or drainage of water through drainage pipes or channels constructed in such easements.

For a period of thirty (30) years from the date hereof, Declarant reserves, for itself and its employees, agents, successors and assigns, an easement upon and a right of ingress, egress and regress on, over and under the Properties for the purposes of constructing and maintaining water, sewer, gas, storm water drainage and retention, telephone, cable television, and electric, and other utility facilities to the extent required by any applicable governmental entity or deemed by the Declarant to be necessary or convenient for the development, use and enjoyment of the Properties and the Common Area and for the conduct of construction, sales and marketing activities. Such right expressly includes the right to cut any trees, bushes or shrubbery, make any grading of the soil, relocate utility facilities within said easement and take any other similar action that it deems reasonably necessary or appropriate. After such action has been completed, Declarant shall grade and seed the affected property and otherwise restore the affected property to its original condition to the extent practicable, but shall not be required to replace any trees, bushes or shrubbery necessarily removed. Declarant shall give reasonable notice of its intent to take such action to each Owner whose Lot is affected.

Section 2. Easements for Governmental Access. An easement is hereby established over the Common Area and every Lot within the Properties for the benefit of applicable governmental agencies for installing, removing, and reading water meters, maintaining and replacing water and sewer facilities, and acting for other purposes consistent with public safety and welfare, including, without limitation, law enforcement, fire protection, garbage collection and the delivery of mail.

Section 3. Owner's Easement and Right of Entry for Repair, Maintenance and Reconstruction. If any Dwelling is located closer than five (5) feet from its Lot line, the Owner thereof shall have a perpetual access easement over the adjoining Lot to the extent reasonably necessary to perform repair, maintenance or reconstruction of such Dwelling. Such work shall be done expeditiously and, upon completion of the work, the Owner shall restore the adjoining Lot to as nearly the same condition as that which existed prior to the commencement of the work as is reasonably practicable. No fence shall be erected within such area adjoining a Dwelling.

Section 4. Association's Easement and Right of Entry. The Association, for itself and its employees, agents, contractors, subcontractors and invitees, shall have a perpetual access easement over the each Lot to the extent reasonably necessary to perform the maintenance to be performed by the Association.

Section 5. Easement Over Common Area. A perpetual, non-exclusive easement over the Common Area is hereby granted to each Lot and its Owners, family members and tenants of such Owners, the occupants of such Lot, and guests and invitees of such Owners, tenants or occupants, for the purpose of providing access, ingress and egress to and from streets, parking areas and walkways serving the Properties.

Section 6. Association Easement for Repair or Replacement. In the event that a structure on a Lot is damaged, and the Owner thereof fails to repair same in a reasonable time, the Association, after giving such Owner at least thirty (30) days' written notice, shall have the right to go upon the Lot and be authorized to undertake such repairs at the Owner's expense. By accepting title to his Lot, each Owner shall be deemed to grant access upon the Owner's Lot for such purpose and such entry shall not constitute a trespass. If such repair is undertaken by the Association, the charge therefore and all costs of enforcement and collection shall be secured by a lien against the Lot as provided in Article V hereof. Nothing contained herein shall be construed so as to obligate the Association to perform any repairs.

## **ARTICLE VIII ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL**

Section 1. Architectural Approval. The Declarant shall have the sole and absolute right to determine the style and appearance of the Dwellings, including, but not limited to, flags, subject to Section 47F-3-121 of the Act, flag poles, flag staffs, fences, walls, buildings, outbuildings, garages, storage sheds, mailboxes, lawn decorations, structures of any type or color thereof, grading, landscaping, patio covers and trellises, plans for off-street parking of vehicles and utility layout, and any other improvements to be built or constructed on any Lot (hereinafter individually and collectively referred to as "Improvements").

After occupancy of a Dwelling as a residence pursuant to a certificate of occupancy or other similar certificate issued by the appropriate governmental authority, no Improvements (including, without limitation, replacement of any previously existing Improvements) shall be commenced, erected or maintained upon the Properties, nor shall any exterior addition to or change or alteration thereof be made (including, without limitation, changing materials or color of any exterior portion of any such Improvements), nor shall a building permit for such Improvements or change be applied for or obtained, until plans and specifications showing the nature, kind, shape, heights, materials, color and location of same shall have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Association or by an Architectural Review Committee ("ARC") composed of three or more persons appointed by the Board of Directors of the Association. If the Association or its designee fails to approve or disapprove such proposed Improvements within 60 days after complete plans and specifications have been received by it, approval will not be required, and this Article shall be deemed to have been complied with. The Association shall have the right to charge a reasonable fee for receiving and processing each application.

The Declarant and, after the Declarant no longer owns any Lot or Unit within the Properties, the Association, shall have the right to promulgate and from time to time amend

written architectural standards and construction specifications (hereinafter the "Architectural Guidelines") which may establish, define and expressly limit the standards and specifications which will be approved, including, but not limited to, architectural style, exterior color or finish, roofing material, siding material, driveway material, landscape design and construction technique. Neither the Association nor the ARC shall approve any Improvements which it determines, in its sole discretion, not to be in harmony of external design, construction and/or location in relation to the surrounding structures, topography or the general plan of development of the Subdivision.

Neither the Declarant, the Association, the Board of Directors, the ARC, nor any member or employee of any of them, shall have any liability to any person or entity by reason of any acts taken or omitted by them, or any of them, in good faith pursuant to this Article.

Section 2. Rules and Regulations. The ARC may from time to time recommend to the Board, and the Board may, in its sole discretion, adopt, promulgate, amend and repeal rules and regulations interpreting and implementing the provisions of this Article VIII, including adoption of detailed architectural guidelines and the imposition of a fee or charge for review of proposed improvements or modifications.

Section 3. Variances. The ARC may recommend to the Board, and the Board may, by the vote or written consent of a majority of the members thereof, allow reasonable variances as to the covenants, conditions or restrictions contained in this Declaration, on such terms and conditions as it shall require; provided, however, that all such variances shall be in keeping with the general plan for the improvement and development of the Property. Variances contained in plans that are inadvertently approved by the ARC as part of the proposed improvements shall not be considered as having been approved unless specifically approved by the Board in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

## **ARTICLE IX PARTY WALLS**

Section 1. General Rules of Law to Apply. The general rules of law regarding party walls, lateral support in below ground construction and of liability for property damage due to negligence or willful acts or omissions shall apply to each wall which is built as part of the original construction of the Dwellings within the Properties and placed on the dividing line between the Lots, and all reconstruction or extensions of such walls, to the extent not inconsistent with the provisions of this Article.

Section 2. Sharing of Repair and Maintenance. The cost of reasonable repair and maintenance of a party wall shall be shared by the Owners who make use of the wall in proportion to such use.

Section 3. Destruction by Fire or Other Casualty. If a party wall is destroyed or damaged by fire or other casualty, any Owner who or which uses the wall may restore it, and if the other Owners thereafter make use of the wall, they shall contribute to the cost of restoration thereof in proportion to such use without prejudice, however, to the right of any such Owners to call for a larger contribution from the others under any rule of law regarding liability for negligent or willful acts or omissions.