

40



FOR REGISTRATION REGISTER OF DEEDS  
REBECCA P. SMITH  
NEW HANOVER COUNTY, NC  
2006 JUN 05 04:21:59 PM  
BK:5032 PG:1583-1623 FEE:\$131.00

INSTRUMENT # 2006031827

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DECLARATION OF COVENANTS,  
CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER

**THIS DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS FOR PRINCETON PLACE** (as may be amended or supplemented as set forth herein, "Declaration") is made this \_\_\_\_ day of May, 2006 by Kardan Properties, LLC, a North Carolina Limited Liability Corporation, whose address is 311C-4A Judges Road, Wilmington, NC (the "Declarant").

**WITNESSETH:**

A. Declarant is the owner and developer of certain real estate in New Hanover County, North Carolina, and more particularly described on Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof (the "Property" or "Subdivision"); and

B. Declarant is developing the Property known as "Princess Place" by subdividing it into "Lots" that are to be used for residential purposes as well as common real estate and improvements that are to be owned by a homeowners association to which the Owner of a Lot must belong and pay lien-supported maintenance assessments; and

C. At the time of the conveyance of a Lot to an Owner, the Declarant intends to make available the common amenities on the Property, if any, as they are built, and, at the time of completed development, the entire Property, excluding the Lots and dedicated streets, if any, shall be conveyed without cost or charge to the Association.

**THEREFORE**, the Declarant hereby declares that all of the Lots and Common Areas (defined below) located within the Subdivision are held and shall be held, conveyed, hypothecated or encumbered, leased, rented, used, occupied and improved, subject to the following covenants, conditions and restrictions, all of which are established and agreed upon for the purpose of

RETURN TO  
Fus = Law Firm

enhancing and protecting the value, desirability and attractiveness of the Subdivision as a whole and of each of said Lots. All of these restrictions shall run with the land and shall be binding upon the Declarant and upon the parties having or acquiring any right, title or interest, legal or equitable in and to the Property or any part or parts thereof subject to such restrictions, and shall inure to the benefit of the Declarant and every one of the Declarant's successors in title to any of the Property.

**PREPARED BY AND RETURN TO:**  
Fuss Law Firm, PC

## **ARTICLE I**

### **DEFINITIONS**

**Section 1.1 "Annual Organizational Board Meeting"** means the annual organizational board meeting of the Board, which shall take place immediately after each Annual Meeting of the Members.

**Section 1.2 "Annual Meeting"** means the annual meeting of the Members held in New Hnaover County, North Carolina, within the last quarter of each calendar year, upon proper notice, at a date, time and at a place from time to time designated by the Board. The first Annual Meeting of the Members shall be held within one (1) year from the date of incorporation on such date as the initial Board shall determine.

**Section 1.3 "Articles" or "Articles of Incorporation"** shall mean those articles, filed with the Secretary of State of North Carolina, incorporating Princess Place Homeowners Association, Inc., as a nonprofit corporation under the provisions of North Carolina State law, as the same may be amended from time to time.

**Section 1.4 "Assessments"** means Regular Assessments, Special Assessments, Working Capital Assessments, Individual Assessments and Fine Assessments.

**Section 1.5 "Association"** shall mean and refer to PRINCESS PLACE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., to be formed as a non-profit corporation, its successors and assigns.

**Section 1.6 OMITTED**

**Section 1.7 "Board" or "Board of Directors"** shall mean and refer to the

Board of Directors of the Association.

Section 1.8 "Bylaws" shall mean the Bylaws of the Association, as the same may be amended from time to time.

Section 1.9 "Class A Members" shall mean as defined in Section 4.5.1 below.

Section 1.10 "Class B Members" shall mean as defined in Section 4.5.2 below.

Section 1.11 "Constituent Documents" shall mean the Declaration, the Bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation, the Recreational Facilities Easement Agreement, the Roadway Declaration and the Rules and Regulations, if any, and any other basic documents used to create and govern the Subdivision.

Section 1.12 "Common Areas" shall mean all the real estate (including retention ponds, storm drainage improvements, passive open space, active open space and drainage easements, entrance signage, streets (including any dedicated streets prior to their acceptance for public maintenance) and all landscaping and other improvements thereon) owned by the Association for the common use and enjoyment of the Owners. Common Areas shall include, but not be limited to, the Recreational Facilities and parcels designated on the Subdivision plat as "Park" (unless such parks are later dedicated to the public by a subsequent dedication plat or conveyance), "COS," "Open Space," "Alley (Private)," "Common Area" or reserved as an access drive or private street.

Section 1.13 "Common Expenses" shall mean, refer to, and include all charges, costs and expenses incurred by the Association for and in connection with the administration of the Subdivision, including, without limitation thereof, operation of the Subdivision, maintenance, repair, replacement and restoration (to the extent not covered by insurance) of the Common Areas; the costs of any additions and alterations thereto; all labor, services, common utilities, materials, supplies, and equipment thereof; all liability for loss or damage arising out of or in connection with the Common Areas and their use; all premiums for hazard, liability and other insurance with respect to the Subdivision; all costs incurred in acquiring a Lot pursuant to judicial sale; and all administrative, accounting, legal, and managerial expenses. "Common Expenses" shall also include the cost of operation, maintenance, improvement, and replacement of any Recreational Facilities, including establishing reserves therefore. "Common Expenses" shall also include amounts incurred in replacing, or substantially repairing, capital improvements within the Common Areas of the Subdivision, including, but not limited to private road and parking lot resurfacing. "Common Expenses" shall also include all reserve funds or other funds established by the Association. "Common Expenses" shall be construed broadly.

Section 1.14 "Declarant" shall mean and refer to Kardan Properties, a North Carolina limited liability corporation, its successors and assigns as a Declarant.

Section 1.15 "Default" shall mean any violation or breach of, or any failure to comply with, the Restrictions, this Declaration or any other Constituent Documents.

Section 1.16 "Development Period" means the period commencing on the date on which this Declaration is recorded in the New Hanover County Register of Deeds and terminating on the earlier to occur of (i) when Declarant no longer owns a Lot in the Subdivision; (ii) the date that Declarant relinquishes in writing Declarant's right to appoint Directors; or (iii) the occurrence of the date ten (10) years from the date of recording the Declaration, renewable for an additional ten (10) year period with the consent of a majority of Lot Owners other than the Declarant.

Section 1.17 "Dwelling Unit" shall mean and refer to the individual family living unit on an individual Lot.

Section 1.18 "Fine Assessment" means the charge established by Section 5.5.2 of this Declaration.

Section 1.19 "Individual Assessment" means the charge established by Section 5.4 of this Declaration.

Section 1.20 "Lot" shall mean and refer to any parcel of land designated on the Plat upon which a Dwelling Unit has been or is to be constructed. The Declarant has initially created twenty-six (26) Lots in the Subdivision and has the right to establish additional Lots in accordance with the terms of this Declaration.

Section 1.21 "Member" shall mean and refer to all those Owners who are Members of the Association as provided in Article IV below.

Section 1.22 "Owner" shall mean and refer to the record owner, including Declarant, whether one or more persons or entities, of a fee simple title to any Lot located within the Subdivision.

Section 1.23 "Plat" shall mean and refer to the record plat of the Subdivision recorded by Declarant, as the same may be amended or supplemented by Declarant from time to time.

Section 1.24 "Planned Community Act" shall mean and refer to the North Carolina Planned Community Act, currently codified as Chapter 47F of the North Carolina General Statutes, as the same may be amended from time to time.

Section 1.25 "Property" or "Subdivision" shall mean and refer to that certain real estate described in Exhibit A and all other real estate that may be annexed into this Declaration and the Association by the Declarant.

Section 1.26 "Recreational Facilities" shall mean and refer to the common community and recreational facilities located upon the property designated as "Tract \_\_\_\_" on the Plat recorded in Plat Book \_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_, including, but not limited to, the swimming pool, clubhouse (including exercise room) and the related grounds, landscaping and improvements located, or to be located thereon.

Section 1.27 OMITTED

Section 1.28 "Regular Assessment" means the charge established by Article V of this Declaration.

Section 1.29 "Resident" shall mean and refer to any person, not an Owner, living in the Owner's Dwelling Unit, including, but not limited to, temporary guests and Tenants.

Section 1.30 "Restrictions" shall mean all covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, charges, liens and other obligations provided for in this Declaration, including, without limitation, all notices, rules and regulations issued in accordance with this Declaration.

Section 1.31 "Roadway Declaration" shall mean that certain Declaration of Roadway Easements and Restrictions recorded in Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ County Public Registry, as the same may from time to time be amended in the manner therein.

Section 1.32 "Rules and Regulations" shall mean and include the rules and regulations made from time to time by the Board of Directors as provided in Section 4.3 below.

Section 1.33 "Special Assessment" means the charge established by Section 5.2 of this Declaration.

Section 1.34 "Tenant" means any person occupying any Lot pursuant to a written or oral lease agreement with the Owner thereof or with any other person or entity claiming under the Owner.

Section 1.35 "Working Capital Assessment" means the charge established by Section 5.3 of this Declaration.

When applicable for the sense of this instrument, the singular should be read as including the plural and the male, female, and neuter pronouns and

adjectives should be read as interchangeable.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **PROPERTY SUBJECT TO THIS DECLARATION**

The Property, each portion thereof, and all Dwelling Units thereon shall be held, transferred, sold, conveyed, leased, mortgage and occupied subject to the terms, provisions, covenants and conditions of this Declaration.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **PROPERTY RIGHTS IN COMMON AREAS**

Section 3.1 Owner's Easements of Enjoyment. Except as herein otherwise provided, each Owner shall have a right and easement of enjoyment in and to the Common Areas, which shall be appurtenant to and shall pass with the title to his Lot. Each Tenant shall have a non-transferable right to use and enjoy the Common Areas, if any, which right shall terminate when such person ceases to have the status of a Tenant. Such rights and privileges shall be subject, however, to the following:

3.1.1 The right of the Board to suspend the right of any Owner or the privilege of any Resident to use such of the Common Areas that are recreational in nature as determined by the Board for any infraction of the Rules and Regulations relating to the Common Areas for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days for each such infraction, or for any non-payment or delinquency of the Assessments against such Owner's Lot for a period not to exceed the period of such non-payment or delinquency;

3.1.2 The right of the Board to adopt and enforce and from time to time amend reasonable limitations upon use and Rules and Regulations pertaining to the use of the Common Areas, including regulations limiting guests of Owners and Tenants who may use the Common Areas at any one time;

3.1.3 All applicable provisions of valid easements and/or agreements of the Association relating to the Common Areas, including, without limitation, the Recreational Facilities Easement Agreement and the Roadway Declaration;

3.1.4 The right of the Association to grant permits, licenses and public or private easements over Common Areas for utilities, roads and other purposes reasonably necessary or useful for the proper maintenance or operation of the Property; or

3.1.5 The right of Declarant or the Association to dedicate or convey portions of the Common Areas to applicable governmental authorities for park purposes.

Section 3.2 Extension of Use. Any Owner may extend his right of enjoyment to the Common Areas to the immediate and/or extended members of his family, his Tenants, guests or contract purchasers of the Owner's Lot.

Section 3.3 Title to Common Areas. The Declarant shall convey by deed all Common Areas to the Association in fee simple absolute after the final platting of all Lots in the Subdivision. Any such conveyance shall be subject to taxes for the year of conveyance, and to restrictions, conditions, limitations and easements of record.

Section 3.4 Use of Common Areas by Declarant. In addition to the specific rights and easements reserved herein, Declarant and its affiliates and associates shall have the same rights of use and enjoyment of the Common Areas as the Class A Members during the Development Period, and shall have the same right to use Common Areas for promotional, sales and similar purposes until all of the Lots have been sold.

#### **ARTICLE IV**

### **HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**

Section 4.1 Homeowners Association. There is has been created a North Carolina non-profit corporation, known as Prince Place Homeowners Association, which shall be responsible for the maintenance, management and control of the Common Areas and upon each Lot and Dwelling Unit as more specifically set forth in this Declaration.

Section 4.2 Board of Directors and Officers. The Board of Directors, and such officers as the may elected or appointed in accordance with the Articles or the Bylaws, shall conduct the affairs of the Association. The Board of Directors may also appoint committees and managers or other employees and agents who shall, subject to the general direction of the Board of Directors, be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Association.

Section 4.3 Rules and Regulations. By a majority vote of the Board of Directors, the Association may, from time to time adopt, amend and repeal Rules and Regulations with respect to all aspects of the Association's rights, activities and duties under this Declaration. The Rules and Regulations may, without limitation, govern use of the Subdivision, including prohibiting, restricting or imposing charges for the use of any portion of the Subdivision by Owners, Residents or others, interpret this Declaration or establish procedures for operation of the Association or the administration of this Declaration; provided, however, that the Rules and Regulations shall not be inconsistent with this

Declaration, the Articles, Bylaws or the terms of the Roadway Declaration or the Recreational Facilities Easement Agreement. A copy of the Rules and Regulations, as they may from time to time be adopted, amended or repealed, shall be maintained in the office of the Association and shall be available to each Owner upon request.

**Section 4.4 Membership of Association.** Every Owner of a Lot shall be a Member of the Association. Such Owner and Member shall abide by the Association's Rules and Regulations, shall pay the Assessments provided for in this Declaration, when due, and shall comply with decisions of the Association's governing body. Conveyance of fee simple title to a Lot automatically transfers membership in the Association without necessity of further documents. Membership shall be appurtenant to and may not be separated from ownership of any Lot that is subject to Assessment.

**Section 4.5 Classes of Membership.** The Association shall have two (2) classes of Membership:

**4.5.1 Class A Members.** Every person, group of persons, or entity which is a record Owner of a fee interest in any Lot upon which a Dwelling Unit has been erected within the Property, shall automatically be a Class A Member of the Association except the Declarant during the Development Period; provided, however, that any such person, group of persons or entity who holds such interest solely as security for the performance of an obligation shall not be a Member. A Class A Membership shall be appurtenant to and may not be separated from ownership of any Lot upon which a Dwelling Unit has been constructed that is subject to Assessment. Class A Members shall be entitled to one (1) vote for each Lot in which they hold the interest required for membership. In the event that more than one person, group of persons or entity is the record Owner of a fee interest in any Lot, then the vote for the membership appurtenant to such Lot portion shall be exercised as they among themselves determine, but in no event shall more than one (1) vote be cast with respect to any Lot. In the event agreement is not reached, the vote attributable to such Lot shall not be cast.

**4.5.2 Class B Members.** The Class B Member during the Development Period shall be the Declarant. The Class B Membership shall cease and be converted to Class A membership upon the expiration of the Development Period.

**4.5.3 Voting.** Each Member shall have one vote with respect to each Lot owned by such Member, but a Class A Member shall not be entitled to exercise any vote until the expiration of the Development Period.

Section 4.6 Maintenance Obligations of the Association. The Association, at its expense, shall maintain, operate and keep in good repair, unless such obligations are assumed by any municipal or governmental agency having jurisdiction thereof, the Common Areas and all improvements located thereon for the common benefit of the Subdivision. This shall include, without limitation, the maintenance, repair, replacement and painting of the following landscaping and improvements (to the extent that such improvements or landscaping are located upon or constitute Common Areas): (a) all private roadways, driveways, pavement, sidewalks, walkways and uncovered parking spaces; (b) all lawns, trees, grass and landscape areas, shrubs and fences, except as otherwise set forth hereinbelow; (c) the Recreational Facilities; (d) all conduits, ducts, utility pipes, plumbing, wiring and other facilities which are part of or located in, or for the furnishing of utility services to, the Common Areas and which are not for the exclusive use of a single Dwelling Unit.

The Association shall make the determination as to when maintenance, repair, replacement and care shall be done, and its determination shall be binding. Declarant shall have the right to employ a manager to oversee and implement the Association's maintenance obligations, and any such management fees incurred thereby shall be paid by the Association. The Association shall also perform the other duties prescribed by this instrument or the Association's Rules and Regulations.

Section 4.7 Maintenance Obligation of the Lot Owners. The responsibilities of each Lot Owner shall include:

4.7.1 To clean, maintain, keep in good order, repair and replace at his or her expense all portions of his or her Lot and Dwelling Unit. Any repair, replacement and maintenance work to be done by an Owner must comply with any Rules and Regulations of the Association including architectural control and visual harmony.

4.7.2 To perform his responsibilities in such manner so as not unreasonably to disturb other persons residing within the Subdivision.

4.7.3 Not to paint or otherwise alter, decorate or change the appearance of any exterior portion of his Dwelling Unit, without the written consent of the Association.

4.7.4 Not to impair the use of any easement without first obtaining the written consents of the Association and of the Owner or Owners for whose benefit such easements exists.

4.7.5 Each Lot Owner shall be deemed to agree by acceptance of delivery of a deed to a Lot, to repair and/or replace at his or her expense all portions of the Common Areas which may be damaged or destroyed by

reason of his or her own intentional or negligent act or omission, or by the intentional or negligent act or omission of any invitee, tenant, licensee family member, including, but not limited to any repairs necessary which result from damage incurred by pets or vehicles owned by the Lot Owner, or owned by any guest, invitee, Tenant or licensee of such Lot Owner. To the extent that any Common Area is damaged as an insurable loss and the proceeds from the Association's insurance policy are utilized to pay for the loss, the Owner shall be responsible for payment of the deductible as an Individual Assessment in accordance with Section 5.4 and Section 7.7 below.

Section 4.8 Construction Defects. The obligations of the Association and of Owners to repair, maintain and replace the portions of the Subdivision for which they are respectively responsible shall not be limited, discharged or unreasonably postponed by reason of the fact that any maintenance, repair or replacement may be necessary to cure any latent or patent defects in materials or workmanship in the construction of the project. The undertaking of repair, maintenance or replacement by the Association or Owners shall not constitute a waiver of any rights against any warrantor but such rights shall be specifically reserved. Likewise, this Section 4.8 is not intended to work for the benefit of the person or entity responsible for the construction defect. Also, performance by Association may be delayed if Association does not have the means or the funds to repair the defect or if by repairing the defect, Association would be compromising the right to sue to have the defect corrected and/or to collect damages caused by the defect.

Section 4.9 Effect of Insurance or Construction Guarantees. Notwithstanding the fact that the Association and/or any Lot Owner may be entitled to the benefit of any guarantee of material and workmanship furnished by any construction trade responsible for any construction defects, or to benefits under any policies of insurance providing coverage for loss or damage for which they are respectively responsible, the existence of construction guarantee or insurance coverage shall not excuse any unreasonable delay by the Association or any Lot Owner in performing his obligation hereunder. Likewise, this Section 4.9 is not intended to work for the benefit of the person or entity responsible for the construction defect. Also, performance by Association may be delayed if Association does not have the means or the funds to repair the defect or if, by repairing the defect, the Association would be compromising the right to sue to have the defect corrected and/or to collect damages caused by the defect.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **COVENANT FOR ASSESSMENTS**

Section 5.1 Regular Assessments. Regular Assessments for the payment of the Common Expenses shall be made in the manner provided

herein, and in the manner provided in the Bylaws. The Regular Assessment is established for the benefit and use of the Association and shall be used in covering all of the Common Expenses.

Section 5.2 Special Assessment. In addition to levying Regular Assessments, and to the extent that the reserve fund is insufficient, the Board of Directors may levy Special Assessments to construct, structurally alter, or replace improvements which are a part of the Common Areas, provided that funds shall not be assessed for any capital improvement in excess of Twenty Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$25,000.00) for any one item or in excess of Fifty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$50,000.00) in the aggregate in any one calendar year ("Capital Expenditure Limit") without the prior written consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes of each Class of Members who are voting either in person or by proxy at a meeting duly called for such purpose or unless expressly stated in the annual budget. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to adjust the Capital Expenditure Limit annually to account for inflation, which adjustment shall be effective each January (hereinafter referred to as the "Adjustment Date") commencing January 1 of the next year following the year during which the sale of the first Lot by Declarant. As of each Adjustment Date, the Capital Expenditure Limit shall be increased from the Capital Expenditure Limit on the date of this Declaration ("Effective Date") by a percentage equal to the percentage increase, if any, in the Consumer Price Index, All Urban Consumers ("CPI-U"), (1982-1984=100), All Items, as compiled and published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor ("CPI") from the Effective Date to the Adjustment Date. If after the date of this Declaration the CPI is converted to a different standard reference base or otherwise revised or ceases to be available, the determination of any new amount shall be made with the use of such conversion factor, formula or table for converting the CPI as may be published by any other nationally recognized publisher or similar statistical information reflected by the Board. Until the expiration of the Development Period or the date on which Declarant no longer owns a Lot, whichever is earlier, Declarant shall be one of the consenting Members, or the capital improvement shall not be made. The Board of Directors shall calculate each Lot's proportionate share of the Special Assessment for the capital improvements, and shall give the Lot Owner(s) written notice of the proportionate share and of the date(s) that the Special Assessment is due and payable. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Declarant shall have no obligations to pay any Special Assessment with respect to any Lot owned by it unless there is a Dwelling Unit located upon the Lot that is occupied as a residence.

Section 5.3 Working Capital Assessment. Upon the initial transfer of record of the Lot from the Declarant (or successor declarant or designated declarant) to the Lot Owner (other than a successor declarant or designated declarant), the purchaser is required to pay a sum equal to two (2) full months of the Regular Assessment due on his or her Lot as his or her initial contribution to the working capital of the Association. This sum is not an advance payment of

the monthly Regular Assessment; rather the sum is allocated to a working capital fund to meet unforeseen expenditures and operating expenses or to purchase any additional equipment or services. While the Declarant is in control of the Association, it cannot use any of the working capital funds to defray its expenses, reserve contributions, or construction costs. When control of the Association is transferred to the Lot Owners, the working capital fund shall be transferred to the Association for deposit to a segregated fund. After control of the Association is transferred to the Lot Owners the Declarant shall be responsible to collect the initial contribution to the working capital account and forward such funds to the Association. Additionally, at the closing, each purchaser of a Lot is required to pay a pro-rata share of the Regular Assessment due in the month of closing.

Section 5.4 Individual Assessment. In the event that the need for maintenance, repair or replacement of any improvement on the Property, for which the Association has the maintenance, repair and/or replacement obligation, is caused through the willful or negligent act of an Owner, his family, his pet(s), Resident, the cost of such maintenance, repairs or replacements shall be paid by such Owner. The Board shall have the maintenance, repair or replacement done and the cost thereof shall be provided by the Board to said Owner and shall be paid by said Owner within thirty (30) days thereafter, unless an earlier date is otherwise set forth herein.

Section 5.5 Date of Commencement of Assessments; Due Dates; Determination of Regular Assessments; Fine Assessments.

5.5.1 The monthly Regular Assessment provided for herein shall commence as to each Owner of a Lot, except Declarant, on the first day following the initial conveyance of the Dwelling Unit to the Owner and shall be adjusted according to the number of days remaining in the month. The Declarant, its successors and assigns, shall not be required to pay the Regular Assessment for any Lot which it owns until such time as Declarant transfers the Lot to a third party. The Board of Directors shall fix the amount of the monthly Regular Assessment to be paid by each Class A Member against each Lot at the beginning of each calendar year. Written notice of the monthly Regular Assessment shall be sent to every Class A Member subject thereto. The Board of Directors shall establish the due dates.

5.5.2 The Board of Directors, or an adjudicatory panel established by the Board of Directors, may levy a reasonable Fine Assessment, as a fine or penalty for violation of this Declaration, all in accordance with the Planned Community Act. A lien may be filed for this Fine Assessment and this Fine Assessment may be enforced by foreclosure and otherwise treated as a Regular Assessment.

5.5.3 If the Association is paying the water and/or sewer bill(s) for the Subdivision or any Lot Owner within the Subdivision, the Association may assess each Lot Owner benefited for its share of the water and/or sewer bill(s). Each Lot Owner shall bear an equal share of the bill, but the Association can assess an extra amount against a Lot Owner to recover the cost of any extraordinary amount of water used by that Lot Owner. "Extraordinary" shall be as determined by the discretion by the Board of Directors. The Assessment for water and sewer shall be part of the Regular Assessment and shall be considered a Common Expense.

5.5.4 Both Regular and Special Assessments for a Lot Owner shall be determined by the Association based upon the proportion that each Lot bears to the aggregate number of Lots located on the Property, except those owned by Declarant which are not assessed in accordance with Section 5.5.1 above. The Association's governing body may, at its discretion, waive the Regular Assessment for any year or part of a year for any Lot not occupied as a residence.

Section 5.6 Billing. The Association shall inform each Lot Owner of the amount of the total Regular Assessment due from the Owner of that particular Lot. This Regular Assessment may be paid in monthly installments or as otherwise required by the Association. The Owner of each Lot must pay his Lot's required Regular Assessment in advance on the first calendar day of each month, unless the Association otherwise directs. Payment is to be made to such person at such an address as Association determines. Special Assessments are due thirty (30) days after the bill for the Special Assessment has been mailed or otherwise sent out by Association, unless the Association otherwise directs. The Owners of the initial Lots in the Subdivision, except Declarant, shall be obligated to begin paying the Regular Assessment as of the first day of the initial conveyance of the Lot from Declarant to the Owner. If the Subdivision is expanded and additional Lots are brought into the Subdivision during a given Assessment year, those additional Lots shall begin paying the Regular Assessment on the first day of the initial conveyance of the Lot from Declarant to the Owner.

Section 5.7 Common Surplus. If the Regular Assessment collected in any given year is in excess of the actual Common Expenses for that year, the Board may, at its sole discretion (a) return each Owner's share of the Common Surplus; (b) credit each Owner's share of the Common Surplus to each Owner's payment as for the Regular Assessment for the following year; or (c) apply the Common Surplus to the reserve.

Section 5.8 Assessment Certificate. The Association shall, upon demand, at any reasonable time, furnish to any Owner liable for Assessments a certificate in writing signed by an Officer or other authorized agent of the Association, setting forth the status of said Assessments; i.e., "current", and if

not current, "delinquent" and the amount due. Such certificate shall be conclusive evidence of the payment of any Assessment therein stated to have been paid. A reasonable charge to cover labor and materials may be made in advance by the Association for each certificate.

Section 5.9 Books and Records of the Association. The Association shall keep full and correct books of account. The Association shall make available to all Lot Owners and the holders of all first mortgages on Lots, current copies of the books, records and financial statements of the Association upon reasonable request during normal business hours. All funds collected by the Association shall be held and expended solely for the purposes designated by this Declaration and shall be deemed to be held for the use, benefit and account of the Association and all of the Lot Owners. All books and records must be kept in accordance with good accounting procedures and must be reviewed at least once a year by an independent accounting firm.

Section 5.10 Non-Payment of Assessment. Any Assessments levied pursuant to these covenants which is not paid on the date when due shall be delinquent and shall, together with such interest and other costs as set out elsewhere in this Declaration, thereupon become a continuing lien upon the Lot which shall bind the Lot in the hands of the then Owner and the Owner's successors and assigns.

If the Assessment is not paid within thirty (30) days after the due date, the Assessment shall bear interest at a reasonable rate of ten percent (10%) per year or at such other reasonable rate set by Association in its minutes, not to exceed the maximum amount allowed by law, and the Association may bring an action at law against the Owner personally obligated to pay the same and/or foreclose the lien against the Lot, in either of which events interest, costs and reasonable attorneys' fees shall be added to the amount of each Assessment. No Owner may waive or otherwise escape liability for the Assessments by non-use or waiver of use of the Common Areas or by abandonment of his Lot.

Section 5.11 Priority of Association Lien. The lien provided for in this Article V shall take priority over any lien or encumbrance subsequently arising or created, except liens for real estate taxes and assessments and liens of bona fide first mortgages which have been filed of record before a claim of this lien hereunder has been docketed in the office of the clerk of superior court in \_\_\_\_\_ County, and may be foreclosed in the same manner as a mortgage on real property under power of sale in an action brought by the Association in accordance with the Planned Community Act. The Association is entitled to recover its reasonable attorneys' fees and court costs and collection costs, as part of the lien. In any such foreclosure action, the Association shall be entitled to become a purchaser at the foreclosure sale.

Section 5.12 Disputes as to Common Expenses; Adjustments. Any