FOR TRF SEE DE Book 15480 Page 4148

onlower

FOR AGREE SEE LAH DE BOOK 15277 PAGE 3043 FOR AMEND SEE DE Book 15319 Page 1990 DE Book 15361 Page 2951

BK: 15243 PG: 3818-3916 Filed and Recorded May-22-2015 01:24:58PM DBC#: D2015-037984

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT Cobb Cty. GA.

FOR AMEND SEE

DE Book 15454 Page 1225

Cross Reference: Deed Book 15201, Page 390 Cobb County, Records

DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, AND RESTRICTIONS

FOR

LAUREL GATE TOWNHOMES

Upon recording, please return to:

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part One:	:	INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMUNITY	1
Article	I	Creation of the Community	1
Article	II	Concepts and Definitions	1
PART TV	VO	CREATION AND MAINTENANCE OF COMMUNITY STANDARDS	5
Article	Ш	Maintenance and Repair of Lots and Dwellings	5
3.1	Ov	wner's Responsibility for Maintenance of Lots	5
3.2	As	ssociation's Responsibility	6
3.3	In	surance	7
3.4	St	andard of Performance	8
Article	IV	Architectural Standards	8
4.1	Aj	pplicability	8
4.2	Aı	chitectural Review	9
4.3	Gı	uidelines and Procedures	9
4.4	No	Waiver of Future Approvals	11
4.5	Va	ariances	11
4.6	Li	mitation of Liability	12
Article	V	Use and Conduct	12
5.1	Fr	amework for Regulation	12
5.2	Rı	ale Making Authority and Procedures	12
5.3	O	wner's Acknowledgement	13
5.4	Ri	ghts of Owners	13
5.5	Le	easing	15
PART TH	IRE	ECOMMUNITY GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRAT	ION
Article	VI	Association Membership and Voting Rights	19
6.1	M	embership	19
6.2	V	oting	20
Article	VII	Association Powers and Responsbilities	20
7.1	Fı	unction of the Association	20

7.2	Implied Rights; Board Authority	21
7.3	Area of Common Responsbility	21
7.4	Association Insurance	22
7.5	Safety and Security	25
7.6	Provision of Services	26
Article	VIII Association Finances	26
8.1	Budgeting for Common Expenses	26
8.2	Funding Common Expenses	27
8.3	Payment of Assessments	28
8.4	Declarant's Option to Subsidize	29
8.5	Personal Obligations and Lien for Assessments; Delinquencies	29
8.6	Exempt Property	31
PART FO	UR COMMON AREA	31
Article :	IX Acceptance, Management, and Control of Common Area	31
9.1	Control of Common Area	31
9.2	Acceptance of Common Area Conveyed by Declarant	31
9.3	Reconveyance of Common Area to Declarant	31
Article !	X Rights to Use Common Area	32
10.1	Easement in Common Area	32
10.2	Assignment of Rights to Use Common Area	32
Article 1	XI Changes in Common Area	33
11.1	Common Area to Remain Undivided	33
11.2	Conveyance or Dedication of Common Area	33
11.3	Condemnation	33
11.4	Improvements to Common Area	34
PART FIV	VE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITY	34
Article :	XII Expansion of the Community	34
12.1	Expansion by Declarant	34
12.2	Expansion by the Association	35
12.3	Additional Covenants and Easements	35
Article	XIII Additional Rights Reserved to Declarant	35

13.1	Withdrawal of Property	35
13.2	Marketing and Sales Activities	36
13.3	Right to Develop	36
13.4	Right to Approve Changes in Community Standards	36
13.5	Right to Transfer or Assign Declarant Rights	36
13.6	Exclusive Rights to Use Name of Development	37
13.7	Right to Notice of Design or Construction Claims	37
13.8	Termination of Rights	37
Article	XIV Easements	37
14.1	Access Easements	37
14.2	Intentionally Omitted	38
14.3	Easements for Maintenance of Adjoining Lots	38
14.4	Cross-Drainage Easements	38
14.5	Easements for Utilities, Etc.	38
14.6	Easements to Serve Additional Property	39
14.7	Easements for Maintenance, Emergency, and Enforcement	40
14.8	Easement to Inspect and Right to Correct	40
14.9	Easements to Exercise Powers and Perform Responsibilities	40
14.10	Easements for Lake and Pond Maintenance and Flood Water	40
Article !	XV Intentionally Omitted	41
PART SIX	RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY	41
Article !	XVI Protection of Mortgagees	41
16.1	Notices of Action	41
16.2	Special FHLMC Provision	42
16.3	Amendments to Documents	43
16.4	No Priority	44
16.5	Notice to Association	44
16.6	Failure of Mortgagee to Respond	44
Article :	XVII Dispute Resolution and Limitation on Liquidation	44
17.1	Agreement to Encourage Resolution of Disputes Without Litigation	44
17.2	Dispute Resolution Procedures	45

17.3	Initiation of Litigation by Association	47
Article :	XVIII Compliance and Enforcement	47
18.1	Obligation to Comply with Governing Documents; Right to Enforce	47
18.2	Association Remedies and Sanctions	48
18.3	Notice and Hearing Procedures	49
18.4	Remedies Cumulative; Recovery of Costs	50
Article :	XIX Miscellaneous Provisions	51
19.1	Binding Effect and Duration	51
19.2	Amendment	51
19.3	Severability	52
19.4	Cumulative Effect; Conflict.	52
19.5	Notice of Sale or Transfer of Title	53
19.6	Exhibits	53

TABLE OF EXHIBITS

<u>Exhibit</u>	Subject Matter	Page First Mentioned
"A"	The Community - Land Initially Submitted	1
"B"	Common Area	3
"C"	Land Subject to Annexation	3
"D"	Initial Restrictions and Rules	4
"E"	By-Laws of LAUREL GATE TOWNHOMES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.	3
"F"	Specific maintenance items contained within the Area of Common Responsibility	17

DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, AND RESTRICTIONS FOR

LAUREL GATE TOWNHOMES

THIS DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, AND RESTRICTIONS FOR LAUREL GATE TOWNHOMES (this "Declaration") is made by WEG South Cobb, LLC AND Laurel Gates WEG, LLC (collectively "Declarant") this _____ day of _____, 2014

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMUNITY

Article I Creation of the Community

By recording this Declaration in the Public Records of Cobb County, Georgia, the Declarant intends to establish a general plan of development for, and to provide for the overall governance, administration, maintenance, and preservation of the single-family residential Community known as LAUREL GATE TOWNHOMES (the "Community"). This Declaration sets forth various rights and duties which will be binding on and are intended to benefit each Lot and each present and future property owner in the Community. The provisions of this Declaration work together to establish a governance structure and a flexible system of standards and procedures for the development, expansion, administration, maintenance, and preservation of the Community.

The Declarant has established LAUREL GATE TOWNHOMES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC., a Georgia nonprofit corporation (the "Association"), to own and operate those areas of the Community which are intended for the common use and benefit of all owners, to maintain such Common Area and certain other portions of the Community, and to administer and enforce the provisions of this Declaration and the other documents referenced in this Declaration. Each owner of property in the Community will be a member of the Association and, through such membership, will have the opportunity to participate in the governance and administration of the Community.

This document does not, and is not intended to, create a condominium under Georgia law.

Article II Concepts and Definitions

The terms used in this Declaration and the attached exhibits are intended to have their normal, commonly understood definitions, unless otherwise specified. In order to minimize

repetition, avoid confusion, and explain key concepts, some terms are capitalized to indicate that they have special definitions. Whenever used in their capitalized form, the following terms shall have the specified meanings:

"Architectural Guidelines": The guidelines, standards, and procedures adopted pursuant to Article IV which relate to construction, installation, placement, and modification of structures, improvements, landscaping, and other items placed upon Lots.

"Architectural Review Committee" or "ARC": The committee formed pursuant to the terms of Section 4.2 that shall have authority over review and action on applications for architectural approval after Declarant's right to do so has ceased.

"Area of Common Responsibility": Those areas within or abutting the Community that the Association is authorized or responsible for maintaining as a Common Expense, including:

- (a) the Common Area;
- (b) all landscaping, entry features, and signage within or adjacent to public rights-of-way, to the extent that such public rights-of-way run through or adjacent to the Community;
- (c) those portions of Lots for which the Association has maintenance responsibility pursuant to Section 3.2; and
- (d) such other areas, if any, for which the Association is assigned or assumes responsibility pursuant to this Declaration, any Supplemental Declaration, or any agreement with the owner of the property.

"Articles of Incorporation" or "Articles": The Articles of Incorporation of LAUREL GATE TOWNHOMES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC., as filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Georgia.

"Assessment": An amount of money which the Owner of a Lot is obligated to pay to the Association and which, until paid, constitutes a lien on the title to the Lot which may be foreclosed in the same manner as a Mortgage under Georgia law.

"Association": LAUREL GATE TOWNHOMES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC., a Georgia nonprofit corporation, its successors or assigns.

"Board of Directors" or "Board": The body responsible for administration of the Association, selected as provided in the By-Laws and serving the same role as the board of directors under Georgia corporate law.

"By-Laws": The By-Laws of LAUREL GATE TOWNHOMES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC., attached as Exhibit "D," as they may be amended.

"Common Area": All real and personal property, including, without limitation, such real property described in Exhibit "B", and such easements, which the Association owns, leases, or otherwise holds possessory or use rights in for the common use and enjoyment of the Owners, including, without implied limitation, any entry features, landscaping, walkways, sidewalks, monument and other signage, common water meters, detention ponds, water treatment facilities, common mailbox and related structures, parking areas, fences and walls, recreational facilities, if any, the courtyard, pergola with furniture, grill and related appurtenances, electric service boxes not owned by the utility, if any, and all other structures on and improvements to such real property.

"Common Expenses": The expenses which the Association incurs, or expects to incur, in exercising its authority and performing its responsibilities under the Governing Documents and Georgia law, and reasonable contributions to reserve funds, as the Board may find necessary and appropriate.

"Community": The real property described in Exhibit "A", along with such additional property as is submitted to the terms of this Declaration in accordance with Article XII.

"Community-Wide Standard": The standard of conduct, maintenance, and appearance generally prevailing throughout the Community, or the minimum standards which the Declarant, the Board, or the Architectural Review Committee may establish for the Community as set forth in the Restrictions and Rules, the Architectural Guidelines, or by resolution or example, whichever is a higher standard. Such standard may contain both objective and subjective elements.

"Declarant": Laurel Gates WEG, LLC, and WEG South Cobb, LLC or any successor, successor-in-title, or assign who takes title to any portion of the property in the Community for the purpose of development and/or resale and who is designated as the Declarant in a recorded instrument executed by the immediately preceding Declarant.

"Developer Control Period": The period of time during which the Declarant, by virtue of its Class "B" membership, is entitled to appoint a majority of the members of the Board of Directors pursuant to the By-Laws.

"General Assessment": Assessments to fund Common Expenses for the general benefit of all Lots, as described in Section 8.2(a).

"Governing Documents": The Articles of Incorporation, the By-Laws, this Declaration, any Supplemental Declaration, the Architectural Guidelines, and the Restrictions and Rules, or any of the above, as each may be amended from time to time.

"Lot" or "Unit": A portion of the Community, whether improved or unimproved, which is depicted as a separately numbered parcel on the recorded subdivision plat of any portion of the Community, which may be independently owned and conveyed, and which is improved or intended to be improved with a single family residential townhome dwelling. The term shall refer to the land, if any, which is part of the Lot as well as any improvements on the Lot. The term shall not include Common Area or property dedicated to the public.

"Member": A Person holding a membership in the Association pursuant to Section 6.1.

"Mortgage": A mortgage, deed of trust, a deed to secure debt, or any other form of security instrument affecting title to any Lot. A "Mortgagee" is the beneficiary or holder of a Mortgage.

"Owner": One or more Persons who hold the record title to any Lot, other than a Mortgagee or other Person holding title merely as security for the performance of an obligation. It a Lot is sold under a recorded contract of sale and the contract specifically so provides, the purchaser (rather than the fee owner) will be considered the Owner.

"<u>Permitted Lots</u>": The maximum number of Lots which may be developed within the property described in Exhibits "A" and "C" under applicable zoning.

"Person": A human being, a corporation, a partnership, a trust, or any other entity recognized by law.

"<u>Public Records</u>": The Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court or such other place as may be designated as the official location for recording of deeds and similar documents affecting title to real estate in Cobb County, Georgia.

"Restrictions and Rules": The restriction and rules relating to uses, activities, and conduct within the Community set forth on Exhibit "D", as they may be modified, expanded, and repealed pursuant to the procedures described in Article V.

"Special Assessment": Assessments to cover unanticipated Common Expenses or Common Expenses in excess of those budgeted, as described in Section 8.2(b).

"Specific Assessment": An Assessment against a particular Lot or Lots for expenses that the Association incurs or expects to incur for any purpose described in Section 8.2(c).

"Supplemental Declaration": An instrument filed in the Public Records pursuant to Article XII which expands the Community by submitting additional property to this Declaration, imposes additional restrictions and obligations on the land described in such instrument, or both.

PART TWO: CREATION AND MAINTENANCE OF COMMUNITY STANDARDS

Article III Maintenance and Repair of Lots and Dwellings

3.1 Owner's Responsibility for Maintenance of Lots.

Except for maintenance to a Lot performed by the Association pursuant to Section 3.2 hereof, each Owner shall be responsible for maintenance, repair, and replacement of all portions of his or her dwelling and Lot and all structures, landscaping and all other improvements thereon (including, without limitation, the residential dwelling and the driveway), and shall keep all of them in good order and repair, and in a neat, clean, and attractive condition consistent with the Community-Wide Standard and this Declaration. Owners shall not permit any structures, equipment, or other items located upon a Lot to become rusty, dilapidated, or otherwise fall into disrepair. By way of explanation and not limitation, each Owner's maintenance obligation shall include maintaining, repairing and/or replacing the following: prompt removal of all litter, trash, refuse and waste; the driveway and mailbox serving his or her Lot; keeping improvements and exterior lighting in good repair and working order; repair and repair of exterior damage to improvements including, without limitation, repairing and repainting (or other appropriate external care) of improvements located on a Lot; repair and replacement of all decks and deck surfaces located on a Lot with the exception of painting and/or staining which shall be the responsibility of the Association as provided in Section 3.2 hereof. In addition, Owners shall maintain any pipe(s), wire(s) and conduit(s) which serve only the Lot, whether said pipe(s), wire(s) and conduit(s) are located within or outside of a Unit's boundaries.

In addition to any other enforcement rights, if an Owner fails to properly perform his or her maintenance responsibility, the Association may perform such maintenance responsibilities and levy a Specific Assessment for all costs incurred by the Association against the Lot and the Owner. The Association shall afford the Owner reasonable notice and an opportunity to cure the problem prior to entry, except when entry is required due to an emergency situation.

3.2 Association's Responsibility.

- (a) The Association shall maintain and keep in good repair the Area of Common Responsibility, which shall include, but not be limited to:
- (i) the Common Area, open space, and all landscaping signage, lighting, irrigation systems and equipment, fences, walls, and other structures and improvements situated on or within the Common Area;
- (ii) any landscaping and signage within public rights-of-way within the Community;
- (iii) all roofs (including, without limitation, roof joists, beams and other support structures, downspouts, and gutters) and all exterior surfaces of garage doors, decks building surfaces with the exception of hardware and glass; the painting and/or staining of decks and deck surfaces, on a schedule to be determined by the Board of Directors, at its sole discretion; the painting, if any, of exterior building surfaces, on a schedule to be determined by the Board of Directors, at its sole discretion; sprinkler and irrigation systems, landscaping and other flora, mowing, weeding, edging; and all landscaping located in the right of way immediately adjacent to the Owner's Lo. Provided, however, that all maintenance obligations of the Association undertaken pursuant to this subsection may be assessed as a general and/or special assessment against the Owner(s); and provided further, however, the Association shall not be responsible for waterproofing foundations either above or below grade;
- (iv) any streams, and/or wetlands located within the Community and all drainage systems and storm water retention or detention systems for the Community, including any retaining walls, bulkheads, or dams (earthen or otherwise);
- (v) such portions of any additional property included within the Area of Common Responsibility as may be dictated by this Declaration, any Supplemental Declaration, or any contract or agreement for maintenance thereof entered into by the Association.
- (vi) All other maintenance, repair and replacement to a Lot shall be the responsibility of the Owner thereof, as more particularly set forth in Section 3.1 hereof. By way of explanation and not limitation, the Association's maintenance obligation shall not include the following: steps, decks or deck surfaces, patios and landscaping within the patios; HVAC or similar equipment located outside the dwelling structure; all doors, including screen and storm doors, hinges, frames and door frames and hardware which are a part of the entry system; hose bibs contained in exterior walls of a Lot; lighting fixtures pertaining to a particular Lot and being located outside an entryway or in a garage; window screens; window frames and glass;

foundations and footings, including waterproofing; pipe(s), wire(s), and conduit(s) serving only one Lot whether inside or outside a Lot's boundaries; and any driveway or walkway serving a Lot.

The Association may maintain other property which it does not own, including, without limitation, property dedicated to the public, if the Board of Directors determines that such maintenance is necessary or desirable to maintain the Community-Wide Standard. The Board of Directors may authorize the officers of the Association to enter into contracts with any Person(s) to perform maintenance hereunder on behalf of the Association.

(b) There are hereby reserved to the Association easements over the Community as necessary to enable the Association to fulfill such responsibilities. The Association shall maintain the facilities and improvements within the Area of Common Responsibility in continuous operation; except for any periods necessary, as determined in the sole discretion of the Board, to perform required maintenance or repairs, unless Members representing 75% of the Class "A" votes in the Association and the Class "B" Member, if any, agree in writing to discontinue such operation.

Except as provided above, the Area of Common Responsibility shall not be reduced by amendment of this Declaration or any other means except with the prior written approval of the Declarant as long as the Declarant owns any property described in Exhibits "A" and "C" of this Declaration.

(c) Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, all costs associated with maintenance, repair, and replacement of the Area of Common Responsibility shall be a Common Expense to be allocated among all Lots as part of the General Assessments, without prejudice to the right of the Association to seek reimbursement from the owner(s) of or other Persons responsible for certain portions of the Area of Common Responsibility pursuant to this Declaration, other recorded covenants, or agreements with the owner(s) thereof.

3.3 Insurance.

(a) Required Coverage. Each Owner shall obtain and maintain in effect at all times: (i) property insurance for the full replacement cost, less a reasonable deductible, of all insurable improvements on his or her Lot; and (ii) insurance covering consequential damages to any other Lot or the Common Area due to occurrences originating within the Owner's Lot caused by the negligence of the Owner, the failure of the Owner to maintain the Lot, and any other casualty within such Owner's Lot which causes damages to the Lots or the Common Area.

(b) Repair and Reconstruction. In the event of damage to or destruction of any structures or improvements on the Lot, the Owner shall proceed promptly to repair, reconstruct or replace the damaged structures or improvements in a manner consistent with their original condition or such other plans and specifications as are approved in accordance with Article IV. The Owner shall pay any costs which are not covered by insurance proceeds.

3.4 Standard of Performance.

Unless otherwise specifically provided herein or in other instruments creating and assigning such responsibility, responsibility for maintenance shall include responsibility for repair and replacement as necessary. All maintenance shall be performed in a manner consistent with the Community-Wide Standard and all applicable covenants. The Association shall not be liable for any damage or injury occurring on, or arising out of the condition of, property which it does not own except to the extent that it has been negligent in the performance of its maintenance responsibilities.

Article IV Architectural Standards

No person shall commence any activities within the scope of Section 4.1 ("Work") on any Lot unless and until the Owner of the Lot submits an application for approval of the proposed Work and such application is approved in writing by the Declarant or the Architectural Review Committee appointed pursuant to Section 4.2.

- 4.1 Applicability.
- (a) No person other than the Declarant or the Association shall:
- (i) construct, place, or install any structures or other improvements on a Lot or alter the exterior of any existing structures or improvements (except those devices specifically permitted without approval pursuant to the Architectural Guidelines on Exhibit "D");
- (ii) plant, install, or remove any trees, shrubs, or other landscaping materials or make any encroachment onto the Common Area, except in compliance with this Article and the Architectural Guidelines adopted pursuant to Section 4.3.
 - (b) This Article shall not apply to:
- (i) Improvements, renovations, or alterations within the interior of a structure located upon a Lot, provided they are not visible from outside of the structure and do not conflict

with this Declaration or impair the structural integrity of any portion of the structure or adjacent Lots;

- (ii) repairs, maintenance, or rebuilding of existing structures in accordance with original plans and specifications;
 - (iii) the Declarant's activities; and
 - (iv) the Association's activities during the Developer Control Period.

4.2 Architectural Review.

So long as the Declarant owns any property described in Exhibit "A" or "C" to this Declaration which is or may become a part of the Community, the Declarant shall have the exclusive authority to review and act upon all applications for approval and to exercise all authority of the "Reviewer" under this Article. Thereafter, such authority shall be exercised by the Architectural Review Committee appointed by the Board, the members of which shall serve and may be removed and replaced in the Board's discretion. (For purposes of this Article, the "Reviewer" shall refer to the Declarant or the ARC, as appropriate under the circumstances).

The Declarant may, from time to time, but shall not be obligated to, delegate all or a portion of its authority to the ARC. Any such delegation shall be in writing, specifying the scope of responsibilities delegated, and shall be subject to (i) the right of Declarant to revoke such delegation at any time and reassume jurisdiction over the matters previously delegated; and (ii) the right of Declarant to veto any decision which Declarant determines, in its sole discretion, to be inappropriate or inadvisable for any reason. So long as Declarant has any rights under this Article, the authority and jurisdiction of the ARC shall be limited to such matters as Declarant specifically delegates to the ARC.

The Declarant, or, upon Declarant relinquishing its authority in such matters to the ARC, the Board, may establish and charge reasonable fees for review of applications hereunder and may require such fees to be paid in full prior to review of any application. The Declarant or the ARC may retain architects, engineers, or other professionals to assist in reviewing any application and may charge the fees of any such professionals to the applicant.

4.3 Guidelines and Procedures.

(a) <u>Architectural Guidelines</u>. Declarant or the Board may prepare Architectural Guidelines for the Community to provide guidance in submitting applications and to establish minimum standards for certain types of modifications to dwellings and Lots. Copies of the

Architectural Guidelines shall be made available to any Owner upon request. Any such Architectural Guidelines are intended to provide guidance regarding matters of particular concern in considering applications for architectural approval, but shall not be the exclusive basis for decisions of the Reviewer. Compliance with the Architectural Guidelines does not guarantee approval of any application.

All Work shall be conducted in strict compliance with any applicable Architectural Guidelines in effect at the time the application for such Work is approved, unless the Reviewer has granted a variance in writing pursuant to Section 4.5. So long as the Reviewer has acted in good faith, its findings and conclusions with respect to acceptability or appropriateness of proposed Work, and applicability of or compliance with the Architectural Guidelines and this Declaration, shall be final.

The Declarant shall have sole and full authority to amend the Architectural Guidelines as long as it has jurisdiction over architectural matters pursuant to Section 4.2. Thereafter, the Board shall have the authority to amend the Architectural Guidelines. Any amendments to the Architectural Guidelines shall be prospective only and shall not apply to require modifications to or removal of structures previously approved once the approved construction or modification has commenced. There shall be no limitation on the scope of amendments to the Architectural Guidelines; amendments may eliminate requirements previously imposed or otherwise make the Architectural Guidelines more or less restrictive.

(b) <u>Procedures</u>. An application for approval of any proposed Work shall be in the form required by the Reviewer and shall include plans and specifications ("Plans") in such detail as the Reviewer reasonably deems appropriate to evaluate such matters as the location, size, materials, manner of construction or installation, and other features of the proposed Work which the Reviewer deems relevant. The Reviewer may require the submission of such additional information as it deems necessary to consider any application. The Reviewer may refuse to consider any application if the Reviewer determines, in its reasonable discretion, that the Plans are not sufficiently legible, precise, or detailed or are otherwise insufficient in any respect.

In reviewing each submission, the Reviewer may consider (but shall not be limited to consideration of) quality of workmanship and design and compliance with the general intent of the Architectural Guidelines and the general scheme of development for the Community.

Decisions of the Reviewer may be based on purely aesthetic consideration. Each Owner acknowledges that opinions on aesthetic matters are subjective and opinions may vary as to the desirability and/or attractiveness of particular improvements and as the Reviewer and members of the ARC change over time.

The Reviewer shall, within 15 days after receipt of each complete application or other required submission, advise the applicant, in writing at an address specified in the application, of (i) the approval of Plans, or (ii) the disapproval of such Plans, specifying the features of the Plans which are objectionable and suggestions, if any, for the curing of such objections. In the event the Reviewer fails to so advise the applicant by written notice within such 30-day period, the applicant may give the Reviewer written notice of such failure to respond. If the Reviewer has still not responded within 10 days after receipt of such notice, approval shall be deemed granted. However, no approval, whether expressly granted or deemed granted, shall be inconsistent with the Architectural Guidelines unless a variance has been granted in writing pursuant to Section 4.5.

Notice shall be deemed to have been given at the time the envelope containing such notice, properly addressed, and postage prepaid, is deposited with the U.S. Postal Service, registered or certified mail, return receipt requested. Personal delivery of such written notice shall, however, be sufficient and shall be deemed to have been given at the time of delivery.

All approvals granted hereunder shall be deemed conditioned upon completion of all elements of the approved work and all work previously approved with respect to the same Lot, unless approval to modify any application has been obtained. In the event that any Person fails to commence and diligently pursue to completion all approved work, Declarant or the Association shall be authorized, after notice to the Owner of the Lot and an opportLoty to be heard as provided for in the By-Laws, to enter upon the Lot and remove or complete any incomplete work and to assess all costs incurred against the Lot and the Owner thereof as a Specific Assessment.

All Work shall be completed within 180 days of commencement or such shorter period as the Reviewer may specify in the notice of approval, unless completion within such time is delayed due to causes beyond the reasonable control of the Owner, as determined in the sole discretion of the Reviewer.

4.4 No Waiver of Future Approvals.

Approval of proposals, plans and specifications, or drawings for any work done or proposed, or in connection with any other matter requiring approval, shall not be deemed to constitute a waiver of the right to withhold approval as to any similar proposals, plans and specifications, drawings, or other matters subsequently or additionally submitted for approval.

4.5 Variances.

The Reviewer may authorize variances from compliance with any of its guidelines and procedures when special circumstances require. However, the ARC may not authorize variances

without the written consent of Declarant as long as the Declarant has any authority over architectural matters. No variance shall (a) be effective unless in writing; (b) be contrary to this Declaration; or (c) preclude the Reviewer from denying a variance in other circumstances. For purposes of this Section, the inability to obtain necessary governmental approvals or permits, or to satisfy the terms or conditions of any financing, shall not be considered a hardship warranting a variance.

4.6 Limitation of Liability.

The standards and procedures established pursuant to this Article are intended only to provide a mechanism for maintaining and enhancing the overall appearance and attractiveness of the Community, and shall not create any duty or responsibility to any Person to ensure the structural integrity or soundness of approved Work, the adequacy of soils or drainage, compliance with building codes and other governmental requirements, or any other matter. Neither Declarant, the Association, the Board, the ARC, nor any member of any of the foregoing shall be held liable for any injury, damages, or loss to any Person arising out of the approval or disapproval of any proposed Work. The Association shall defend the ARC and its members and reimburse them for any loss, damages, and expenses incurred in any action arising out of their service on the ARC, to the extent provided in the Articles of Incorporation.

Article V Use and Conduct

5.1 Framework for Regulation.

Initial Restrictions and Rules governing use, conduct, and activities within the Community are set forth on Exhibit "D". This Article establishes procedures for adopting additional rules which interpret, expand, modify, or repeal the initial Restrictions and Rules set forth on Exhibit "D" in order to respond to unforeseen circumstances and changes in conditions, needs, desires, trends, and technology which inevitably will affect the Community.

5.2 Rule Making Authority and Procedures.

(a) Authority.

(i) Subject to the terms of this Article and its duty to exercise business judgment and act reasonably, the Board may adopt rules applicable to the Common Area or Lots. Except to the extent that the Governing Documents specifically assign authority to regulate a particular matter to the Board, any rulemaking action by the Board may be overturned by a majority vote of the Members pursuant to subsection (b) and the disapproval of the Class "B" Member, if any. The Board shall have no obligation to call for a vote of the membership except

upon receipt of a petition of the members calling for a special meeting, as provided for in the By-Laws.

- (ii) Subject to the terms of this Article, the Members may adopt rules applicable to the Common Area or Lots upon the approval of a majority of the total Class "A" votes in the Association, with the consent of the Class "B" Members, if any.
- (iii) Nothing in this Article shall authorize the Board or the Members to modify, repeal, or expand the Architectural Guidelines. In the event of any inconsistency between the Architectural Guidelines and the Restrictions and Rules, the Architectural Guidelines shall control.
- (iv) The procedures required under this Section 5.2 shall not apply to the enactment and enforcement of administrative rules and regulations governing use of the Common Area unless the Board chooses in its discretion to submit such procedures. Examples of such administrative rules and regulations shall included, but not be limited to, parking regulations and traffic controls.
- (b) Notice to Owners. No rulemaking action shall be taken unless and until a meeting of the Board of the membership has been called to consider and discuss the proposed action. The notice of any meeting at which proposed rulemaking action is to be considered shall state that fact. Members shall have a reasonable opportLoty to be heard at such meeting prior to any vote being taken on the proposed action. At least ten (10) days prior to the effective date of any rulemaking action approved under this Section, the Board shall send a notice to each Owner describing the action and its effective date.

5.3 Owner's Acknowledgement.

All Owners and occupants of Lots are given notice that use of their Lots and the Common Area is limited by the Restrictions and Rules as they may be amended, expanded, and otherwise modified hereunder. Each Owner, by acceptance of a deed to a Lot, or entering into and recording a contract of sale, acknowledges and agrees that the use and enjoyment and marketability of his or her Lot can be affected and that the Restrictions and Rules may change from time to time. All purchasers of Lots are on notice that the Association may have adopted changes. Copies of the current Restrictions and Rules may be obtained from the Association.

5.4 Rights of Owners.

(a) The Association shall provide, without cost, a copy of the current Restrictions and Rules to any requesting Member or Mortgagee.

- (b) Except as may be specifically set forth in this Declaration (either initially or by amendment) or in Exhibit "D", neither the Board nor the Members may adopt any rule in violation of the following provisions:
- (i) Abridging Existing Rights. If any rule would otherwise require Owners or occupants of Lots to dispose of personal property which they maintained in or on the Lot prior to the effective date of such rule, or to vacate a Lot in which they resided prior to the effective date of such rule, and such property was maintained or such occupancy was in compliance with this Declaration and all rules previously in force, such rule shall not apply to any such Owners without their written consent unless the rule was in effect at the time such Owners or occupants acquired their interest in the Lot.
- (ii) Activities Within Dwellings. No rule shall interfere with the activities carried on inside of dwellings, except that the Association may prohibit activities not normally associated with property restricted to residential use, and it may restrict or prohibit any activities that create monetary costs for the Association or other Owners, that create a danger to the health or safety of occupants of other Lots, that generate excessive noise or traffic, that create unsightly conditions visible outside the dwelling, that create an unreasonable source of annoyance or nuisance to the neighborhood, or that creates any noxious or offensive activity.
- (iii) <u>Alienation</u>. No rule shall prohibit the sale of any Lot, or require the consent of the Association or Board prior to the sale of any Lot.
- (iv) Allocation of Burdens and Benefits. No rule shall alter the allocation of financial burdens among the Lots or discriminate among Owners with respect to their rights to use the Common Area over the objection of any Owner expressed in writing to the Association. Nothing in this provision shall prevent the Association from adopting generally applicable rules for use of the Common Area. This provision does not affect the right to increase the amount of Assessments as provided in Article VIII.
- (v) <u>Household Composition</u>. No rule shall interfere with the freedom of occupants of Lots to determine the composition of their households, except that the Association shall have the power, subject to applicable law, to require that all occupants be members of a single housekeeping Lot and to limit the total number of occupants permitted in the dwelling located upon each Lot on the basis of the size and facilities of the Lot and its fair use of the Common Area.
- (vi) Signs and Displays. No rule shall prohibit Owners or occupants from displaying religious and holiday signs, symbols, and decorations in windows or doors of their

dwellings of any kinds normally displayed in residential neighborhoods; however, the Association may regulate the time, place, manner, and extent of such displays for the purpose of minimizing disturbance to other Owners and occupants. No rules shall regulate the content of political signs; however, rules may regulate the time, place, and manner of posting such signs and establish design criteria for such signs.

- (vii) Similar Treatment. Similarly situated Owners shall be treated similarly.
- (viii) Speech. No rule shall restrict the freedom of speech of Owners or occupants, except that the Association may adopt time, place, and manner restrictions for the purpose of minimizing disturbance to other Owners and occupants of Lots.
- (ix) Reasonable Rights to Develop. No rule or action by the Association or Board shall unreasonably impede Declarant's right to develop the Community.

The limitations in this Section 5.4 shall apply to the exercises of the rulemaking authority under this Article only; they shall not apply to amendments to this Declaration adopted in accordance with Section 19.2.

5.5 LEASING

In order to protect the equity of the individual Lot owners, to carry out the purpose for which the Community was formed by preserving the character of the development as a Community of predominantly owner-occupied Lots and by preventing the Community from assuming the character of a renter-occupied apartment complex, and to comply with the eligibility requirements for financing in the secondary mortgage market insofar as such criteria provide that the project be substantially owner-occupied, leasing of Lots shall be governed by the restrictions imposed by this Paragraph. Except as provided herein, the leasing of Lots shall be prohibited.

(a) Definitions.

- (i) <u>Leasing</u> shall mean the regular, exclusive occupancy of a Lot by any person(s) other than the Owner, for which the Owner receives any consideration or benefit including, but not limited to, a fee, service, gratuity or emolument. For purposes hereof, occupancy by a roommate of an Owner Occupant shall not constitute leasing.
- (ii) Open Leasing Status shall authorize a Lot to be leased at any time. Each Lot shall have Open Leasing Status until such time as title is conveyed to any Person other than the Person holding record title on the Effective Date hereof, after which

conveyance the Lot shall automatically be converted to Restricted Leasing Status. Open Leasing Status also may be conferred upon a Lot as provided in subparagraph (b) below.

- (iii) <u>Restricted Leasing Status</u> shall subject a Lot to the restrictions on leasing contained in subparagraph (b) below.
- (b) General. No Owner of a Lot in Restricted Leasing Status may lease his or her Lot for or during any portion of the first year from the date of purchase of such Lot. No Owner of a Lot in Restricted Leasing Status may lease his or her Lot if twenty-five (25%) percent or more of the Lots in the Community are in Open Leasing Status, except as provided in subparagraph (c) below for cases of undue hardship. Any Owner of a Lot in Restricted Leasing Status may apply in writing to the Board for conversion to Open Leasing Status in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the Board. Upon receipt of such written application, the Lot shall be placed at the end of a waiting list for conversion to Open Leasing Status. At such times as less than twenty-five (25 %) percent of the Lots are in Open Leasing Status, the Board shall notify the Owner of the Lot at the top of the waiting list of its conversion to Open Leasing Status, and such Owner shall have ninety (90) days within which to lease the Lot or it shall automatically revert to Restricted Leasing Status. Any Lot in Open Leasing Status shall automatically be converted to Restricted Leasing Status if the Lot is not subject to an approved lease for ninety (90) or more consecutive days.
- Undue Hardship. Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (b) above, the Board shall be empowered to allow reasonable leasing of a Lot upon application in accordance with this Paragraph to avoid undue hardship, including, but not limited to the following situations: (1) a Lot Owner must relocate his or her residence outside the Atlanta metropolitan area and cannot, within six (6) months from the date that the Lot was placed on the market, sell the Lot except at a price below the current appraised market value, after having made reasonable efforts to do so; (2) where the Owner dies and the Lot is being administered by his or her estate; and (3) the Owner takes a leave of absence or temporarily relocates and intends to return to reside in the Lot, in which case the Lot Owner must reapply every year for renewal of the hardship exception. Those Owners who have complied with this subparagraph, have demonstrated that the inability to lease their Lot would result in undue hardship, and have obtained the requisite written Board approval may lease their Lots for such duration as the Board reasonably determines is necessary to prevent undue hardship.

Any Owner who believes that he or she must lease his or her Lot to avoid undue hardship shall submit a written application to the Board setting forth the circumstances necessitating the leasing, a copy of the proposed lease, and such other information as the Board may reasonably require. Leasing in the case of undue hardship shall be permitted only upon the Board's written approval of the Owner's application. Any transaction which does not comply with this Paragraph shall be voidable at the Board's option.

- (d) <u>Leasing Provisions</u>. Leasing which is authorized hereunder shall be governed by the following provisions:
 - (i) Notice. At least seven (7) days prior to entering into the lease of a Lot, the Owner shall provide the Board with a copy of the proposed lease agreement. The Board shall approve or disapprove the form of said lease. In the event a lease is disapproved, the Board shall notify the Owner of the requisite action to be taken in order to bring the lease in compliance with the Declaration and any rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto.
 - (ii) General. Lots may be leased only in their entirety; no fraction or portion may be leased without prior written Board approval. All leases shall be in writing and in a form approved by the Board prior to the effective date of the lease. The Board may maintain and, upon request, provide a form which is deemed acceptable. There shall be no subleasing of Lots or assignment of leases without prior written Board approval. All leases must be for an initial term of not less than one (1) year, except with written Board approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld in cases of undue hardship. Within ten (10) days after executing a lease agreement for the lease of a Lot, the Owner shall provide the Board with a copy of the lease and the name of the lessee and all other people occupying the Lot. The Owner must provide the lessee copies of the Declaration, Bylaws, and the rules and regulations. Nothing herein shall be construed as giving the Association the right to approve or disapprove a proposed lessee; the Board's approval or disapproval shall be limited to the form of the proposed lease.
 - (iii) <u>Liability for Assessments, Use of Common Elements, and Compliance with Declaration, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations</u>. Each Owner covenants and agrees that any lease of a Lot shall contain the following language and agrees that if such language is not expressly contained therein, then such language shall be incorporated into the lease by existence of this covenant, and the lessee, by occupancy of the Lot, agrees to the applicability of this covenant and incorporation of the following language into the lease:
 - (a) <u>Compliance with Declaration, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations</u>. The lessee shall comply with all provisions of the Declaration, Bylaws, and rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto and shall control the conduct of all other Occupants and guests of the leased Lot in order to ensure such compliance. The Owner shall cause all Occupants of his or her Lot to comply with the Declaration, Bylaws, and the rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, and shall be responsible for all violations by such Occupants, notwithstanding the fact that

such Occupants of the Lot are fully liable and may be sanctioned for any such violation. If the lessee, or a person living with the lessee, violates the Declaration, Bylaws, or a rule or regulation for which a fine is imposed, notice of the violation shall be given to the Owner and the lessee, and such fine may be assessed against the lessee in accordance with the Bylaws. If the fine is not paid by the lessee within the time period set by the Board, the Owner shall pay the fine upon notice from the Association of the lessee's failure to pay the fine. Unpaid fines shall constitute a lien against the Lot.

Any violation of the Declaration, Bylaws, or rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto by the lessee, any Occupant, or any guest of lessee, is deemed to be a default under the terms of the lease and authorizes the Owner to terminate the lease without liability and to evict the lessee in accordance with Georgia law. The Owner hereby delegates and assigns to the Association, acting through the Board, the power and authority of enforcement against the lessee for breaches resulting from the violation of the Declaration, Bylaws, and the rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, including the power and authority to evict the lessee as attorney-in-fact on behalf and for the benefit of the Owner, in accordance with the terms hereof. If the Association proceeds to evict the lessee, any costs, including attorney's fees and court costs, associated with the eviction shall be an assessment and lien against the Lot.

- (b) <u>Use of Common Elements</u>. The Owner transfers and assigns to the lessee, for the term of the lease, any and all rights and privileges that the Owner has to use the Common Elements, but not limited to, the use of any and all recreational facilities and other amenities.
- (c) <u>Liability for Assessments</u>. When a Lot Owner who is leasing his or her Lot fails to pay any annual or special assessment or any other charge for a period of more than thirty (30) days after it is due and payable, then the delinquent Owner hereby consents to the assignment of any rent received from the lessee during the period of delinquency, and, upon request by the Board, lessee shall pay to the Association all unpaid annual and special assessments and other charges payable during and prior to the term of the lease and any other period of occupancy by lessee. However, lessee need not make such payments to the Association in excess of, or prior to the due dates for, monthly rental payments unpaid at the time of the Board's request. All such payments made by lessee shall reduce, by the same amount, lessee's obligation to make monthly rental payments to lessor. If lessee fails to comply with the Board's request to pay assessments or other charges, lessee shall pay to the Association all amounts authorized under the

Declaration as if lessee were an Owner. The above provision shall not be construed to release the Owner from any obligation, including the obligation for assessments, for which he or she would otherwise be responsible.

(d) Applicability of this Sub-Paragraph. This Sub-Paragraph (iii) shall not apply to any leasing transaction entered into by the Declarant, the Association or the holder of any first Mortgage on a Lot who becomes the Owner of a Lot through foreclosure or any other means pursuant to the satisfaction of the indebtedness secured by such Mortgage.

PART THREE: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Article VI Association Membership and Voting Rights

6.1 Membership.

- (a) <u>Qualification</u>. Every Owner shall be a Member of the Association. There shall be only one membership per Lot. If a Lot is owned by more than one Person, all co-Owners shall share the privileges of such membership, subject to reasonable Board regulation. All co-Owners of a Lot shall be jointly obligated to perform the responsibilities of the Owner of the Lot, and any one co-Owner may be held fully responsible for all such obligations. The membership rights of an Owner which is a corporation, partnership, trust, or other entity may be exercised by any officer, director, partner, or trustee, or by the individual designated from time to time by the Owner in a written instrument provided to the Association's Secretary.
- (b) <u>Classes</u>. The Association initially shall have two classes of membership, Class "A" and Class "B", with such rights and privileges as are described in this Declaration and in the Association's Articles and By-Law. Class "A" Members shall be all Owners except the Class "B" Member, if any. The Class "B" Member shall be the Declarant. The Class "B" membership shall terminate 30 days after the earlier of:
- (i) the date upon which 100% of the Permitted Lots have been improved with a dwelling approved for occupancy and have been conveyed to Class "A" Members;
- (ii) seven years after the date on which this Declaration was recorded in the Public Records; or
- (iii) the date upon which the Declarant voluntarily terminates such membership by written notice recorded in the Public Records.

Upon termination of the Class "B" membership, the Declarant shall become a Class "A" Member entitled to Class "A" votes for each Lot which it owns.

6.2 Voting.

- (a) <u>Class "A"</u>. Class "A" Members shall have one equal vote for each Lot in which they hold the interest required for membership under Section 6.1; however, there shall be only one vote per Lot. In any situation where there is more than one Owner of a Lot, the vote for such Lot shall be exercised as the co-Owners determine among themselves and advise the Association's Secretary in writing prior to the vote being taken. Absent such advice, the Lot's vote shall be suspended if more than one Person seeks to exercise it.
- (b) <u>Class "B"</u>. The Class "B" Member shall not have any specific number of votes, rather, the consent or approval of the Class "B" Member is required for certain actions as specified in the relevant sections of the Governing Documents. The Class "B" Member is also entitled to appoint members of the Board of Directors during the Developer Control Period, as specified in Sections 1 and 2 of Article 3 of the By-Laws. Additional rights of the Class "B" Member are specified in the relevant sections of the Governing Documents.
- (c) <u>Manner of Voting</u>. On any matter as to which the Governing Documents or Georgia law require a vote or approval of the membership, such vote or approval may be obtained by affirmative vote at a meeting or by written consent, or by any combination thereof, unless the Governing Documents or Georgia law expressly require that the vote on such matter be taken at a meeting of the membership.

Article VII Association Powers and Responsibilities

7.1 Function of the Association.

The Association has been established for the purpose of administering the Community in accordance with the Governing Documents. Its responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- (a) management, maintenance, operation, and control of the Area of Common Responsibility;
- (b) enforcing the Governing Documents, including such reasonable rules regulating use, conduct, activities, and aesthetic matters within the Community as may be set forth in or adopted pursuant to this Declaration; and

(c) administering and enforcing the architectural standards set forth in Article IV and in the Architectural Guidelines, upon delegation or termination of the Declarant's authority under Article IV.

7.2 Implied Rights; Board Authority.

The Association shall have the powers and authority granted by, and shall perform its functions in accordance with, the Governing Documents and the laws of the State of Georgia. The Association shall also have any right, power, or privilege which may reasonable be implied from, or which is reasonably necessary to exercise any right, power, or privilege expressly granted by the Governing Documents or by law. Except as the Governing Documents or Georgia law may otherwise specifically provide, all rights and powers of the Association may be exercised by the Board without a vote of the membership.

7.3 Area of Common Responsibility.

The Association shall operate the Common Area and maintain the Area of Common Responsibility in good repair and in a neat, clean, and attractive condition consistent with the Community Wide Standard. By way of good example and not limitation, the Association's responsibility shall include:

- (a) maintaining and operating the Common Area and the facilities, improvements, easement areas and landscaping thereon, including, without limitation, entry features, entry signage, any detention pond, water treatment facility and any street lights or other lighting located on Common Area; and
- (b) maintaining those portions of Lots for which the Association is assigned or assumes responsibility pursuant to this Declaration, if any, as set forth on Exhibit "F" attached hereto and incorporated into this Declaration by reference; and
- (c) lawn care and maintenance, including mowing, trimming of shrubbery and trees, and maintenance of flowerbeds, whether or not located in or upon the Common Area or Lots; and
- (d) with respect to any street lights or other lighting located on Common Area, payment of all fees and costs in connection with the purchase and installation of said lighting on Common Area in the Community, which fees and costs may be allocated among Lot Owners as a Special Assessment or as part of the General Assessment at the sole discretion of the Board.

The Association may maintain other property that it does not own, including, without limitation, easement areas, water treatment or storm drainage or detention facilities and other property dedicated to the public, if the Board of Directors determines that such maintenance is necessary or desirable to maintain the Community-Wide Standard.

Except as the Governing Documents may otherwise specifically provide, all costs associated with operation of Common Area and maintenance, repair, or replacement of the Area of Common Responsibility shall be a Common Expense to be allocated among all Lots as part of the General Assessment. The Board may, however, allocate the expense of any maintenance, repair, or replacement that benefits one or more, but less than all Lots, as a Specific Assessment pursuant to Section 8.2(c), according to the benefit received by such Lots, as the Board may reasonably determine.

The Association shall not be liable for any damage or injury occurring on, or arising out of the condition of, property that it does not own except to the extent that it has been negligent in the performance of its maintenance responsibilities.

7.4 Association Insurance.

- (a) <u>Required Coverage</u>. The Association shall obtain and maintain at all times as a Common Expense, the following insurance coverage:
- (i) property insurance on the Common Area insuring against all risks of direct physical loss commonly insured against. The total amount of such insurance, after application of any deductibles, shall not be less than 80% of the actual cash value of the insured property (exclusive of land, excavations, foundations, and other items normally excluded from "all risk" property insurance policies); however, the Board shall be authorized to obtain coverage for 100% of the replacement cost of such insurable improvements;
- (ii) comprehensive general liability insurance, including medical payments insurance, in an amount determined by the Board in the exercise of its business judgment, but with a combined single limit of not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00), to the extent reasonably available, covering all occurrences commonly insured against for death, bodily injury, and property damage arising out of or in connection with the use, ownership, or maintenance of the Area of Common Responsibility.
- (iii) officers' and directors' liability insurance in such amounts as the Board, in its business judgment, may determine necessary, but not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per occurrence, (if reasonably available);

- (iv) fidelity bonds covering officers, directors, employees, and other persons who handle or are responsible for handling Association funds, if the Board determines such bonds necessary or advisable;
- (v) flood insurance, if the Board of Directors determines it necessary or advisable;
- (vi) worker's compensation insurance, if and to the extent necessary to meet the requirements of law; and
 - (vii) such other insurance as the Board determines to be necessary or advisable.

The Board shall conduct an insurance review to determine the adequacy of insurance coverage at least once every two years. Each Owner shall have the right to obtain additional coverage at his or her own expense, for improvements made by such Owner. All policies may contain reasonable deductibles. Each Lot Owner shall notify the Board of any structural improvements made by the Owner to the dwelling or any other structure located upon his or her Lot.

(b) Policy Requirements. All insurance coverage obtained by the Association shall be written in the name of the Association as trustee for the Owners and the Mortgagees of the Lots, as their interests may appear. Each Owner shall be an insured person under the liability insurance policy with respect to liability arising out of his or her membership in the Association. In addition, the policies providing the coverage required under clauses (i) and (ii) of subsection (a) above shall provide that the insurer waives its rights of subrogation against any Owner or members of an Owner's household; that any "other insurance" clause contained in the policy expressly excludes and Owner's policies from its operation; and that no act or omission by any Owner, unless acting within the scope of his or her authority on behalf of the Association, will void the policy or be a condition to recovery under the policy.

In addition to the above, the Board shall use reasonable efforts to secure policies providing:

- (i) that the policy cannot be canceled, invalidated, or suspended on account of the conduct of any director, officer, or employee of the Association, or the managing agent, nor may the conduct of any of the above be made a condition to recovery under the policy;
- (ii) that the policy may not be jeopardized, cancelled, or substantially modified without at least 30 days' prior notice in writing to the Board, all owners, and each Mortgagee to whom certificates of insurance have been issued; and

(iii) an agreed value endorsement and an inflation guard endorsement.

All policies of insurance shall be written with companies licensed to do business in the State of Georgia. Such companies shall issue certificates or memoranda of insurance to the Association, and, if requested in writing, to any Owner or Mortgagee so requesting.

- (c) <u>Insurance Deductibles</u>. In the event of an insured loss giving rise to a claim under property insurance carried by the Association, the amount of the deductible shall be considered a maintenance expense to be paid by the Person or Persons (including the Association) who would otherwise be responsible for such repair in the absence of insurance, except that if the loss under a policy maintained by the Association affects more than one Lot or a Lot and the Common Area, the cost of the deductible shall be a Common Expense.
- (d) <u>Association's Insurance Coverage Primary</u>. To the extent that the Association is required to maintain insurance under this Section 7.4, the Association's insurance shall be primary and shall not be brought into contribution with individual policies of insurance purchased by Owners or their Mortgagees.
- (e) <u>Limitations</u>. Nothing in this Section 7.4 gives any Owner or other party a priority over any rights of first Mortgagees as to distribution of insurance proceeds.
- (f) Repair and Reconstruction After Casualty Loss. In the event of damage to or destruction of all or part of the Community insured under policies maintained by the Association, as a result of fire or other casualty, unless (i) this Declaration is terminated, (ii) reconstruction or repair is prohibited by law or by local health or safety statute, or (iii) Owners holding at least 75% of the total Association, including the Owner(s) of the damaged Lot(s), if applicable, vote not to proceed with the reconstruction and repair of the structure, the Board or its duly authorized agent shall arrange for and supervise the prompt repair and restoration of the structure in accordance with the original plats of survey and plans and specification. In the event of substantial damage or destruction, each Mortgagee shall be entitled to written notice of the damage, and nothing in the Governing Documents shall be construed to afford a priority to any Owner with respect to the distribution of proceeds to any such Lot.

The procedure for repair and reconstruction shall be:

(i) Immediately after a fire or other casualty causing damage to any portion of the Area of Common Responsibility, the Board shall obtain reliable and detailed estimates of the cost of repairing and restoring the structure to a condition as good as that which existed before such casualty. Such costs may also include professional fees and premiums for such bonds as the Board determines to be necessary.

- (ii) If the proceeds of insurance are not sufficient to defray the estimated costs of reconstruction and repair, as determined by the Board, or if at any time during the reconstruction and repair or upon completion of reconstruction and repair, the funds for the payment of the costs thereof are insufficient, Special Assessments shall be made against all of the Lots without necessity of approval of the membership. If after repair and reconstruction is completed, there is a surplus of funds, such funds shall be common funds of the Association to be used as directed by the Board.
- (iii) Any such reconstruction or repair shall be substantially in accordance with the plats of survey and/or plans and specifications under which the damaged structure were originally constructed.
- (iv) Encroachments upon or in favor of Lots which may be created as a result of such reconstruction or repair shall not constitute a basis for any claim, proceedings, or action by the Owner upon whose property such encroachment exists, provided that such reconstruction was substantially in accordance with the plats of survey, plans, and specifications under which the improvements were originally constructed. Such encroachments shall be allowed to continue in existence for so long as the reconstructed building shall stand.
- (v) The net proceeds of the insurance collected because of a casualty and the funds collected by the Association from Assessments against Owners because of such casualty shall constitute a construction fund which shall be disbursed in payment of the cost of reconstruction and repair in the manner set forth in this subparagraph.
- (vi) The construction funds shall be paid by the Association in appropriate progress payments to such contractors, suppliers, and personnel performing the work or supplying materials or services for the repair and reconstruction of the buildings as the Board may designate.

7.5 Safety and Security.

Each Owner and occupant of a Lot, and their respective guests and invitees, shall be responsible for their own personal safety and the security of their personal and real property. The Association may, but shall not be obligated to, maintain or support certain activities within the Community designed to enhance the level of safety or security within the Community. However, neither the Association nor the Declarant shall in any way be considered insurers or guarantors of safety or security within the Community, nor shall either be held liable for any loss

or damage by reason of failure to provide adequate security or ineffectiveness of security measures undertaken.

Each Owner acknowledges, understands, and agrees to inform any and all tenants and occupants of its dwelling and Lot that the Association, its Board of Directors and committees, Declarant, and any successor or assign of each are not insurers or guarantors of security or safety and that each Person within the Community assumes all risks of personal injury and loss or damage to property, including Lots, structures and dwellings located thereon and the contents thereof, resulting from acts of third parties.

7.6 Provision of Services.

The Association may arrange for or provide services to the Owners and their Lots and shall be authorized to enter into contracts or other agreements with third parties, including Declarant, to provide such services. By way of example, such services may include trash collection, pest control, cable television service, security monitoring, and other similar services, although the Association shall have no obligation to provide any such services. The Board may modify or cancel any services provided to the Owners and their Lots at any time in its discretion.

The costs of any such services provided to all Lots pursuant to any bulk agreement with the Association shall be a Common Expense. The Association may charge use and consumption fees for selected services of the type set out above, whether or not such bulk agreement exists. No Owners shall be exempt from the obligation to pay for any such services undertaken as a Common Expense based upon non-use or any other reason.

Article VIII Association Finances

8.1 Budgeting for Common Expenses.

At least sixty (60) days before the beginning of each fiscal year, the Board shall prepare an operating budget reflecting the estimated Common Expenses which the Association expects to incur during the coming year. The budget shall separately list (i) those Common Expense which benefit and are to be allocated among all Lots, and (ii) those Common Expenses, if any, which benefit and are to be allocated among less than all Lots.

The budget may include a contribution to one or more reserve funds, and shall include an annual contribution to a reserve fund for repair and replacement of any assets for which the Association is responsible which have an expected useful life of three years or more. The amount of such contribution shall be based upon the Board's reasonable estimate of the annual

contribution needed over the remaining estimated useful life of each asset to provide sufficient funds for repair or replacement of such asset as required.

The Board shall send a copy of the budget to each Owner at least forty-five (45) days prior to the effective date of such budget. The budget shall automatically take effect on the date specified by the Board unless Members entitled to cast at least 75% of the total Class "A" votes in the Association veto such budget at a meeting of the Members. The Board shall have no duty to call a meeting of the Members except on receipt, within ten (10) days after the budget is sent to each Owner, of a petition signed by the Members as required for a special meeting pursuant to the By-Laws.

The Board may revise the budget from time to time during the fiscal year to reflect unanticipated expenses or changes in anticipated expenses, as the Board deems appropriate. The Board shall provide a copy of any revised budget to the Members and the Members shall have the right to veto any change from the budget previously in effect, in the same manner as described above.

If a budget is not adopted for any year, then until such time as a budget is adopted, the budget in effect for the immediately preceding year shall continue for the current year.

8.2 Funding Common Expenses.

The Association is authorized to levy three types of Assessments to cover the Common Expenses of the Association, as follows:

(a) General Assessments. Common Expenses as reflected in the annual operating budget which directly or indirectly benefit all of the Lots shall be allocated equally among all of the Lots which are subject to Assessment under Section 8.3 as a General Assessment. The Board shall determine the amount of the General Assessment for each fiscal year at the time the budget is prepared, subject to adjustment in the event that the budget is revised during the year. Notice of the amount of the General Assessment, as it may be adjusted, shall be sent to each Owner with a copy of the budget.

The General Assessment shall be an annual Assessment due and payable in advance on the first day of each fiscal year; however, the Board may permit any General Assessment to be paid in monthly, quarterly, or semi-annual installments, in its discretion.

(b) <u>Special Assessments</u>. Any Common Expenses of a non-routine nature, or which were not anticipated in the Association's annual operating budget, or which exceed budgeted amounts, may be assessed as a Special Assessment. Special Assessments shall be allocated

equally among all Lots subject to Assessment. Special Assessments shall be payable in such manner and at such times as the Board may determine, and may be payable in installments over a period of more than one year.

Notice of any Special Assessment shall be sent to each Owner at least forty-five (45) days prior to the due date of such Special Assessment (or the first installment thereof). Any Special Assessment may be vetoed by the Members in the same manner and by the same vote as the annual operating budget pursuant to Section 8.1.

- (c) <u>Specific Assessments</u>. The Association may assess the following expenses as a Specific Assessment against a particular Lot or Lots:
- (i) those costs, including overhead and administrative costs, of providing benefits, items, or services to a Lot or the occupants thereof upon request of the Owner, which Assessments may be made in advance of the provision of the requested benefit, item, or service as a deposit against costs to be incurred on behalf of the Owner; and
- (ii) those costs incurred in bringing the Lot into compliance with the Governing Documents or as a consequence of the conduct of the Owner or occupants of the Lot, their agents, contractors, employees, licensees, or guests (subject to the notice and hearing requirements set forth in Section 18.3).

8.3 Payment of Assessments.

- (a) The obligation to pay Assessments for a Lot shall commence on the first day of the month following (i) the Declarant's conveyance of such Lot to a Person other than Declarant or a Declarant-approved builder; and (ii) the issuance of a certificate of occupancy for a residential dwelling on such Lot; however, no Assessments shall be due prior to the month in which the Board first determines a budget and gives notice of the Assessment due pursuant to this Article. The first General Assessment levied on each Lot shall be adjusted according to the number of months remaining in the fiscal year at the time (i) and (ii) above are satisfied.
- (b) Assessments shall be paid in such manner and on such dates as the Board may establish. The Board may require advance payment of Assessments at closing of the transfer of title to a Lot and may impose special requirements for Owners with a history of delinquent payment. If the Board so elects, Assessments may be paid in two or more installments. Unless the Board otherwise provides, the General Assessment shall be due and payable in advance on the first day of each fiscal year. If any Assessment or other charges against a Lot become delinquent, the Board may, upon at least ten (10) days' written notice, require any unpaid installments of all outstanding Assessment on such Lot to be paid in full immediately.

- (c) Upon written request, the Association shall furnish to any Owner liable for any type of Assessment a certificate in writing signed by an Association officer setting forth whether such Assessment has been paid. Such certificate shall be conclusive evidence of payment. The Association may require the advance payment of a reasonable processing fee for the issuance of such certificate.
- (d) Failure of the Board to fix Assessment amounts or rates or to deliver or mail an Assessment notice to each Owner shall not waive the Association's right to collect such Assessments retroactively or release any Owner from the obligations to pay any Assessment when levied. Each Owner shall continue to pay General Assessments on the same basis as during the last year for which an Assessment was levied, if any, until a new Assessment is levied, at which time the Association may retroactively assess any shortfalls.

8.4 <u>Declarant's Option to Subsidize.</u>

During the Developer Control Period, Declarant may, but shall not be obligated to, reduce the General Assessment for any fiscal year by payment of a subsidy. Any such subsidy shall be disclosed as line item in the income portion of the budget. The payment of such subsidy in any year shall under no circumstances obligate the Declarant to continue payment of such subsidy in future years, unless otherwise provided in a written agreement between the Association and the Declarant.

8.5 Personal Obligations and Lien for Assessments; Delinquencies.

(a) Personal Obligation. Except as otherwise provided in this Section, each Owner, by accepting a deed or entering into a recorded contract of sale for any Lot, agrees to pay the Assessments authorized in this Declaration. No Owner may exempt himself or herself from liability for Assessments by non-use of the Common Area, abandonment of his or her Lot, or any other means. The obligation to pay Assessments is a separate and independent covenant on the part of each Owner. No reduction or abatement of Assessments or set-off shall be claimed or allowed for any alleged failure of the Association or the Board to take some action or perform some function required of it, for inconvenience arising from the making of repairs or improvements, or otherwise as a result of any action or inaction by the Association.

All Assessments, together with:

(i) interest computed from the due date of each Assessment at a rate of 12% per annum (or the maximum rate permitted by Georgia law if less than 12% per annum);

- (ii) late charges in such amount as the Board may establish by resolution (subject to the limitations of Georgia law); and
- (iii) costs of collection (including attorneys' fees, regardless of whether suit is filed); shall be the personal obligation of the Person who is the Owner of the Lot at the time the Assessment is due. Upon a transfer of title to a Lot, the new Owner shall be jointly and severally liable with the former Owner for any Assessments and other charges due at the time of conveyance (i.e., both are responsible and either may be required to pay the full amount due to the Association), unless the new Owner took title following foreclosure of a Mortgage which has priority over the Association's lien under subsection (b) below.
- (b) <u>Lien for Assessments</u>. The Association shall have a lien against each Lot to secure payment of all delinquent Assessments, as well as interest, late charges (subject to the limitations of Georgia law), costs of collection (including attorneys' fees), and any other charges authorized in Section 8.5(a). Such lien shall be perpetual upon the recordation of this Declaration in the Public Records. Such lien shall be superior to all other liens, except, (i) the liens of all taxes, bonds, Assessments, and other levies which by law would be superior; and (ii) the lien or charge of any first Mortgage recorded in the Public Records which was made in good faith and for value. Such lien, when delinquent, may be enforced by suit, judgment, and judicial on nonjudicial foreclosure.

The Association may bid for the Lot at the foreclosure sale and thereafter hold, lease, mortgage, and convey the Lot. While a Lot is owned by the Association following foreclosure; (i) no right to vote shall be exercised on its behalf; (ii) no Assessment shall be levied on it; and (iii) each other Lot shall be charged, in addition to its usual Assessment, its pro rata share of the Assessment that would have been charged such Lot had it not been acquired by the Association.

The Association may sue for unpaid Assessments and other charges authorized hereunder without foreclosing or waiving its lien.

The sale or transfer of any Lot shall not affect the Association's lien or relieve such Lot from the lien securing any subsequent Assessments. However, the sale or transfer of any Lot pursuant to the foreclosure of a first Mortgage shall extinguish the lien as to any installments of such Assessments due prior to the Mortgagee's foreclosure. Uncollected Assessments shall be deemed Common Expenses collectible from Owners of all Lots subject to Assessment under Section 8.3, including such acquirer, its successors and assigns. The subsequent owner of the foreclosed Lot who obtains title to a Lot pursuant to the foreclosure of a first Mortgage shall not be personally liable for Assessments due prior to such acquisition of title. Such unpaid Assessments shall be deemed to be Common Expenses which the Association may thereafter allocate among all Owners as part of the General Assessment under Section 8.2(a).

Each Owner, by accepting a deed to any Lot, consents to these procedures and authorizes the Board to undertake such measures for the general benefit of the Association.

8.6 Exempt Property.

The following property shall be exempt from payment of General Assessments and Special Assessments:

- (a) all Common Area; and
- (b) any property dedicated to and accepted by any governmental authority or public utility; and
 - (c) any property which does not have a completed dwelling constructed thereon.

PART FOUR: COMMON AREA

Article IX Acceptance, Management, and Control of Common Area.

9.1 Control of Common Area.

The Association, acting through its Board, may acquire, hold, and dispose of real property (*i.e.*, land and improvements to the land and interests in land) and personal property (for example, furnishings, equipment, and other items which are not attached to land), subject to the limitations set forth in this Declaration. Any such property shall be Common Area during such period as it is held by the Association and shall cease to be Common Area upon transfer or conveyance of the Association's interest in the property. The Association, subject to the rights of the Owners set forth in this Declaration, shall be responsible for management, operation, and control of the Common Area.

9.2 Acceptance of Common Area Conveyed by Declarant.

The Declarant and its designees may convey to the Association real and personal property, including easements, leaseholds, and other interests in property. Such property shall be accepted by the Association "as is" and thereafter shall be maintained by the Association at its expense for the benefit of its Members, subject to any restrictions set forth in the deed or other instrument transferring such property to the Association.

9.3 Reconveyance of Common Area to Declarant.

Upon request of the Declarant, the Association shall reconvey to the Declarant any unimproved property or interest therein which the Declarant originally conveyed at no cost to the Association, to the extent conveyed by the Declarant in error or needed by the Declarant to make minor adjustments in property lines or to accommodate public or quasi-public facilities. The Declarant shall not be required to pay for such property, but shall pay the costs of preparing and recording the deed to cause such reconveyance.

Article X Rights to Use Common Area

10.1 Easement in Common Area.

Every Owner shall have a right and nonexclusive easement of use, access, and enjoyment in and to the Common Area, whereby such easement shall run with the land and create equitable servitudes in favor of the real property benefited thereby, subject to:

- (a) the Governing Documents, any other applicable covenants, and any other instrument affecting title to the property;
- (b) any restrictions or limitations contained in any deed or other document conveying an interest in such property to the Association;
- (c) the right of the Board and the membership to adopt, amend, and repeal rules regulating the use and enjoyment of the Common Area;
- (d) the right of the Association, acting through the Board, to dedicate, transfer, or grant easements over all or any part of the Common Area, subject to such approval requirements as may be set forth elsewhere in this Declaration, except that any transfer or encumbrance of Common Area shall be subject to an easement over such Common Area for access to all Lots served thereby; and
- (e) the right of the Association, acting through the Board, to mortgage, pledge, or hypothecate any or all of its real or personal property as security for money borrowed or debts incurred.

Except as expressly provided herein, in no event shall the easement rights conferred upon the Owners pursuant to this Section 10.1 be at any time transferred or assigned by any such Owners other than through a transfer of their respective interests in their respective Lots.

10.2 Assignment of Rights to Use Common Area.

Any Owner may extend his or her rights of use and enjoyment of the Common Areas to the members of his or her family, occupants of the Owner's dwelling under any lease authorized pursuant to this Declaration, and guests, subject to reasonable regulation by the Board. The Owner of a dwelling which is rented under a lease authorized pursuant to this Declaration shall be deemed to have assigned to the tenant all of such Owner's rights to use facilities on the Common Aare for the term of such lease.

Article XI Changes in Common Area

11.1 Common Area to Remain Undivided.

Except as permitted in this Declaration, ownership of the Common Area shall remain undivided. No Person shall seek to have a court partition or divide the ownership interest of all or any portion of the Common Area unless the portion of the Common Aare which is the subject of such action has been removed from the provisions of this Declaration or unless all Owners and Mortgagees have consented in writing. This Section shall not apply to any property which was formerly Common Area once the Association no longer holds any legal interest in such property. Moreover, this Section shall not prohibit the Board from acquiring and disposing of tangible personal property nor from acquiring and disposing of real property which may or may not be subject to this Declaration.

11.2 Conveyance or Dedication of Common Area.

- (a) The Association, acting through the Board without a vote of the membership, may grant licenses and leases of portions of the Common Area, and may grant easements over the Common Area for installation and maintenance of utilities or drainage facilities or for other purposes, to the extent not inconsistent with the intended use of the Common Area.
- (b) Except as provided in Sections 9.3 and 11.2(a), the Association shall not mortgage or convey any real property comprising all or any portion of the Common Area without the approval of Owners representing at least 67% of the total Class "A" votes in the Association and the written consent of the Class "B" Member, is such exists.
- (c) The Association may dedicate portions of the Common Area to the City of Atlanta, Cobb County, Georgia, or to any other local, state, or federal government or quasi-governmental entity, subject to such approval as may be required by the provisions of this Declaration.

11.3 Condemnation.

If any part of the Common Area shall be taken (or conveyed in lieu of and under threat of condemnation by the Board acting on the written direction of Members representing at least 67% of the total Class "A" votes in the Association and of Declarant, as long as Declarant owns any property subject to the Declaration or which may be made subject to the Declaration in accordance with Section 12.1) by any authority having the power of condemnation or eminent domain, each Owner shall be entitled to written notice of such taking or conveyance prior to disbursement of any condemnation award or proceeds from such conveyance. Such award or proceeds shall be payable to the Association to be disbursed as follows:

If the taking or conveyance involves a portion of the Common Area on which improvements have been constructed, the Association shall restore or replace such improvements on the remaining land included in the Common Area to the extent available, unless within sixty (60) days after such taking, Declarant, so long as Declarant owns any property subject to the Declaration or which may be made subject to the Declaration in accordance with Section 12.1, and Members representing at least 75% of the total Class "A" vote of the Association shall otherwise agree. Any such construction shall be in accordance with plans approved by the Board. The provisions of Section 7.4 regarding funds for restoring improvements shall apply.

If the taking or conveyance does not involve any improvements on the Common Area or if a decision is made not to repair or restore, or if net funds remain after any such restoration or replacement is complete, then such award or net funds shall be disbursed to the Association and used for such purposes as the Board shall determine.

11.4 Improvements to Common Area.

During the Developer Control Period, the Association shall not incur any Common Expenses for development or construction of capital improvements to the Common Area unless approved by Persons entitled to cast a majority of the total Class "A" votes in the Association.

PART FIVE: DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITY

Article XII Expansion of the Community

12.1 Expansion by Declarant.

Declarant reserves the right to expand the Community to include all or any portion of the real property described in Exhibit "C". Such right shall expire seven years after the date on which this Declaration is recorded in the Public Records. Declarant may assign this right to any Person who is the developer of at least a portion of the real property described in Exhibit "A" or

"C". Any such assignment shall be in writing, signed by the Declarant, and recorded in the Public Records.

Expansion of the Community shall be accomplished by filing a Supplemental Declaration in the Public Records describing the property being added to the Community. Such Supplemental Declaration shall not require the approval of Members, but shall require the consent of the owner of such property, if other than Declarant.

Nothing in this Declaration shall be construed to require Declarant or any successor to expand the Community or develop any of the property described in Exhibit "C" in any manner whatsoever.

12.2 Expansion by the Association.

The Association may expand the Community to include additional real property with the consent of the owner of such property, the approval of Owners entitled to cast a majority of the Class "A" votes represented at a meeting called for such purpose, and the consent of Declarant so long as Declarant has any rights under Section 12.1.

Such expansion shall be accomplished by filing in the Public Records a Supplemental Declaration describing the property being added to the Community. Any such Supplemental Declaration shall be signed by the President and the Secretary of the Association, by the owner of such property, and by Declarant, if Declarant's consent is required.

12.3 Additional Covenants and Easements.

Declarant may impose additional covenants, restrictions, and easements on any property in the Community by filing a Supplemental Declaration in the Public Records setting forth such additional covenants, restrictions, and easements. Any such Supplemental Declaration shall require the written consent of the owner(s) of the property upon which the additional provisions are being imposed, if other than Declarant. Any Supplemental Declaration may supplement, create exceptions to, or otherwise modify the terms of this Declaration as it applies to the subject property in order to reflect the different character and intended use of such property.

Article XIII Additional Rights Reserved to Declarant

13.1 Withdrawal of Property.

Declarant reserves the right to amend this Declaration, so long as it has a right to expand the Community pursuant to Section 12.1, for the purpose of removing any portion of the property

in the Community which is not then improved with dwellings from the coverage of this Declaration. Such an amendment shall not require the consent of any Person other than the Owner of the property to be removed.

13.2 Marketing and Sales Activities.

Declarant and builders authorized by Declarant may construct and maintain upon portions of the Common Area such facilities and activities as, in the sole opinion of Declarant, may be reasonably required, convenient, or incidental to the construction or sale of dwellings or Lots, including, but not limited to, business offices, signs, model homes, and sales offices. Declarant and authorized builders shall have easements for access to and use of such facilities.

13.3 Right to Develop.

Declarant and its employees, agents, and designees shall have a right and easement over and upon all of the Common Area for the purpose of making, constructing, and installing such improvements to the Common Area as it deems appropriate in its sole discretion.

For so long as Declarant owns any portion of the Community, Declarant may designate sites which it owns within the Community for public or quasi-public facilities and neither the Association nor any Owner shall have a right to object to such designation.

13.4 Right to Approve Changes in Community Standards.

No amendment to or modification of the Restrictions and Rules or the Architectural Guidelines made after termination of the Developer Control Period shall be effective without prior notice to and the written approval of Declarant so long as Declarant owns property subject to this Declaration or which may become subject to this Declaration in accordance with Section 12.1.

13.5 Right to Transfer or Assign Declarant Rights.

Any or all of the special rights and obligations of Declarant set forth in this Declaration or the By-Laws may be transferred or assigned in whole or in part to other Persons, provided that the transfer shall not reduce an obligation nor enlarge a right beyond that which Declarant has under this Declaration or the By-Laws. No such transfer or assignment shall be effective unless it is contained in a written instrument signed by Declarant and duly recorded in the Public Records.

The Declarant may permit other Persons to exercise, on a one-time or limited basis, any right reserved to Declarant in this Declaration where Declarant does not intend to transfer such right permanently or in its entirety, and in such case shall not be necessary to record any written assignment except as may be required to evidence Declarant's consent to such exercise.

13.6 Exclusive Rights To Use Name of Development.

No Person shall use the name "LAUREL GATE TOWNHOMES" or any derivative of such name or in logo or depiction in any printed or promotional material without Declarant's prior written consent. However, Owners may use the name "LAUREL GATE TOWNHOMES" in printed or promotional matter where such term is used solely to specify that particular property is located within the Community known as LAUREL GATE TOWNHOMES and the Association shall be entitled to use the words "LAUREL GATE TOWNHOMES" in its name.

13.7 Right to Notice of Design or Construction Claims.

No Person shall retain an expert for the purpose of inspecting the design or construction of any structures or improvements within the Community in connection with or in anticipation of any potential or pending claim, demand, or litigation involving such design or construction unless Declarant and any builder involved in the design or construction have been first notified in writing and given an opportunity to meet with the owner of the property to discuss the owner's concerns and conduct their own inspection.

13.8 Termination of Rights.

The rights reserved to Declarant under this Article shall terminate upon the earlier of (a) 15 years from the date this Declaration is filed in the Public Records, or (b) upon recording by Declarant of a written consent that all sales activity has ceased.

Article XIV Easements

Association and on the Association in favor of each Lot, an easement for ingress and egress over and across any access drive leading through the property to the individual driveways contained on each Lot. The easements set forth in the preceding sentence shall run with the land and create equitable servitudes in favor of the real property benefited thereby, shall bind every person having any fee, leasehold or other interest therein and shall inure to the benefit of the respective parties and their successors, assigns, heirs, and personal representatives. Any Owner may extend his or her rights in the access easements provided in this Section 14.1 to the members of his or her family, occupants of the Owner's dwelling under any lease authorized pursuant to this

Declaration, and guests, subject to reasonable regulation by the Board. Except as expressly provided in the preceding sentence, in no event shall the rights conferred upon the Owners pursuant to this Section 14.1 be at any time transferred or assigned by any such Owners other than through a transfer of their respective interests in their respective Lots.

14.2 <u>Easements on Property</u>. By acceptance of a deed to a Lot, each Owner acknowledges the existence of all of the easements and matters set forth on the recorded plat for the community, including but not limited to all sewer and water easement areas (including specifically the easements recorded in Deed Book 4934, Page 519 and Deed Book 11421, Page 59, Cobb County, Georgia land records), landscape buffers, detention ponds, stream buffers, utility vaults, fences and walls.

14.3 Easements for Maintenance of Adjoining Lots.

There shall be and is hereby imposed on each Lot an easement for reasonable ingress and egress by or on behalf of the Owner of any adjoining Lot for the purposes of repair, maintenance, or replacement of improvements on such adjoining Owner's Lot. Such easement shall be exercised only during reasonable hours and after reasonable notice to the Owner or occupants of the Lot upon which entry is to be made.

14.4 Cross-Drainage Easements.

Each Lot shall be burdened with a perpetual, non-exclusive easement over that portion of the Lot which is not improved with structures, for the purpose of drainage of storm water runoff from any portion of the Community; however, no Person shall alter the natural drainage of storm water from any Lot once construction of initial improvements has been completed so as to unreasonably increase the drainage of storm water onto adjacent portions of the Community without the consent of the Owner(s) of the affected property, the Board, and the Declarant as long as it owns any property subject to the Declaration.

14.5 Easements for Utilities, Etc.

- (a) <u>Installation and Maintenance</u>. The Declarant reserves for itself, so long as the Declarant owns any property described in Exhibits "A" or "C" of this Declaration, and for the Association, suppliers of utilities to the Community, and such other Persons as the Declarant or the Association may designate, perpetual non-exclusive easements throughout the Community to the extent reasonably necessary for the purposes of:
- (i) installing, on property which Declarant owns or within easements reserved for such purpose on recorded plats, utilities and infrastructure to serve the Community, such

utilities and infrastructure shall include, without implied limitations, cable and other systems for sending and receiving data and/or other electronic signals, security and similar systems, walkways, irrigation systems, drainage systems, street lights, and signage.

- (ii) inspecting, maintaining, repairing, and replacing the utilities, infrastructure, and other improvements described in Section 14.5(a)(i); and
 - (iii) access to read, maintain, repair, and replace utility meters.
- (b) Specific Easements. The Declarant also reserves for itself the non-exclusive right and power to grant and record in the Public Records such specific easements as may be necessary, in the sole discretion of the Declarant, in connection with the orderly development of any property described in Exhibits "A" and "C". The Owner of any property to be burdened by any easement granted pursuant to this subsection (b) shall be given written notice in advance of the grant. The location of the easement shall be subject to the written approval of the Owner of the burdened property, which approval shall not unreasonably be withheld, delayed, or conditioned.
- (c) <u>Minimal Interference</u>. All work associated with the exercise of the easements described in subsections (a) and (b) of this Section shall be performed in such a manner as to minimize interference with the use and enjoyment of the property burdened by the easement. Upon completion of the work, the Person exercising the easement shall restore the property, to the extent reasonably possible, to its condition prior to the commencement of the work.

Any damage to a Lot resulting from the exercise of the easements described in subsections (a) and (b) of this Section shall promptly be repaired by, and at the expense of, the Person exercising the easement. The exercise of these easements shall not extend to permitting entry into the structures on any Lot, nor shall it unreasonably interfere with the use of any Lot and, except in an emergency, entry onto any Lot shall be made only after reasonable notice to the Owner or occupant.

- (d) <u>Limitation to Serve Additional Property</u>. Declarant reserves the right (i) to release all or any portion of the Community from the burden, effect, and encumbrance of any of the easements granted or reserved under this Section 14.5, or (ii) to define the limits of any such easements; provided that Declarant shall relocate, at its own expense, any utility lines or facilities located on or under that portion of the Community being released.
 - 14.6 Easements to Serve Additional Property.

Declarant hereby reserves for itself and its duly authorized agents, representatives, employees, successors, assigns, licensees, and mortgagees, an easement over the Common Area for the purposes of enjoyment, use, access, and development of any property described in Exhibit "C" or any property adjacent to the property described in Exhibit "C", regardless of whether such property is made subject to this Declaration. This easement includes, but is not limited to, a right of ingress and egress over the Common Area for connecting and installing utilities on such property. Declarant agrees that it or the Person exercising such easement shall be responsible for any damage caused to the Common Area as a result of the exercise of such easement.

14.7 Easements for Maintenance, Emergency, and Enforcement.

The Declarant grants to the Association easements over the Community as necessary to enable the Association to fulfill its maintenance responsibilities under Section 7.3. The Association shall also have the right, but not the obligation, to enter upon any Lot (but not to the interior of a dwelling located on such Lot) for emergency, security, and safety reasons and to inspect for the purpose of ensuring compliance with and enforce the Governing Documents. Such right may be exercised by any member of the Board and its duly authorized agents and assignees, and all emergency personnel in the performance of their duties. Except in an emergency situation, entry shall only be during reasonable hours and after notice to the Owner.

14.8 Easement to Inspect and Right to Correct.

Declarant reserves for itself and others it may designate the right to inspect, monitor, test, redesign, and correct any structure, improvement, or condition which may exist on any portion of the property within the Community, and a perpetual nonexclusive easement of access throughout the Community to the extent reasonably necessary to exercise such right. Except in an emergency, entry onto a Lot shall be only after reasonable notice to the Owner and no entry into a dwelling shall be permitted without the consent of the Owner. The person exercising this easement shall promptly repair, at such person's expense, any damage resulting from such exercise.

14.9 Easements to Exercise Powers and Perform Responsibilities.

In addition to all other easements granted elsewhere in this Declaration, the Declarant hereby reserves to itself and grants to the Association, perpetual, non-exclusive easements over the Lots a necessary to enable the Declarant and the Association, and their respective agents, employees, assigns, to exercise the authority and fulfill the responsibilities that each respective entity it granted or assigned by the Governing Documents.

14.10 Easements for Lake and Pond Maintenance and Flood Water.

Declarant reserves for itself, the Association, and their successors, assigns, and designees, a perpetual, non-exclusive right and easement, but not the obligation, to enter upon bodies of water, wetlands, detention ponds, and water treatment facilities located within the Area of Common Responsibility to (a) install, operate, maintain, and replace pumps to supply irrigation water to the Area of Common Responsibility; (b) construct, maintain, and repair structures and equipment used for retaining or detaining or treating water; and (c) maintain such areas in a manner consistent with the Community-Wide Standard. Declarant, the Association, and their successors, assigns, and designees shall have an access easement over and across any of the Community abutting or containing bodies of water or wetlands to the extent necessary to exercise their rights under this Section.

Declarant further reserves for itself, the Association, their successors, assigns, and designees, a perpetual, non-exclusive right and easement of access and encroachment over the common area and Lots (but not the dwelling thereon) adjacent to such bodies of water and wetlands within the Community, in order to, (a) alter in any manner and generally maintain the bodies of water and wetlands within the Area of Common Responsibility; and (b) maintain and landscape the slopes and banks pertaining to such area. All persons entitled to exercise these easements shall use reasonable care in and repair any damage resulting from the intentional exercise of such easements. Nothing herein shall be construed to make Declarant or any other Person liable for damage resulting from flooding due to heavy rainfall or other natural occurrences.

Article XV Intentionally Omitted.

PART SIX: RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY

Article XVI Protection of Mortgagees

16.1 Notices of Action.

An institutional holder, insurer, or guarantor of a first Mortgage who provides a written request to the Association (stating the name and address of such holder, insurer, or guarantor and the street address of the dwelling and Lot to which its Mortgage relates, thereby becoming an "Eligible Holder"), will be entitled to timely written notice of:

(a) Any condemnation loss or any casualty loss which affects a material portion of the Community or which affects any Lot on which there is a first Mortgage held, insured, or guaranteed by such Eligible Holder;

- (b) Any delinquency in the payment of Assessments or charges owed with respect to a Lot subject to the Mortgage of such Eligible Holder, where such delinquency has continued for a period of sixty (60) days, or any other violation of the Declaration or By-Laws relating to such Lot or the Owner which is not cured within sixty (60) days.
- (c) Any lapse, cancellation, or material modification of any insurance policy maintained by the Association; or
- (d) Any proposed action which would require the consent of a specified percentage of Eligible Holders.

16.2 Special FHLMC Provision.

So long as required by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, the following provisions apply in addition to and not in lieu of the foregoing. Unless as least 67% of the first Mortgagees or Members representing at least 67% of the total Association vote consent, the Association shall not:

- (a) By act or omission seek to abandon, partition, subdivide, encumber, sell, or transfer all or any portion of the real property comprising the Common Area which the Association owns, directly or indirectly (the granting of easements for utilities or other similar purposes consistent with the intended use of the Common Area shall not be deemed a transfer within the meaning of this subsection).
- (b) Change the method of determining the obligations, Assessments, dues, or other charges which may be levied against an Owner of a Lot;
- (c) By act or omission change, waive, or abandon any scheme of regulations or enforcements pertaining to architectural design, exterior appearance, or maintenance of Lots and the Common Area (the issuance and amendment of architectural standards, procedures, rules and regulations, or use restrictions shall not constitute a change, waiver, or abandonment within the meaning of this provision);
 - (d) Fail to maintain insurance, as required by this Declaration; or
- (e) Use hazard insurance proceeds for any Common Area losses for other than the repair, replacement, or reconstruction of such property.

First Mortgagees may, jointly or singly, pay taxes or other charges which are in default and which may or have become a charge against the Common Area and may pay overdue premiums on casualty insurance policies or secure new casualty insurance coverage upon the lapse of an Association policy, and first Mortgagees making such payments shall be entitled to immediate reimbursement from the Association.

16.3 Amendments to Documents.

The following provisions do not apply to amendments to the constituent documents or to the expansion of the Community in accordance with Article XII.

- (a) The consent of Members representing at least 67% of the Class "A" votes and of Declarant, so long as it owns any land subject to this Declaration, and the approval of the Eligible Holders of first Mortgages on Lots to which at least 67% of the votes of Lots subject to a Mortgage appertain, shall be required to terminate the Association.
- (b) The consent of Members representing at least sixty-seven percent (67%) of the Class "A" votes and of Declarant, so long as it owns any land subject to this Declaration, and the approval of Eligible Holders of first Mortgages on Lots to which more than 50% of the votes of Lots subject to a Mortgage appertain, shall be required materially to amend any provisions of the Declaration, By-Laws, or Articles of Incorporation, or to add any material provisions thereto, which establish, provide for, govern, or regulate any of the following:
 - (i) voting;
 - (ii) Assessments, Assessment liens, or subordination of such liens;
 - (iii) reserves for maintenance, repair, and replacement of the Common Area;
 - (iv) insurance or fidelity bonds;
 - (v) rights to use the Common Area;
 - (vi) responsibility for maintenance and repair of the Community;
- (vii) expansion or contraction of the Community or the addition, annexation, or withdrawal of property to or from the Association;
 - (viii) boundaries of any Lot;
 - (ix) leasing of dwellings located upon Lots inconsistent with this Declaration;

- (x) imposition of any right of first refusal or similar restriction of the right of any Owner to sell, transfer, or otherwise convey his or her Lot;
- (xi) establishment of self-management by the Association where professional management has been required by an Eligible Holder; or
- (xii) any provisions included in the Governing Documents which are for the express benefit of holders, guarantors, or insurers of first Mortgages on Lots.

16.4 No Priority.

No provision of this Declaration or the By-Laws gives or shall be construed as giving any Owner or other party priority over any rights of the first Mortgagee of any Lot in the case of distribution to such Owner of insurance proceeds or condemnation awards for losses to or a taking of the Common Area.

16.5 Notice to Association.

Upon request, each Owner shall be obligated to furnish the Association the name and address of the holder of any Mortgage encumbering such Owner's Lot.

16.6 Failure of Mortgagee to Respond.

Any Mortgagee who receives a written request from the Board to respond to or consent to any action shall be deemed to have approved such action if the Association does not receive a written response from the Mortgagee within thirty (30) days of the date of the Association's request, provided such request is delivered to the Mortgagee by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested.

Article XVII Dispute Resolution and Limitation on Liquidation

- 17.1 Agreement to Encourage Resolution of Disputes Without Litigation.
- (a) Declarant, the Association and its officers, directors, and committee members, all Persons subject to this Declaration, and any Person not otherwise subject to this Declaration who agrees to submit to this Article (collectively, "Bound Parties"), agree that it is in the best interest of all concerned to encourage the amicable resolution of disputes involving the Community without the emotional and financial costs of litigation. Accordingly, each Bound Party agrees not to file suit in any court with respect to a Claim described in subsection (b), unless and until

has first submitted such Claim to the alternative dispute resolution procedures set forth in Section 17.2 in a good faith effort to resolve such Claim.

- (b) As used in this Article, the term "Claim" shall refer to any claim, grievance, or dispute arising out of or relating to:
- (i) the interpretation, application, or enforcement of the Governing Documents;
- (ii) the rights, obligations, and duties of any Bound Party under the Governing Documents; or
- (iii) the design or construction of improvements within the Community; except that the following shall not be considered "Claims" unless all parties to the matter otherwise agree to submit the matter to the procedures set forth in Section 17.2;
- (iv) any suit by the Association to collect Assessments or other amounts dues from any Owner;
- (v) any suit by the Association to obtain a temporary restraining order (or emergency equitable relief) and such ancillary relief as the court may deem necessary in order to maintain the status quo and preserve the Association's ability to enforce the provisions of Part Two of this Declaration (relating to creation and maintenance of Community standards);
- (vi) any suit between Owners, which does not include the Declarant or the Association as a party, if such suit asserts a Claim which would constitute a cause of action independent of the Governing Documents;
 - (vii) any suit in which any indispensable party is not a Bound Party; and
- (viii) any suit as to which any applicable statute of limitations would expire within one hundred eighty (180) days of giving the Notice required by Section 17.2(a), unless the party or parties against whom the Claim is made agree to toll the statute of limitations as to such Claim for such period as may reasonably be necessary to comply with this Article.

17.2 <u>Dispute Resolution Procedures.</u>

(a) <u>Notice</u>. The Bound Party asserting a Claim ("Claimant") against another Board Party ("Respondent") shall give written notice to each Respondent and to the Board stating plainly and concisely:

- (i) the nature of the Claim, including the Persons involved and the Respondent's role in the Claim;
- (ii) the legal basis of the Claim (i.e., the specific authority out of which the Claim arises);
 - (iii) the Claimant's proposed resolution or remedy; and
- (iv) the Claimant's desire to meet with the Respondent to discuss in good faith ways to resolve the Claim.
- (b) <u>Negotiation</u>. The Claimant and Respondent shall make every reasonable effort to meet in person and confer for the purpose of resolving the Claim by good faith negotiation. If requested in writing, accompanied by a copy of the Notice, the Board may appoint a representative to assist the parties in negotiating a resolution of the Claim.
- (c) <u>Mediation</u>. If the parties have not resolved the Claim through negotiation within thirty (30) days of the date of notice described in Section 17.2(a) (or within such other period as the parties may agree upon), the Claimant shall have thirty (30) additional days to submit the Claim to mediation with an entity designated by the Association (if the Association is not a party to the Claim) or to an independent agency providing dispute resolution services in the Metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia area.

If the Claimant does not submit the Claim to mediation within such time, or does not appear for the mediation when scheduled, the Claimant shall be deemed to have waived the Claim, and the Respondent shall be relieved of any and all liability to the Claimant (but not third parties) on account of such Claim.

If the Parties do not settle the Claim within thirty (30) days after submission of the matter to mediation, or within such time as determined reasonable by the mediator, the mediator shall issue a notice of termination of the mediation proceedings indicating that the parties are at an impasse and the date that mediation was terminated. The Claimant shall thereafter be entitled to file suit or to initiate proceedings on the Claim, as appropriate.

Each Party shall bear its own costs of the mediation, including attorneys' fees, and each Party shall share equally all fees charged by the mediator.

(d) <u>Settlement</u>. Any settlement of the Claim through negotiation or mediation shall be documented in writing and signed by the parties. If any party thereafter fails to abide by the

terms of such agreement, then any other party may file suit or initiate administrative proceedings to enforce such agreement without the need to again comply with the procedures set forth in this Section. In such event, the party taking action to enforce the agreement or award shall, upon prevailing, be entitled to recover from the non-complying party (or if more than on non-complying party, from all such parties in equal proportion) all costs incurred in enforcing such agreement or award, including, without limitation, attorneys' fees and court costs.

17.3 Initiation of Litigation by Association.

In addition to compliance with the foregoing alternative dispute resolution procedures, if applicable, the Association shall not initiate any judicial or administrative proceeding unless first approved by a vote of persons entitled to cast seventy-five percent (75%) of the total Class "A" votes in the Association, except that no such approval shall be required for actions or proceedings:

- (a) initiated during the Developer Control Period;
- (b) initiated to enforce the provisions of this Declaration, including collection of Assessments and foreclosures of liens:
 - (c) initiated to challenge ad valorem taxation or condemnation proceedings;
- (d) initiated against any contractor, vendor, or supplier of goods or services arising out of a contract for services or supplies; or
- (e) to defend claims filed against the Association or to assert counterclaims in proceedings instituted against it.

This Section shall not be amended unless such amendment is approved by the same percentage of votes necessary to institute proceedings.

Article XVIII Compliance and Enforcement

- 18.1 Obligation to Comply with Governing Documents; Right to Enforce.
- (a) Every Owner and occupant of a Lot shall comply with the Governing Documents and shall ensure that his or her guests and any visitors to the Lot also comply. Failure to comply shall be cause for:

- (i) the Association or the Declarant to impose sanctions against the Owner, the occupant, and the Lot as authorized in this Declaration and the By-Laws;
- (ii) the Declarant, the Association, or any Owner to take action in a court of law or equity to enforce the Governing Documents, subject to the dispute resolution procedures set forth in Article XVII, if applicable;
- (b) The Association may enforce applicable county and city ordinances and permit local governments to enforce their ordinances within the Community for the benefit of the Association and its Members.
- (c) The decision to pursue enforcement action in any particular case shall be left to the Board's discretion, except that the Board shall not be arbitrary or capricious in taking enforcement action. The Association shall not be obligated to take enforcement action if the Board reasonably determines that, under the circumstances of a particular case:
- (i) the Association's legal position is not strong enough to justify taking any further action; or
- (ii) the covenant, restriction, or rule being enforced is, or is likely to be construed as, inconsistent with applicable law; or
- (iii) although a technical violation may exist or may have occurred, it is not of such a material nature as to be objectionable to a reasonable person or to justify expending the Association's resources; or
- (iv) that it is not in the Association's best interest, based upon hardship, expense, or other reasonable criteria, to pursue enforcement action.

Such a decision shall not be construed as a waiver of the right of the Association to enforce such provision at a later time under other circumstances or preclude the Association from enforcing any other provisions of the Governing Documents.

18.2 Association Remedies and Sanctions.

In addition to any remedies or sanctions specifically authorized elsewhere in the Governing Documents, the Association may seek or impose any of the following remedies and sanctions for violation of the Governing Documents:

- (a) Assessment of reasonable monetary fines which shall constitute a lien upon the violator's Lot (in the event that any occupant, guest, or invitee of a Lot violates the Governing Documents and a fine is imposed, the final shall first be assessed against the violator; provided, however, if the fine is not paid by the violator within the time period set by the Board, the Owner shall pay the fine upon notice from the Board);
 - (b) suspension of the Owner's right to vote;
- (c) suspension of any services provided by the Association to an Owner or the Owner's Lot if the Owner is more than thirty (30) days delinquent in paying any Assessment or other charge owed to the Association;
- (d) upon the Owner's failure to take required action after written notice and a reasonable opportunity to do so, entering upon the Lot (which entry shall not be considered a trespass) and taking action to cure any condition or remove any thing or structure which is in violation of the Governing Documents and to restore the Lot to a complying condition, in which event the Association may charge all costs incurred against the Lot and the Owner as a Specific Assessment;
- (e) precluding any contractor, subcontractor, agent, employee, or other invitee of an Owner who fails to comply with the terms and provisions of Article IV and the Architectural Guidelines from continuing or performing any further activities in the Community (in which even the Association shall have no liability to any Person);
- (f) levying Specific Assessments to cover costs incurred by the Association to bring a Lot into compliance with the Governing Documents; and
 - (g) recording a notice of violation in the Public Records.
 - 18.3 Notice and Hearing Procedures.

Except as set forth in Section 18.3(c), prior to imposing any sanction for violation of the Governing Documents, taking any action to enforce the provisions of the Governing Documents, or exercising the rights granted to the Association under this Article, the Association shall comply with the notice and hearing procedures set forth in subsection (a) and (b) below.

(a) <u>Notice</u>. The Association shall serve the alleged violator with written notice describing (i) the nature of the alleged violation, (ii) the action which the Association proposes or intends to take, and (iii) a period of not less than ten (10) calendar days within which the alleged violator may present a written request for a hearing. If a timely request for a hearing is not made

within the ten (10) day period, the Association may proceed with the action or impose the sanction described in the notice. If the violation is abated within the ten (10) day period, the Association may, but shall not be obligated to, suspend the proposed action or sanction. Such suspension shall not constitute a waiver of the right to sanction future violations of the same or other provisions and rules by any Person. Notwithstanding any suspension of proceedings hereunder, if the same or a similar violation is repeated within twelve (12) months after the date of notice of the original violation, the Association may pursue any and all remedies described in the original notice without further notice to the alleged violator.

- (b) Hearing. If a hearing is requested within the allotted ten (10) day period, the hearing shall be held before a committee appointed by the Board consisting of not less than five (5) persons, all of whom shall be Owners or residents of the Community or representatives of the Declarant. A representative of the Association shall be afforded a reasonable opportLoty to make a statement describing the alleged violation and to present any evidence or witnesses to support its statement. The alleged violator shall also be afforded a reasonable opportLoty to be heard and to present any evidence or witnesses on his or her behalf. At the conclusion of all statements and presentations, the committee may close the hearing and retire to discuss the evidence and to render a judgment as to whether, in fact, a violation has occurred. The committee shall notify the Association and the alleged violator in writing of its determination within five (5) days after the hearing. If the committee determines that a violation has occurred, the Association may pursue any and all remedies described in its original notice of the violation.
- shall not apply to any claim which the Association is required or elects to submit to the dispute resolution procedures set forth in Article XVII, nor to the exercise of self-help to cure violations after written notice to the Owner and an opportLoty to cure pursuant to Section 18.2(d). Subject to the provisions of Article XVII, as they may apply, the Association may also file suit in a court of law or equity to enforce the Governing Documents, to enjoin any violation, or to recover monetary damages for any violation without the necessity of complying with the notice and hearing procedures set forth above.

18.4 Remedies Cumulative; Recovery of Costs.

- (a) All remedies set forth in this Declaration and the By-Laws shall be cumulative of any remedies available at law or in equity.
- (b) In any action to enforce the Governing Documents, if the party seeking to enforce prevails, it shall be entitled to recover all costs, including, without limitation, attorneys' fees and court costs, reasonably incurred in such action.

Article XIX Miscellaneous Provisions

19.1 Binding Effect and Duration.

All of the property described in Exhibit "A" and any additional property subjected to this Declaration by Supplemental Declaration shall be held, sold, used, and conveyed subject to the terms of this Declaration which shall run with the title to such real property. This Declaration shall be binding upon all parties having any right, title, or interest in any portion of the Community, their heirs, successors, successors-in-title, and assigns, and shall inure to the benefit of each owner of any portion of the Community.

Unless terminated by the Owners as provided below, this Declaration is intended to have perpetual duration. However, so long as Georgia law limits the period during which covenants may run with the land, any provision of this Declaration affected by such law shall run with and bind the land so long as permitted by law, after which time the provisions shall be automatically extended for successive periods of twenty (20) years, unless terminated in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 44-5-60, as it may be amended, within the year preceding any extension.

Every purchaser or grantee of any interest (including, without limitation, a security interest) in any real property subject to this Declaration, by acceptance of a deed or other conveyance, agrees that provisions of this Declaration may be extended and renewed as provided in this Section. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to permit termination of any easement created in this Declaration without the consent of the holder of such easement.

If any provision of this Declaration shall be unlawful, void, or voidable for violation of the rule against perpetuities, then such provision shall continue in effect only until twenty-one (21) years after the death of the last survivor of the now living descendants of Elizabeth II, Queen of England.

19.2 Amendment.

Until conveyance of the first Lot by Declarant to a Person other than a successor Declarant, the Declarant may amend this Declaration without the approval of the Association or the Owners. Thereafter, as long as the Declarant owns any property in the Community or which may become part of the Community pursuant to Section 12.1, the Declarant may amend this Declaration without the approval of the Association or the Owners, if such amendment (i) is specifically required to enable any institutional or governmental entity to make, purchase, insure, or guarantee mortgage loans on the dwellings and Lots, or (ii) does not materially adversely affect the rights of any Owner under this Declaration without such Owner's consent.

Except as otherwise specifically provided above and elsewhere in this Declaration, this Declaration may be amended only by the affirmative vote or written consent, or any combination thereof, of Owners entitled to cast at least 75% of the total number of Class "A" votes in the Association and the consent of the Declarant, so long as Declarant owns any property within the Community or which may become part of the Community pursuant to Section 12.1.

Notwithstanding the above, the percentage of votes necessary to amend a specific clause shall not be less than the prescribed percentage of affirmative votes required for action to be taken under that clause.

No amendment may remove, revoke, or modify any right or privilege of Declarant or the Class "B" Member without the written consent of Declarant or the Class "B" Member, respectively (of the assignee of such right or privilege).

If an Owner consents to any amendment to this Declaration or the By-Laws, it will be conclusively presumed that such Owner has the authority to consent, and no contrary provision in any Mortgage or contract between the Owner and a third party will affect the validity of such amendment.

Any amendment shall become effective upon recording in the Public Records, unless a later effective date is specified in the amendment. Any procedural challenge to an amendment must be made within three (3) months of its recordation or such amendment shall be presumed to have been validly adopted. In no event shall a change of conditions or circumstances operate to amend any provisions of this Declaration.

19.3 Severability.

Invalidation by judgment or court order of any provisions of this Declaration shall not affect the validity of other provisions of this Declaration. Invalidation of any provisions as applied in a particular case shall not affect the validity of other applications of the same provision.

19.4 Cumulative Effect; Conflict.

The provisions of this Declaration shall be cumulative with the provisions of any applicable Supplemental Declaration. Any Supplemental Declaration or other recorded instruments affecting title to any portion of the Community may contain provisions which are more restrictive than the provisions of this Declaration, and in such case, the more restrictive provision shall control. The Association shall have the standing and authority to enforce all such restrictions.

19.5 Notice of Sale or Transfer of Title.

Any Owner desiring to sell or otherwise transfer title to his or her Lot shall give the Board at least seven days' prior written notice of the name and address of the purchaser or transferee, the date of such transfer of title, and such other information as the Board may reasonably require. The Person transferring title shall be jointly and severally responsible with the Person to whom title is transferred for all obligations of the Owner of the Lot, including Assessment obligations, until the date upon which such notice is received by the Board, notwithstanding the transfer of title.

19.6 Exhibits.

Exhibits "A", "B", "C", "D", "E" and "F" attached to this Declaration are incorporated by this reference. Amendments to Exhibits "A", "B", "C" and "F" shall be governed by the provisions of Section 19.2. Amendments to Exhibit "D" shall be governed by Article V. Exhibit "E", the By-Laws, is attached for information purposes and may be amended as provided therein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned Declarant and the grantee thereof have executed this Declaration this 30-16 day of APRIL, 2015.

DECLARANT:

Laurel Gates WEG, LLC, a Georgia limited liability company

By: Waters Edge Group Development, LLC, a Georgia limited liability company, its Managing Member

By: (SEAL)
Ian Silverstone, Managing Member

Signed, sealed, and delivered this day of 2015, in the presence of:

Witness

Notary Public, State of Georgia

My commission expires:

DECLARANT:

WEG South Cobb, LLC a Georgia limited liability company

Ian Silverstone, Manager

Signed, sealed, and delivered this 13th day of MAY, 2015, in the presence of:

(SEAL)

Witness

Notary Public, State of Georgia

My commission expires:

[NOTARIAL SEAL]