BY-LAWS

OF

BRANDON ACRES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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OF

#### BRANDON ACRES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

#### Article I General

- Section 1. <u>Applicability</u>. These By-Laws provide for the self-government of Brandon Acres Homeowners Association, Inc., in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation filed with the Secretary of State and the Declaration of Protective Covenants for Brandon Acres, recorded in the Gwinnett County, Georgia land records ("Declaration").
- Section 2. <u>Name</u>. The name of the corporation is Brandon Acres Homeowners Association, Inc. ("Association").
- Section 3. <u>Definitions</u>. The terms used herein shall have their generally accepted meanings or such meanings as are specified in herein.
- (a) <u>Articles</u> or <u>Articles of Incorporation</u> shall mean the Articles of Incorporation of Brandon Acres Homeowners Association, Inc., which have been filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Georgia.
- (b) <u>Association</u> shall mean Brandon Acres Homeowners Association, Enc., a Georgia nonprofit corporation, its successors or assigns.
- (c) <u>Board</u> or <u>Board of Directors</u> shall mean the elected officers responsible for management and operation of the Association and strict enforcement of the Declaration and By-Laws.
- (d) <u>Common Property</u> shall mean any and all real and personal property and easements and other interests therein, together with the facilities and improvements located thereon, now or hereafter owned by the Association for the common use and enjoyment of the Owners.
- (e) <u>Common Expenses</u> shall mean the expenses anticipated or actually incurred by the Association in maintaining, repairing, replacing, and operating the Common Property and otherwise for the benefit of all Lots.
- (f) "Community-Wide Standard" shall mean the standard of conduct, maintenance, or other activity generally prevailing in the

Community. Such standard may be more specifically determined by the Board of Directors of the Association.

- (g) <u>Declaration</u> shall mean the Declaration of Protective Covenants recorded on January 27, 1988 in Deed Book 4733, Page 171 of the Gwinnett County land records.
- (h) <u>Lot</u> shall mean a portion of the Property intended for ownership and use as a single-family dwelling site as permitted in this Declaration and as shown on the plats for the Property, or amendments or supplements thereto, recorded in the Gwinnett County, Georgia land records.
- (i) <u>Mortgage</u> shall refer to any mortgage, deed to secure debt, deed of trust, or other transfer or conveyance for the purpose of securing the performance of an obligation, including, but not limited to, a transfer or conveyance of fee title for such purpose.
- (j) <u>Mortgagee</u> or <u>Mortgage Holder</u> shall mean the holder of any mortgage.
- (k) Occupant shall mean any Person occupying all or any portion of a dwelling or other property located within the Property for any period of time, regardless of whether such Person is a tenant or the Owner of such property.
- (1) Officer shall mean those individuals who are elected by the eligible members (as provided in Article I, Section 6) to serve as President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer, or such other officers as the Board may determine necessary.
- (m) Owner shall mean the record title holder of a Lot within the Property, but shall not include a Mortgage Holder.
- (n) <u>Person</u> shall mean any individual, corporation, firm, association, partnership, trust, or other legal entity.
- (o) <u>Property</u> shall mean that real estate which is submitted to the provisions of the Declaration, as described in Exhibit "A" attached thereto.
- Section 4. <u>Membership</u>. As required by Section 16 of the Declaration, an Owner of a Lot shall automatically become a member of the Association upon taking title to the Lot and shall remain a member for the entire period of ownership. As may be more fully provided below, a spouse of a member may exercise the powers and privileges of the member. If title to a Lot is held by more than one (1) Person, the membership shall be shared in the same proportion as the title, but there shall be only one (1) membership and one (1) vote per Lot. Membership does not include Persons who hold an interest merely as security for the performance of an

obligation, and the giving of a security interest shall not terminate the Owner's membership. Membership shall be appurtenant to the Lot and shall be transferred automatically by conveyance of that Lot and may be transferred only in connection with the transfer of title.

Section 5. <u>Entity Members</u>. In the event an Owner is a corporation, partnership, trust, or other legal entity not being a natural person or persons, then any natural person who is an officer, director, or other designated agent of such corporation, partner of such partnership, beneficiary or other designated agent of such trust, or manager of such other legal entity shall be eligible to represent such entity or entities in the affairs of the Association. Such person's relationship with the Association shall terminate automatically upon the termination of such person's relationship with the entity or entities which are the Owner, and termination of the person's relationship with the Association will create a vacancy in any elected or appointed position within the Association in which such person may have been serving and such vacancy will be filled in accordance with these By-Laws.

Section 6. Voting. Each Lot shall be entitled to one equally weighted vote, which vote may be cast by the Owner, the Owner's spouse, or by a lawful proxy as provided below. When more than one (1) Person owns a Lot, the vote for such Lot shall be exercised as they determine between or among themselves, but in no event shall more than one (1) vote be cast with respect to any Lot. If only one (1) co-owner attempts to cast the vote for a Lot, it shall be conclusively presumed that such co-owner is authorized on behalf of all co-owners to cast the vote for such Lot. In the event of disagreement between or among co-owners and an attempt by two (2) or more of them to cast such vote or votes, such Persons shall not be recognized and such vote or votes shall not be counted. Owner shall be eligible to vote, either in person or by proxy, or to be elected to the Board of Directors, if that Owner is shown on the books or management accounts of the Association to be more than thirty (30) days delinquent in any payment due the Association or if the Owner has had its voting rights suspended for the infraction of any provision of the Declaration, these By-Laws, or any rule of If the voting rights of an Owner have been the Association. suspended, that Owner shall not be counted as an eligible vote for purposes of establishing a Majority or a quorum.

Section 7. <u>Majority</u>. As used in these By-Laws, the term "majority" shall mean those votes, Owners, or other group as the context may indicate totalling more than fifty (50%) percent of the total number of eligible votes, Owners, or other group, respectively. Unless otherwise specifically stated, the words "majority vote" mean more than fifty (50%) percent of those voting in person or by proxy. Except as otherwise specifically provided in the Declaration or these By-Laws, all decisions shall be by majority vote:

Section 8. <u>Purpose</u>. The Association shall have the responsibility of administering the Property, establishing the means and methods of collecting the contributions to the Common Expenses, arranging for the management of the Property and performing all of the other acts that may be required to be performed by the Association pursuant to the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code and the Declaration. Except as to those matters which the Declaration or the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code specifically require to be performed by the vote of the Association membership, the administration of the foregoing responsibilities shall be performed by the Board of Directors as more particularly set forth below.

## Article II Meetings of Members

Section 1. <u>Annual Meetings</u>. The regular annual meeting of the members shall be held during the months of November or December of each year with the date, hour, and place to be set by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the members may be called for any purpose at any time by the President, the Secretary, or by request of any two (2) or more members of the Board of Directors, or upon written petition of twenty-five (25%) percent of the Lot Owners. Any such written petition by the members must be submitted to the Association's Secretary. The Secretary shall then verify that the required number of eligible voting members have joined in the petition and shall submit all proper petitions to the Association's President. The President shall then promptly call a special meeting for the purpose stated in the petition, and the Secretary shall send notice of the meeting in accordance with these By-Laws.

Secretary to mail or deliver to each Owner of Lots of record or to the Lots a notice of each annual or special meeting of the Association at least twenty-one (21) days prior to each annual meeting and at least ten (10) days prior to each special meeting. The notice shall state the purpose of any special meeting, as well as the time and place where it is to be held. The notice of an annual meeting shall state the time and place of the meeting. If any Owner wishes notice to be given at an address other than his or her Lot, the Owner shall have designated by notice in writing to the Secretary such other address. The mailing or delivering of a notice of meeting in the manner provided in this Section shall be considered proper service of notice.

Section 4. <u>Waiver of Notice</u>. Waiver of notice of meeting of the Owners shall be deemed the equivalent of proper notice. Any Owner may, in writing, waive notice of any meeting of the Owners,

either before or after such meeting. Attendance at a meeting by an Owner, whether in person or represented by proxy, shall be deemed waiver by such Owner of notice of the time, date, and place thereof unless such Owner specifically objects to lack of proper notice at the time the meeting is called to order. Attendance at a special meeting shall also be deemed waiver of notice of all business transacted at such meeting unless objection to lack of notice is raised before the business, of which proper notice was not given, is put to a vote.

Section 5. Quorum. Except as may be provided elsewhere, the presence of Owners, in person or by proxy, entitled to cast one tenth (1/10) of the vote of the Association shall constitute a quorum. Once a quorum is established for a meeting, it shall conclusively be presumed to exist until the meeting is adjourned and shall not need to be reestablished. Owners whose voting rights have been suspended pursuant to the Declaration or these By-Laws shall not be counted as eligible votes toward the quorum requirement.

Section 6. Adjournment. Any meeting of the Owners may be adjourned from time to time for periods not exceeding ten (10) days by vote of the Owners holding the Majority of the votes represented at such meeting, regardless of whether a quorum is present. Any business which could be transacted properly at the original session of the meeting may be transacted at a reconvened session, and no additional notice of such reconvened session shall be required.

Section 7. <u>Proxy</u>. Any member entitled to vote may do so by written proxy duly executed by the member setting forth the meeting at which the proxy is valid. To be valid, a proxy must be signed, dated, and filed with the Secretary prior to the opening of the meeting for which it is to be used. Proxies may be delivered to the Board by personal delivery, U.S. mail or facsimile transmission to any Board member or the property manager, if any. Proxies may be revoked only by written notice delivered to the Association, except that the presence in person by the giver of a proxy at a meeting for which the proxy is given shall automatically invalidate the proxy for that meeting. A proxy holder may not appoint a substitute proxy holder unless expressly authorized to do so in the proxy.

Section 8. Action Without a Meeting. Any action that may be taken at any annual, regular, or special meeting of members may be taken without a meeting if the Association delivers a written ballot to every member entitled to vote on the matter.

- (a) A written ballot shall:
  - (i) Set forth each proposed action; and

- (ii) Provide an opportunity to vote for or against each proposed action
- (b) Approval by written ballot pursuant to this Section shall be valid only when the number of votes cast by ballot equals or exceeds the quorum required to be present at a meeting authorizing the action, and the number of approvals equals or exceeds the number of votes that would be required to approve the matter at a meeting at which the total number of votes cast was the same as the number of votes cast by ballot.
  - (c) All solicitations for votes by written ballot shall:
- (i) Indicate the number of responses needed to meet the quorum requirements;
- (ii) State the percentage of approvals necessary to approve each matter other than election of directors; and
- (iii) Specify the time by which a ballot must be received by the Association in order to be counted.
- (d) A written ballot may not be revoked. The Association shall maintain such ballots in its file for a period of at least three (3) years.
- Section 9. <u>Order of Business</u>. At all meetings of the Association, <u>Roberts Rules of Order</u> (latest edition) shall govern when not in conflict with the Declaration, these By-Laws or the Articles of Incorporation.

## Article III Board of Directors

#### A. Composition and Selection.

- Section 1. <u>Composition</u>. The affairs of the Association shall be governed by a Board of Directors. The Board shall be composed of five (5) persons the exact number to be determined by resolution of the Board. The directors shall be Owners of Lots or spouses of such Owners; provided, however, no Owner and his or her spouse may serve on the Board at the same time, and no co-owners may serve on the Board at the same time.
- Section 2. Term of Office. Those directors serving on the date these amended and restated By-Laws are recorded in the Gwinnett County, Georgia land records shall remain in office until the terms for which they were elected expire. Successor directors shall be elected by the vote of those members present or represented by proxy, at the annual or other meeting of the membership of the Association, a quorum being present. At the first election of directors of the Association following the date

these amended and restated By-Laws are recorded in the Gwinnett County, Georgia land records, the terms of successor directors shall be staggered. The directors elected to the offices of President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected to two (2) year terms and the directors elected to the offices of Vice President and Director of Committees shall serve one (1) year terms. At the expiration of the term of office of each member of the Board of Directors, and at each annual meeting thereafter, a successor shall be elected to serve for a term of two (2) years. The members of the Board of Directors shall hold office until their respective successors shall have been elected by the Association.

Section 3. Removal of Members of the Board of Directors. At any regular or special meeting of the Association duly called, any one or more of the members of the Board of Directors may be removed with or without cause by a Majority of the members of the Association and a successor may then and there be elected to fill the vacancy thus created. For purposes of this section, a meeting must be held and the balloting procedure set forth in Article II, Section 8 may not be used. Moreover, any director who has had three (3) consecutive unexcused absences from regularly scheduled Board meetings or is more than sixty (60) days past due in the payment of any assessment may be removed by the vote of a Majority of the other directors. Any director whose removal has been proposed shall be given at least ten (10) days notice of the calling of the meeting to consider his or her removal and the purpose thereof and shall be given an opportunity to be heard at the meeting.

\*Section 4. <u>Vacancies</u>. Vacancies in the Board of Directors caused by any reason shall be filled by a special election at a special meeting to be called within ten (10) days of the date of the date the vacancy occurs. If there is not a quorum at the special meeting called for the purpose of filling a vacancy, the vacancy shall be filled by a vote of a Majority of the remaining directors, even though less than a quorum, at any meeting of the Board of Directors. The successor so selected shall hold office for the remainder of the term of the director being replaced.

Section 5. Compensation. Directors shall not be compensated for services as such unless and only to the extent that compensation is authorized by a Majority vote of the members; provided, however, in no case shall compensation to a director exceed the annual dues required to be paid by a single member. Directors may be reimbursed for the expenses incurred in carrying out their duties as directors upon approval of such expenses by the Board of Directors.

Section 6. <u>Director Conflicts of Interest</u>. Nothing herein shall prohibit a director from entering into a contract and being compensated for services or supplies furnished to the Association in a capacity other than as director, provided that the director's

interest is disclosed to the Board and the contract is approved by a Majority of the directors who are at a meeting of the Board of Directors at which a quorum is present, excluding the director with whom the contract is made; provided, however, the interested director shall count for purposes of establishing a quorum of the Board. The interested director shall be entitled to be present at any meeting at which the proposed contract is discussed and to discuss the proposed contract, unless requested by any other director to leave the room during the discussion.

Section 7. Nomination. Nomination for election to the Board shall be made by a Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least thirty (30) days in advance of the annual meeting. The Nominating Committees may nominate any number of qualified individuals, but not less than the number of directors to be elected, including qualified individuals to run for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Director of Committees. The Nominating Committee shall present candidates to the Members of the Association. Nominations shall also be allowed from the floor at the annual meeting. No Member shall be nominated for election to the Board of Directors, nor permitted to run for election, if more than thirty (30) days past due in the payment of any assessment. Failure to comply with this Section shall in no way invalidate the election of the directors who were not nominated in accordance with the provisions hereof.

Section 8. <u>Elections</u>. All members of the Association eligible to vote shall be entitled to cast one vote for each directorship to be filled. Each directorship shall be identified by its office as more specifically provided in Article IV of these By-Laws. There shall be no cumulative voting. The directorships for which elections are held shall be filled by that number of candidates receiving the most votes. Voting for election of Board members shall be by secret written ballot (unless dispensed by unanimous consent at such meeting at which such voting is conducted).

#### B. <u>Meetings</u>.

Section 9. Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors may be held at such time and place as shall be determined from time to time by the Board, but such meetings shall be held at least once every three (3) months. The newly elected Board shall meet within ten (10) days after each annual meeting of the membership.

Section 10. <u>Special Meetings</u>. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President on three (3) days' notice to each director given by mail, in person, by telephone, or by facsimile transmission, which notice shall state the time, place, and purpose of the meeting. Special meetings of the Board

of Directors shall be called by the President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer in like manner and on like notice on the written request of at least two (2) directors.

Section 11. <u>Waiver of Notice</u>. Any director may, at any time, in writing, waive notice of any meeting of the Board of Directors, and such waiver shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice. Attendance by a director at any meeting of the Board of Directors shall also constitute a waiver of notice by him or her of the time and place of such meeting. If all directors are present at any meeting of the Board of Directors, no notice shall be required and any business may be transacted at such meeting.

Section 12. <u>Conduct of Meetings</u>. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Board of Directors, and the Secretary shall keep a minute book recording therein all resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors and a record of all transactions and proceedings occurring at such meetings. A Majority of directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. One or more directors who participate in a meeting by means of telephone or electronic communication shall be deemed present and in attendance for all purposes at such meeting, provided all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other.

Section 13. Open Meetings. All meetings of the Board shall be open to all members, but members other than directors may not participate in any discussion or deliberation unless expressly so authorized by the Board. Notwithstanding the above, the Board may adjourn a meeting and reconvene in executive session to discuss and vote upon personnel matters, litigation in which the Association is or may become involved, and orders of business of a similar nature. The nature of any and all business to be considered in executive session shall first be announced in open session.

Section 14. Action Without a Meeting. Any action by the Board of Directors required or permitted to be taken at any meeting may be taken without a meeting if a Majority of the directors consent in writing to such action. Such written consents must describe the action taken and be signed by no fewer than a Majority of the directors and such written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the Board of Directors.

#### C. Powers and Duties.

Section 15. <u>Powers and Duties</u>. The Board of Directors shall manage the affairs of the Association and shall have all the powers and duties necessary for the administration of the Property and may do all such acts and things as are not by the Declaration, the Articles of Incorporation, or these By-Laws directed to be done and exercised exclusively by the members. In addition to the duties imposed by these By-Laws or by any resolution of the Association that may hereafter be adopted, the Board of Directors shall have

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the power to and shall be responsible for the following, in way of explanation, but not limitation:

- (a) preparation and adoption of an annual budget, in which there shall be established the contribution of each Owner to the Common Expenses;
- (b) making assessments to defray the Common Expenses, establishing the means and methods of collecting such assessments, and establishing the period of the installment payments of the annual assessment (Unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors, the annual assessment for each Lot's proportionate share of the Common Expenses shall be payable in equal quarterly installments, each such installment to be due and payable in advance on the first day of each quarter for said quarter.);
- (c) providing for the operation, care, upkeep, and maintenance of all of the Common Property;
- (d) designating, hiring, and dismissing the personnel necessary for the operation of the Association and the maintenance, repair, and replacement of the Common Property and Association property, and, where appropriate, providing for the compensation of such personnel and for the purchase of equipment, supplies, and material to be used by such personnel in the performance of their duties;
- (e) collecting the assessments, depositing the proceeds thereof in a financial depository or institution which it shall approve, and using the proceeds to administer the Association;
- (f) making and amending rules and regulations and imposing sanctions for violation thereof, including, without limitation, monetary fines;
- (g) opening of bank or other financial accounts on behalf of the Association and designating the signatories required;
- (h) making or contracting for the making of repairs, additions, and improvements to, or alterations of the Common Property in accordance with these By-Laws, after damage or destruction by fire or other casualty;
- (i) enforcing by legal means the provisions of the Declaration, these By-Laws, and the rules and regulations adopted by it, and bringing any proceedings which may be instituted on behalf of or against the Owners concerning the Association;
- (j) obtaining and carrying insurance against casualties and liabilities, as provided in these By-Laws, and paying the premium cost thereof;

- (k) paying the costs of all services rendered to the Association or its members and not directly chargeable to specific Owners;
- (1) keeping books with detailed accounts of the receipts and expenditures affecting the Association and its administration, specifying the maintenance and repair expenses and any other expenses incurred; and
- (m) contracting with any Person for the performance of various duties and functions. The Board shall have the power to enter into common management agreements with trusts, condominium associations, or other associations or corporations. Any and all functions of the Association shall be fully transferable by the Board, in whole or in part, to any other entity.

Section 16. Management Agent. The Association may, but shall not be required to, hire a professional management agent or agents, at a compensation established by the Board, to perform such duties and services as the Board of Directors shall authorize. Any management contract shall contain a termination clause permitting termination, with or without cause and without penalty, upon no more than thirty (30) days written notice. No management contract shall have a term in excess of one (1) year. If a manager or managing agent is hired, the following management standards of performance will be followed unless the Board, by resolution, determines otherwise:

- (a) two (2) or more persons shall be responsible for handling cash to maintain adequate financial control procedures;
- (b) cash accounts of the Association shall not be commingled with any other accounts;
- (c) no remuneration shall be accepted by the managing agent from vendors, independent contractors or others providing goods or services to the Association whether in the form of commissions, finder's fees, service fees, prizes, gifts, or otherwise; any thing of value received shall benefit the Association;
- (d) any financial or other interest which the managing agent may have in any firm providing goods or services to the Association shall be disclosed promptly to the Board of Directors; and
- (e) a financial report shall be prepared at least quarterly for the Association containing:
- (i) an income statement reflecting all income and expense activity for the preceding period;

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- (ii) a statement reflecting all cash receipts and disbursements for the preceding period;
- (iii) a variance report reflecting the status of all accounts in an "actual" versus "projected" (budget) format;
- (iv) a balance sheet reflecting the financial condition of the Association on an unaudited basis; and
- (v) a delinquency report listing all Owners who are delinquent in paying the monthly installments of Association assessments, and describing the status of any action to collect such installments. Unless otherwise provided by the Board, a monthly installment of the Association assessment shall be considered to be delinquent on the tenth (10th) day of each month.

Section 17. <u>Borrowing</u>. The Board of Directors shall have the power to borrow money for the purpose of maintenance, repair, restoration or improvement of the Common Property and facilities without the approval of the members of the Association; the Board shall also be authorized to borrow money for other purposes; provided, however, the Board shall obtain membership approval in the same manner as provided in Article V, Section 5 of these By-Laws for special assessments if the proposed borrowing is for the purpose of modifying, improving, or adding amenities to the Property and the total amount of such borrowing exceeds or would exceed ten thousand (\$10,000.00) dollars outstanding debt at any one time.

Section 18. Liability and Indemnification of Officers and Directors. 'The Association shall indemnify every officer and director against any and all expenses, including attorney's fees, reasonably incurred by or imposed upon such officer or director in connection with any action, suit, or other proceeding (including settlement of any such action, suit, or proceeding, if approved by the then Board of Directors) to which he or she may be made a party by reason of being or having been an officer or director, whether or not such person is an officer or director at the time such expenses are incurred. The officers and directors shall not be liable for any mistake of judgment, negligent or otherwise, or for injury or damage caused by any such officer or director in the performance of his or her duties, except for his or her own individual willful misfeasance or malfeasance. The officers and directors shall have no personal liability with respect to any contract or other commitment made by them, in good faith, on behalf of the Association (except to the extent that such officers or directors may also be members of the Association), and the Association shall indemnify and forever hold each such officer and director free and harmless against any and all liability to others on account of any such contract or commitment. Any right to indemnification provided for herein shall not be exclusive of any other rights to which any officer or director, or former officer or

director, may be entitled. The Association shall, as a Common Expense, maintain adequate general liability and, if obtainable, officers' and directors' liability insurance to fund this obligation, and the insurance shall be written as provided in these By-Laws.

#### D. Committees.

Unless otherwise provided in these By-Laws or in the resolution authorizing a particular committee, the members of any committee shall be appointed by the President and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors. Any committee member may be removed with or without cause at any time and with or without a successor being named.

#### Article IV Officers

Section 1. <u>Designation</u>. The principal officers of the Association shall be the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Director of Committees. All officers shall be members of the Board of Directors and shall be elected by the Members at the annual meeting. The Board of Directors may appoint one or more Assistant Treasurers, Assistant Secretaries, and such other officers as in its judgment may be necessary. Any other officers shall not be required to be members of the Board of Directors. No person may hold more than one (1) office.

Section 2. <u>Election of Officers</u>. The officers of the Association shall be elected annually by the Members at each annual meeting and shall hold office until a successor is elected or vacancy filled.

Section 3. <u>Removal of Officers</u>. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Director of Committees may be removed in the same manner as provided in Article III, Section 3 of these By-Laws. Upon the affirmative vote of a Majority of the members of the Board of Directors, any officer appointed by the Board may be removed, either with or without cause, and a successor may be elected as provided in Section 7 of this Article.

Section 4. <u>Vacancies</u>. A vacancy in the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Director of Committees arising because of death, resignation, removal, or otherwise may be filled in the same manner as provided in Article III, Section 4 of these By-Laws. A vacancy in any other office arising because of death, resignation, removal, or otherwise may be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term.

Section 5. <u>President</u>. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association and shall preside at all

meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors. The President shall have all the general powers and duties which are incident to the office of the president of a corporation organized under the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code, including, but not limited to, the power to appoint committees from among the members from time to time as he or she may in his or her discretion decide is appropriate to assist in the conduct of the affairs of the Association.

Section 6. <u>Vice President</u>. The Vice President shall act in the President's absence and shall have all powers, duties, and responsibilities provided for the President when so acting.

Section 7. <u>Secretary</u>. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors and shall have charge of such books and papers as the Board of Directors may direct, and shall, in general, perform all duties incident to the office of the secretary of a corporation organized under Georgia law.

Section 8. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have the responsibility for the Association's funds and securities and shall be responsible for keeping full and accurate financial records and books of account showing all receipts and disbursements, for preparing all required financial statements and tax returns, and for the deposit of all monies and other valuable effects in the name of the Association or the managing agent in such depositories as may from time to time be designated by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the preparation of a draft budget to be presented to the Board of Directors as provided in these By-Laws. The Treasurer may delegate all or a part of the preparation and notification duties associated with the above responsibilities to a management agent.

Section 9. <u>Director of Committees</u>. The Director of Committees shall coordinate the Architectural Control Committee, the Nominating Committee, and Social Committee and any other committee created by the Board. The committees shall report to this director.

Section 10. Other Officers. Other offices may be created by the Board, and the Board members which hold such offices shall have such titles and duties as are defined by the Board.

Section 11. Agreements, Contracts, Deeds, Leases, Etc. All agreements, contracts, deeds, leases, checks, promissory notes, and other instruments of the Association shall be executed by at least two (2) officers or by such other person or persons as may be designated by resolution of the Board of Directors.

#### Article V Assessments

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Section 1. <u>Purpose of Assessment</u>. The Association shall have the power to levy assessments as provided herein. The assessments for Common Expenses provided for herein shall be used for the general purposes of promoting the recreation, health, safety, welfare, common benefit, and enjoyment of the Owners and Occupants of Lots in the Property as may be more specifically authorized from time to time by the Board. Assessments may be used to compensate officers and directors only if approved by a majority vote of the Association.

Section 2. <u>Creation of the Lien and Personal Obligation For Assessments</u>. As authorized by Section 16 of the Declaration, each Owner of any Lot, by acceptance of a deed therefor, whether or not it shall be so expressed in such deed, is deemed to covenant and agree to pay to the Association mandatory lot assessment fees which shall be as follows: (i) annual assessments or charges; (ii) special assessments, such assessments to be established and collected as hereinafter provided; and (iii) specific assessments against any particular Lot which are established pursuant to the terms of these By-Laws, including, but not limited to, reasonable fines as may be imposed in accordance with the terms of these By-Laws.

All such assessments, together with charges, interest, costs, and reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred, and if the Board so elects, rents, in the maximum amount permitted under Georgia law, shall be a charge on the Lot and shall be a continuing lien upon the Lot against which each assessment is made. Such amounts shall also be the personal obligation of the Person who was the Owner of such Lot at the time when the assessment fell due. Each Owner and his or her grantee shall be jointly and severally liable for all assessments and charges due and payable at the time of any conveyance. Assessments shall be paid in such manner and on such dates as may be fixed by the Board of Directors; unless otherwise provided, the annual assessments shall be paid in equal quarterly installments due on the first day of each quarter. No Owner may exempt himself or herself from liability for or otherwise withhold payment of assessments for any reason whatsoever, including, but not limited to, nonuse of the Common Property, the Association's failure to provide services or perform its obligations required hereunder, or inconvenience or discomfort arising from the Association's performance of its duties.

The lien provided for herein shall be superior to all other liens and encumbrances on such Lot, except for liens of ad valorem taxes; and liens for all sums unpaid on a first Mortgage. The sale or transfer of any Lot pursuant to foreclosure of a first Mortgage, or any proceeding in lieu thereof, shall extinguish the lien for assessments as to payments coming due prior to such sale or

transfer. No sale or transfer shall relieve such Lot from liability for any assessments thereafter coming due or from the lien thereof.

- Section 3. <u>Delinquent Assessments</u>. All assessments and related charges not paid on or before the due date shall be delinquent, and the Owner shall be in default.
  - (a) If any installment of the annual assessment or any part thereof is not paid in full by the tenth (10th) day of the month or if any other charge is not paid within ten (10) days of the due date, a late charge equal to the greater of ten (\$10.00) dollars or ten (10%) percent of the amount not paid may be imposed without further notice or warning to the delinquent Owner and interest at the highest rate permitted under Georgia law shall accrue from the due date.
  - (b) If part payment of assessments and related charges is made, the amount received shall be applied first to costs and attorney's fees, then to late charges, then to interest, then to delinquent assessments, and then to current assessments.
  - thereof due from an Owner remain delinquent and unpaid for a period greater than fifteen (15) days from the date due, a notice of delinquency may be given to that Owner stating that if the assessment or charge remains delinquent for more than ten (10) days from the date of the notice of delinquency, the Board of Directors may accelerate and declare immediately due all of that Owner's unpaid installments of the annual assessment. If an Owner fails to pay all assessments and related charges currently due within ten (10) days of the date of the notice of delinquency, the Board of Directors may then accelerate and declare immediately due all installments of the annual assessment and of any special assessment, without any further notice being given to the delinquent Owner. Upon acceleration, that Owner shall thereby lose the privilege of paying the annual assessment in monthly installments for that fiscal year.
  - (d) If assessments and other charges or any part thereof remain unpaid more than thirty (30) days after the assessment payments first become delinquent, the Association, acting through the Board of Directors, may institute suit to collect all amounts due pursuant to the provisions of, these By-Laws, and Georgia Law and suspend the Owner's right to use the Common Property (provided, however, the Board may not limit ingress or egress to or from the Lot).
  - Section 4. <u>Computation of Operating Budget and Assessment</u>. It shall be the duty of the Board at least sixty (60) days prior to the beginning of the Association's fiscal year to prepare a budget covering the estimated costs of operating the Property during the



coming year. The Board shall cause the budget and notice of the assessments to be levied against each Lot for the following year to he delivered to each member at least thirty (30) days prior to the Association's annual meeting. The budget and the assessment shall become effective unless disapproved at a duly called constituted annual meeting of the Association by a vote of a majority of the total Association membership; provided, however, if a quorum is not obtained at the annual meeting, the budget shall become effective even though a vote to disapprove the budget could Notwithstanding the foregoing, not be called at this meeting. however, in the event that the membership disapproves the proposed budget or the Board fails for any reason so to determine the budget for the succeeding year, then and until such time as a budget shall have been determined as provided herein, the budget in effect for the current year shall continue for the succeeding year, and the Board may propose a new budget at any time during the year by causing the proposed budget and assessment to be delivered to the members at least thirty (30) days prior to the proposed effective Unless a special meeting is requested by the date thereof. members, as provided in the By-Laws for special meetings, the new budget and assessment shall take effect without a meeting of the members.

The budget shall reflect all amounts to be received from assessments, from all easement agreements and shared cost agreements with other entities or persons, and from all other sources.

Section 5. <u>Special Assessments</u>. If the assessment proves inadequate for any year, the Board may at any time levy a special assessment against all Owners, notice of which shall be sent to all Owners; provided, however, prior to becoming effective, any special assessment which would cause the total of special assessments levied against any Lot in one calendar year to exceed three hundred (\$300.00) dollars first shall be approved by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of Owners present or represented by proxy at a special or annual meeting of the members, notice of which shall specify that purpose.

Section 6. <u>Capital Budget and Contribution</u>. The Board of Directors shall annually prepare a capital budget which shall take into account the number and nature of replaceable assets, the expected life of each asset, and the expected repair or replacement cost. The Board shall set the required capital contribution, if any, in an amount sufficient to permit meeting the projected capital needs of the Association, as shown on the capital budget, with respect both to amount and timing by equal annual assessments over the period of the budget. The capital contribution required, if any, shall be fixed by the Board and included within the budget and assessment as provided in Section 4 of this Article. A copy of the capital budget shall be distributed to each member in the same manner as the operating budget.

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Section 7. Statement of Account. Any Owner, Mortgagee, or a Person having executed a contract for the purchase of a Lot, or a lender considering a loan to be secured by a Lot, shall be entitled, upon written request, to a statement from the Association setting forth the amount of assessments due and unpaid, including any late charges, interest, fines, or other charges against a Lot. The Association shall respond in writing within five (5) days of receipt of the request for a statement; provided, however, the Association may require the payment of a fee, not exceeding ten (\$10.00) dollars, as a prerequisite to the issuance of such a statement. Such written statement shall be binding on the Association as to the amount of assessments due on the Lot as of the date specified therein.

Section 8. <u>Surplus Funds and Common Profits</u>. Common profits from whatever source shall be applied to the payment of Common Expenses. Any surplus funds remaining after the application of such common profits to the payment of Common Expenses shall, at the option of the Board of Directors, either be distributed equally to the Owners or credited to the next assessment chargeable to the Owners, or added to the Association's reserve account.

## Article VI <u>Insurance</u>.

Section 1. The Association's Board of Directors or its duly authorized agent shall have the authority to and shall obtain insurance for all insurable improvements on the Common Property. This insurance shall include fire and extended coverage, including coverage for vandalism and malicious mischief and shall be in an amount sufficient to cover the full replacement cost of any repair or reconstruction in the event of damage or destruction from any such hazard. Alternatively, the Board may purchase "all-risk" coverage in like amounts.

Section 2. The Board shall obtain a public liability policy applicable to the Common Property covering the Association and its members for all damage or injury caused by the negligence of the Association or any of its members or agents in their capacities as such, and, if reasonably available, directors' and officers' liability insurance. The public liability policy shall have a combined single limit of at least One Million (\$1,000,000.00) Dollars.

Section 3. All such insurance coverage obtained by the Board of Directors shall be written in the name of the Association, as trustee, for the respective benefitted parties, as further identified in subsection (b), below. Such insurance shall be governed by the provisions hereinafter set forth:

(a) All policies shall be written with a company licensed to do business in Georgia.

- (b) All policies on the Common Property shall be for the benefit of the Association and its members.
- (c) Exclusive authority to adjust losses under policies obtained by the Association shall be vested in the Association's Board of Directors; provided, however, no Mortgagee having an interest in such losses may be prohibited from participating in the settlement negotiations, if any, related thereto.
- (d) All casualty insurance policies shall have an inflation guard endorsement and an agreed amount endorsement if these are reasonably available and all insurance policies shall be reviewed annually by one or more qualified persons, at least one of whom must be in the real estate industry and familiar with construction in the county where the Property is located.
- (e) The Association's Board of Directors shall be required to make every reasonable effort to secure insurance policies that will provide for the following:
- (i) a waiver of subrogation by the insurer as to any claims against the Association's Board of Directors, its manager, the Cwners and their respective tenants, servants, agents, and quests;
- (ii) a waiver by the insurer of its rights to repair and reconstruct instead of paying cash;
- (iii) a provision that no policy may be canceled, invalidated, suspended or subjected to nonrenewal on account of any one or more individual Owners;
- (iv) a provision that no policy may be canceled, invalidated, suspended, or subjected to nonrenewal on account of any defect or the conduct of any director, officer, or employee of the Association or its duly authorized manager without prior demand in writing delivered to the Association to cure the defect or to cease the conduct and the allowance of a reasonable time thereafter within which a cure may be effected by the Association, its manager, any Owner or Mortgagee; and
- (v) that no policy may be canceled or substantially modified or subjected to nonrenewal without at least thirty (30) days' prior written notice to the Association.
- Section 4. In addition to the other insurance required by this Paragraph, the Board shall obtain workmen's compensation insurance, if and to the extent necessary to satisfy the requirements of applicable laws, and a fidelity bond or bonds on directors, officers, employees, and other persons handling or responsible for the Association's funds.

## Article VII Use Restrictions

Each Owner of a Lot shall be responsible for ensuring that the Owner's family, guests, tenants and Occupants comply with all provisions of the Declaration, these By-Laws and the rules and regulations of the Association. Furthermore, each Owner and Occupant shall always endeavor to observe and promote the cooperative purposes for which the Association was established. In addition to any rights the Association may have against the Owner's family, guests, tenants or Occupants, the Association may take action under the Declaration, By-Laws, and rules and regulations against the Owner as if the Owner committed the violation in conjunction with the Owner's family, guests, tenants or Occupants.

Use restrictions regarding use of Lots and the Common Property are as set forth in the Declaration and as follows:

Section 1. Use of Lots. Each Lot shall be used for residential purposes only, and no trade or business of any kind may be conducted in or from a Lot or any part of the Property, including business uses ancillary to a primary residential use, except that the Owner or Occupant residing in a dwelling on a Lot may conduct such ancillary business activities within the dwelling so long as (a) the existence or operation of the business activity is not apparent or detectable by sight, sound, or smell from the exterior of the dwelling; (b) the business activity does not involve visitation of the Lot by employees, clients, customers, suppliers or other business invitees; (c) the business activity conforms to all zoning requirements for the Property; (d) the business activity does not increase traffic in the Property; (e) the business activity does not increase the insurance premium paid by the Association or otherwise negatively affect the ability of the Association to obtain insurance coverage; and (f) the business activity is consistent with the residential character of the Property and does not constitute a nuisance or a hazardous or offensive use, or threaten the security or safety of other residents of the Property, as may be determined in the sole discretion of the Board of Directors.

The terms "business" and "trade," as used in this provision, shall be construed to have their ordinary, generally accepted meanings, and shall include, without limitation, any occupation, work, or activity undertaken on an ongoing basis which involves the provision of goods or services to persons other than the provider's family and for which the provider receives a fee, compensation, or other form of consideration, regardless of whether: (i) such activity is engaged in full or part-time; (ii) such activity is intended to or does generate a profit; or (iii) a license is required therefor. Notwithstanding the above, the use of a Lot by an on-site management company operating on behalf of the

Association shall not be considered a trade or business within the meaning of this subsection.  $P \sim t$ 

Section 2. <u>Subdivision of Lots and Outbuildings</u>. No Lot may be subdivided into a smaller Lot and no structure of a temporary character, trailer, tent, shack, carport, garage, barn or other outbuilding shall be erected or used by any Owner or Occupant on any portion of the Property, at any time, either temporarily or permanently.

Section 3. <u>Use of Common Property</u>. There shall be no obstruction of the Common Property, nor shall anything be kept, parked or stored on any part of the Common Property without the prior written consent of the Association, except as specifically provided herein.

With the prior written approval of the Board of Directors, and subject to any restrictions imposed by the Board, an Owner or Owners may reserve portions of the Common Property for use for a period of time as set by the Board. Any such Owner or Owners who reserve a portion of the Common Property as provided herein shall assume, on behalf of himself/herself/themselves and his/her/their guests, Occupants and family, all risks associated with the use of the Common Property and all liability for any damage or injury to any person or thing as a result of such use. The Association shall not be liable for any damage or injury resulting from such use unless such damage or injury is caused solely by the willful acts or gross negligence of the Association, its agents or employees.

Section 4. <u>Prohibition of Damage, Nuisance and Noise.</u>
Without the prior written consent of the Association, nothing shall be done or kept on the Property or any part thereof which would increase the rate of insurance on the Property or any Lot or part thereof, which would be in violation of any statute, rule, ordinance, regulation, permit or other validly imposed requirements of any governmental body, or which would increase the Common Expenses.

Noxious, destructive or offensive activity shall not be carried on upon the Property. Each Owner shall refrain from any act or use of his or her Lot which could reasonably cause embarrassment, discomfort, nuisance or annoyance to other Owners or Occupants. No Owner or Occupant of a Lot may use or allow the use of the Lot or any portion of the Property in any way or for any purpose which may endanger the health or unreasonably annoy or disturb other Owners or Occupants of a portion of the Property, or in such a way as to constitute, in the sole opinion of the Board of Directors, a nuisance. Nothing herein, however, shall be construed to affect the rights of an aggrieved Owner to proceed individually for relief from interference with his or her property or personal rights. No Owner or Occupant of a Lot may use or allow the use of

the Lot or the Common Property in any manner which creates disturbing noises between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:30 a.m.

No damage to or waste of the Common Property, or any part thereof shall be permitted by any Owner or member of his or her family or any invitee of any Owner. Each Owner shall indemnify and hold the Association and the other Owners harmless against all loss to the Association resulting from any such damage or waste caused by such Owner, members of his or her family, guests, invitees, or Occupants of his or her Lot.

Section 5. <u>Firearms and Fireworks</u>. The display or discharge of firearms or fireworks on the Common Property is prohibited; provided, however, that the display of lawful firearms on the Common Property is permitted for the limited purpose of transporting the firearms across the Common Property to or from the Owner's Lot. The term "firearms" includes "B-B" guns, pellet guns, and other firearms of all types, regardless of size. The term "fireworks" shall include those items as listed in <u>O.C.G.A</u>. Section 25-10-1.

Section 6. <u>Abandoned Personal Property</u>. Personal property, other than an automobile, is prohibited from being stored, kept, or allowed to remain for a period of more than twenty-four (24) hours upon any portion of the Common Property without the prior written permission of the Board.

If the Board or its designate, in its sole discretion, determines that property is kept, stored, or allowed to remain on the Common Property in violation of this subsection, then the Board may remove and either discard or store the personal property in a location which the Board may determine.

If the Board or its designate, in its sole discretion, determines that property is being abandoned or stored in violation of this subsection, the Board may place a notice on the personal property and/or on the front door of the Lot of the owner of such property, if known, specifying the nature of the violation and stating that after two (2) days the property may be removed and either discarded or stored by the Board in a location which the Board may determine. The notice shall include the name and telephone number of the person or entity which will remove the property and the name and telephone number of a person to contact regarding the alleged violation.

If two (2) days after such notice is placed on the personal property and/or the front door of the Lot, the violation continues or thereafter occurs again within six (6) months of such notice, the personal property may be removed in accordance with the notice, without further notice to the owner or user of the personal property.

In addition to the provisions above, the Board, in its discretion, may determine that an emergency situation exists, and the personal property abandoned or stored in violation of this section may, without prior notice to the owner or user of the personal property, be removed and either discarded or stored by the Board in a location which the Board may determine; provided, however, the Board shall give to the owner, if known, notice of the removal of the property and the location of the personal property within three (3) days after the personal property is removed.

If personal property is removed in accordance with this subsection, neither the Association nor any officer or agent of the Association shall be liable to any person for any claim of damage resulting from the removal activity. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, the Board may elect to impose fines or use other available sanctions, rather than exercise its authority to remove abandoned or improperly stored personal property, as set forth herein.

## Article VIII Maintenance

Section 1. <u>Association's Responsibility</u>. The Association shall maintain and keep in good repair the Common Property and any other property owned by the Association. This maintenance shall include, without limitation, maintenance, repair, and replacement, subject to any insurance then in effect, of all landscaping and improvements located on the Common Property.

In addition, the Association shall have the right, but not the obligation, to maintain other property not owned by the Association, whether located within or without the Property, where the Board has determined that such maintenance would benefit all Owners.

In the event that the Association determines that the need for maintenance, repair, or replacement, which is the responsibility of the Association, is caused through the willful or negligent act of an Owner, his or her family, guests, lessees, or invitees, and is not completely covered or paid for by insurance, then the Association may perform the maintenance, repair or replacement at the expense of the Owner, and all costs shall be added to and become a part of the assessment obligation of the Owner and shall become a lien against the Lot.

The Association shall perform all maintenance in a manner consistent with the Community-Wide Standard.

Section 2. Owner's Responsibility. Except as provided in Section 1 above, all maintenance of the Lot and all structures, parking areas, landscaping, and other improvements on the Lot shall be the sole responsibility of the Owner, who shall maintain the Lot

in a manner consistent with the Community-Wide Standard, the Declaration and these By-Laws.

In the event that the Board of Directors determines that a Lot is not maintained in a manner consistent with the Community-Wide Standard, the Declaration and these By-Laws, except in an emergency situation, the Board of Directors shall give the Owner written notice of the Association's intent to provide the necessary maintenance, repair, or replacement at the Owner's sole cost and expense. The notice shall state the maintenance, repairs, or replacement deemed necessary. The Owner shall have thirty (30) days after receipt of the notice to complete the maintenance. repair, or replacement. In the event that the maintenance, repair, or replacement is not capable of completion within a thirty (30) day period, the Owner shall begin the work and shall complete it within a reasonable time. If any Owner does not comply, the Association may provide the maintenance, repair, or replacement at Owner's sole cost and expense, and all costs shall be added to and become a part of the assessment obligation of the Owner and shall become a lien against the Lot.

## Article IX Rule Making and Enforcement

Section 1. Authority and Enforcement. The Property shall be used only for those uses and purposes set out in the Declaration and these By-Laws. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to make, modify, repeal and enforce reasonable rules and regulations governing the conduct, use, and enjoyment of Lots and the Common Property; provided, copies of all such rules and regulations shall be furnished to all Owners and Occupants. Any rule or regulation may be repealed by the affirmative vote or written consent of a Majority of the total Association vote at an annual or special meeting of the membership. The Board shall have the power to impose reasonable fines, which shall constitute a lien upon the Owner's Lot, and to suspend an Owner's right to vote or to use the Common Property for violation of any duty imposed under the Declaration, these By-Laws, or any rules and regulations duly adopted hereunder; provided, however, nothing herein shall authorize the Association or the Board of Directors to limit ingress and egress to or from a Lot. In the event that any Occupant of a Lot violates the Declaration, By-Laws, or a rule or regulation and a fine is imposed, notice of such violation shall be sent to the Owner and the Occupant, and the fine shall first be assessed against such Occupant; provided, however, if the fine is not paid by the Occupant within the time period set by the Board, the Lot Owner shall pay the fine upon notice from the Association, and the fine shall be an assessment and a lien against the Lot until paid. The failure of the Board to enforce any provision of the Declaration, By-Laws, or any rule or regulation shall not be deemed a waiver of the right of the Board to do so thereafter.

Section 2. Fining and Suspension Procedure. The Board shall not impose a fine, suspend the right to vote (unless an Owner is shown on the books or management accounts of the Association to be more than thirty (30) days delinquent in any payment due the Association in which case such suspension shall be automatic), or suspend the right to use the Common Property unless and until notice of the violation is given as provided in subsection 2(a) below and either a hearing is held or the time has expired for challenging the proposed sanction as provided in subsection 2(b) below as follows:

- Notice. If any provision of the Declaration or (a) By-Laws or any rule or regulation of the Association is violated, the Board shall serve the violator with written notice sent certified mail, return receipt requested, which shall state: (i) the nature of the alleged violation; (ii) the proposed sanction to be imposed; (iii) a statement that the violator may challenge the fact of the occurrence of a violation, the proposed sanction, or both; (iv) the name, address, and telephone number of a person to contact to challenge the proposed action; and (v) a statement that the proposed sanction shall be imposed as contained in the notice unless a challenge is begun within ten (10) days of receipt of the notice. If a challenge is not made, the sanction shall be imposed ten (10) days from the date of the notice; provided, the Board may, in its discretion, waive any sanction if the violation is cured within such ten (10) day period. In the event of a continuing violation, each day the violation continues beyond the ten (10) day period constitutes a separate offense, and fines may be imposed on a per diem basis without further notice to the violator.
- (b) Hearing. If the alleged violator timely challenges the proposed action, a hearing before the Board of Directors shall be held in executive session affording the violator a reasonable opportunity to be heard. The hearing shall be set at a reasonable time and date by the Board, and notice of the time, date (which shall be not less than ten (10) days from the giving of notice), and place of the hearing and an invitation to attend the hearing and produce any statements, evidence, and witnesses shall be sent to the alleged violator. Proof of such notice shall be placed in the minutes of the meeting. Such proof shall be deemed adequate if a copy of the notice, together with a statement of the date and manner of delivery, is entered by the officer or director who delivered such notice. The notice requirement shall be deemed satisfied if the violator appears at the meeting. The minutes of the meeting shall contain a written statement of the results of the hearing and the sanction, if any, imposed. This Section shall be deemed complied with if a hearing is held and the violator attends and is provided an opportunity to be heard, notwithstanding the fact that the notice requirements contained herein are not technically followed.

Section 3. Additional Enforcement Rights. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein contained, the Association, acting through its Board of Directors, may elect to enforce any provision of the Declaration, the By-Laws, or the rules and regulations by self-help (specifically including, but not limited to, the towing of vehicles that are in violation of parking rules and regulations) or by suit at law or in equity to enjoin any violation or to recover monetary damages or both without the necessity for compliance with the procedure set forth in Section (2) of this Article. In any such action, to the maximum extent permissible, the Owner or Occupant responsible for the violation for which abatement is sought shall pay all costs, including reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred.

The Association or its duly authorized agent shall have the power to enter a Lot or upon any portion of the Common Property to abate or remove, using such force as may be reasonably necessary, any structure, thing or condition which violates the Declaration, the By-Laws, or the rules and regulations. All costs of self-help, including reasonable attorney's fees, shall be assessed against the violating Lot Owner and shall be collected as provided herein for the collection of assessments.

#### Article X Miscellaneous

- Section 1. <u>Notices</u>. Unless otherwise provided in these By-Laws, all notices, demands, bills, statements, or other communications under these By-Laws shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given if delivered personally or if sent by United States mail, first class postage prepaid:
- (a) If to a Lot Owner, at the address which the Lot Owner has designated in writing and filed with the Secretary, or if no such address has been designated, at the address of the Lot of such Owner;
- (b) If to an Occupant, at the address of the Lot occupied; or
- (c) If to the Association, the Board of Directors or the managing agent, at the principal office of the Association or the managing agent, if any, or at such other address as shall be designated in writing and filed with the Secretary.
- Section 2. <u>Severability</u>. The invalidity of any part of these By-Laws shall not impair or affect in any manner the validity, enforceability, or effect of the balance of these By-Laws or the Declaration.

Section 3. <u>Captions</u>. The captions herein are inserted only as a matter of convenience and for reference and in no way define, limit, or describe the scope of these By-Laws or the intent of any provision thereof.

Section 4. <u>Gender and Grammar</u>. The use of the masculine gender in these By-Laws shall be deemed to include the feminine gender, and the use of the singular shall be deemed to include the plural whenever the context so requires.

Section 5. <u>Fiscal Year</u>. The fiscal year of the Association may be set by resolution of the Board of Directors. In the absence of such resolution by the Board of Directors, the fiscal year shall be the calendar year.

Section 6. <u>Financial Review</u>. A financial review of the accounts of the Association shall be performed annually in the manner provided by the Board. However, after having received the Board's financial review at the annual meeting, the Owners may, by a Majority of the Association vote, require that the accounts of the Association be audited as a Common Expense by an independent accountant.

Section 7. <u>Conflicts</u>. The duties and powers of the Association shall be those set forth in the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code, the Declaration, these By-Laws, and the Articles of Incorporation, together with those reasonably implied to affect the purposes of the Association; provided, however, that if there are conflicts or inconsistencies between the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code, the Declaration, these By-Laws, or the Articles of Incorporation, then the provisions of the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code, as may be applicable, the Declaration, the Articles of Incorporation and these By-Laws, in that order, shall prevail, and each Owner of a Lot, by acceptance of a deed or other conveyance therefor, covenants to vote in favor of such amendments as will remove such conflicts or inconsistencies.

Section 8. Amendment. Except where a higher vote is required for action under a particular provision of the Declaration of By-Laws, in which case such higher vote shall be necessary to amend, these By-Laws may be amended by the affirmative vote, written consent, or any combination of affirmative vote and written consent of the members holding sixty-six and two-thirds (66-2/3%) percent of the total vote of the Association. Notice of any meeting at which an amendment will be considered shall state that fact and the subject matter of the proposed amendment. No amendment shall become effective until it is certified by the President and Secretary of the Association and recorded in the Gwinnett County, Georgia land records. Any amendment duly certified and recorded shall be conclusively presumed to have been duly adopted in accordance with the Declaration and By-Laws.

Any action to challenge the validity of an amendment adopted under this Section must be brought within one (1) year of the amendment's effective date. No action to challenge any such amendment may be brought after such time.

#### Section 9. Books and Records.

- (a) All members of the Association and any institutional holder of a first Mortgage shall be entitled to inspect the following records at a reasonable time and location specified by the Association, upon written request at least five (5) days before the date on which the member wishes to inspect and copy:
- (i) its Articles or restated Articles of Incorporation and all amendments to them currently in effect;
- (ii) its By-Laws or restated By-Laws and all amendments to them currently in effect;
- (iii) resolutions adopted by either its members or Board of Directors increasing or decreasing the number of directors or the classification of directors, or relating to the characteristics, qualifications, rights, limitations, and obligations of members or any class or category of members;
- (iv) resolutions adopted by either its members or Board of Directors relating to the characteristics, qualification, rights, limitations, and obligations of members or any class or category of members;
- (v) the minutes of all meetings of members and records of all actions approved by the members for the past three
   (3) years;
- (vi) all written communications to members generally within the past three (3) years, including the financial statements furnished for the past three (3) years;
- (vii) a list of the names and business or home addresses of its current directors and officers; and
- (viii) its most recent annual report delivered to the Secretary of State.
- (b) A member may inspect and copy the following records upon written notice at least five (5) business days before the date on which the member wishes to inspect and copy only if the member's demand is made in good faith and for a proper purpose that is reasonably relevant to the member's legitimate interest as a member; the member describes with reasonable particularity the purpose and the records the member desires to inspect; the records

are directly connected with this purpose; and the records are to be used only for the stated purpose:

- (i) excerpts from minutes of any meeting of the Board of Directors, records of any action of a committee of the Board of Directors while acting in place of the Board of Directors on behalf of the Association, minutes of any meeting of the members, and records of action taken by the members or the Board of Directors without a meeting, to the extent not subject to inspection under subsection 9(a);
  - (ii) accounting records of the Association; and
- (iii) the membership list only if for a purpose related to the member's interest as a member. Without the consent of the Board, a membership list or any part thereof may not be: used to solicit money or property unless such money or property will be used solely to solicit the votes of the members in an election to be held by the Association; used for any commercial purpose; or sold to or purchased by any person.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify:

That I am the duly elected and acting Secretary of Brandon Acres Homeowners Association, Inc., a Georgia corporation;

IN WITHESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of said Association this 20 T.J.S. day of T.J.S.

BRANDON ACRES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

[SEAL]

Signed, sealed, and delivered this 200 day of James 1993.

Witness

. . . . . . .

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

(NOTARY SEAL)