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Craven, NC  
Sherril B. Richard Register of Deeds  
BK **2853** PG **726**

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF CRAVEN

**DECLARATION OF COVENANTS,  
CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS  
THE VILLAGE AT CROATAN**

**THIS DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS FOR THE VILLAGE AT CROATAN** (as may be amended or supplemented as set forth herein, "Declaration") is made this 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2009, by LRH DEVELOPMENT, LLC, a North Carolina limited liability company, whose address is Post Office Box 162, New Bern, North Carolina 28563 (the "Declarant").

**WITNESSETH:**

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

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

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

**THEREFORE**, the Declarant hereby declares that all of the Lots and Common Areas (defined below) located within the Subdivision are held and shall be held, conveyed, hypothecated or encumbered, leased, rented, used, occupied and improved, subject to the following covenants, conditions and restrictions, all of which are established and agreed upon for the purpose of enhancing and protecting the value, desirability and attractiveness of the Subdivision as a whole and of each of said Lots. All of these restrictions shall run with the land and shall be binding upon the Declarant and upon the parties having or acquiring any right, title

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or interest, legal or equitable in and to the Property or any part or parts thereof subject to such restrictions, and shall inure to the benefit of the Declarant and every one of the Declarant's successors in title to any of the Property.

## ARTICLE I

### DEFINITIONS

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

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

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

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

Section 1.5        "Association" shall mean and refer to THE VILLAGE AT CROATAN HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC., to be formed as a non-profit corporation, its successors and assigns.

Section 1.6        "Board" or "Board of Directors" shall mean and refer to the Board of Directors of the Association.

Section 1.7        "Bylaws" shall mean the Bylaws of the Association, as the same may be amended from time to time.

Section 1.8        "Class A Members" shall mean as defined in Section 4.5.1 below.

Section 1.9        "Class B Members" shall mean as defined in Section 4.5.2 below.

Section 1.10       "Constituent Documents" shall mean the Declaration, the Bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation, the Road Maintenance Declaration and the Rules and Regulations, if any, and any other basic documents used to create and govern the Subdivision.

Section 1.11       "Common Areas" shall mean all the real estate (including retention ponds, storm drainage improvements, entrance signage, streets (including any dedicated streets prior to their acceptance for public maintenance) and all landscaping and other improvements thereon) owned by the Association for the common use and enjoyment of the Owners.



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Section 1.12 “Common Expenses” shall mean, refer to, and include all charges, costs and expenses incurred by the Association for and in connection with the administration of the Subdivision, including, without limitation thereof, operation of the Subdivision, maintenance, repair, replacement and restoration (to the extent not covered by insurance) of the Common Areas; the costs of any additions and alterations thereto; all labor, services, common utilities, materials, supplies, and equipment therefor; all liability for loss or damage arising out of or in connection with the Common Areas and their use; all premiums for hazard, liability and other insurance with respect to the Subdivision; all costs incurred in acquiring a Lot pursuant to judicial sale; and all administrative, accounting, legal, and managerial expenses. “Common Expenses” shall also include the cost of operation, maintenance, improvement, and replacement of any Recreational Facilities, including establishing reserves therefore. “Common Expenses” shall also include amounts incurred in replacing, or substantially repairing, capital improvements within the Common Areas of the Subdivision, including, but not limited to private road and parking lot resurfacing. “Common Expenses” shall also include all reserve funds or other funds established by the Association. “Common Expenses” shall be construed broadly.

Section 1.13 “Declarant” shall mean and refer to LRH DEVELOPMENT, LLC, a North Carolina limited liability company, its successors and assigns as a Declarant.

Section 1.14 “Default” shall mean any violation or breach of, or any failure to comply with, the Restrictions, this Declaration or any other Constituent Documents.

Section 1.15 “Development Period” means the period commencing on the date on which this Declaration is recorded in the Craven County Register of Deeds and terminating on the earlier to occur of (i) when Declarant no longer owns a Lot in the Subdivision; (ii) the date that Declarant relinquishes in writing Declarant’s right to appoint Directors; or (iii) the occurrence of the date ten (10) years from the date of recording the Declaration, renewable for an additional ten (10) year period with the consent of a majority of Lot Owners other than the Declarant.

Section 1.16 “Dwelling Unit” shall mean and refer to the individual family living unit on an individual Lot.

Section 1.17 “Fine Assessment” means the charge established by Section 5.5.2 of this Declaration.

Section 1.18 “Individual Assessment” means the charge established by Section 5.4 of this Declaration.

Section 1.19 “Lot” shall mean and refer to any parcel of land designated on the Plat upon which a Dwelling Unit has been or is to be constructed. The Declarant has initially created six (60) Lots in the Subdivision and has the right to establish additional Lots in accordance with the terms of this Declaration.

Section 1.20 “Member” shall mean and refer to all those Owners who are Members of the Association as provided in Article IV below.



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Section 1.21 “Owner” shall mean and refer to the record owner, including Declarant, whether one or more persons or entities, of a fee simple title to any Lot located within the Subdivision.

Section 1.22 “Plat” shall mean and refer to the record plat of the Subdivision recorded by Declarant, as the same may be amended or supplemented by Declarant from time to time.

Section 1.23 “Planned Community Act” shall mean and refer to the North Carolina Planned Community Act, currently codified as Chapter 47F of the North Carolina General Statutes, as the same may be amended from time to time.

Section 1.24 “Property” or “Subdivision” shall mean and refer to that certain real estate described in Exhibit A and all other real estate that may be annexed into this Declaration and the Association by the Declarant.

Section 1.25 “Regular Assessment” means the charge established by Article V of this Declaration.

Section 1.26 “Recreational Facilities” shall mean and refer to the common community and recreational facilities, if any, which may be located upon the property designated “common area” on the Plat recorded in Plat Cabinet H, Slide 147A-C, Craven County Registry.

Section 1.27 “Resident” shall mean and refer to any person, not an Owner, living in the Owner’s Dwelling Unit, including, but not limited to, temporary guests and Tenants.

Section 1.28 “Restrictions” shall mean all covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, charges, liens and other obligations provided for in this Declaration, including, without limitation, all notices, rules and regulations issued in accordance with this Declaration.

Section 1.29 “Road Maintenance Declaration” shall mean that certain Declaration recorded in Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_ of the Craven County Public Registry, as the same may from time to time be amended in the manner therein.

Section 1.30 “Rules and Regulations” shall mean and include the rules and regulations made from time to time by the Board of Directors as provided in Section 4.3 below.

Section 1.31 “Special Assessment” means the charge established by Section 5.2 of this Declaration.

Section 1.32 “Tenant” means any person occupying any Lot pursuant to a written or oral lease agreement with the Owner thereof or with any other person or entity claiming under the Owner.

Section 1.33 “Working Capital Assessment” means the charge established by Section 5.3 of this Declaration.



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

## ARTICLE II

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

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

## ARTICLE III

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

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

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

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

3.1.3 All applicable provisions of valid easements and/or agreements of the Association relating to the Common Areas, including, without limitation, the Road Maintenance Declaration;

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

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



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

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

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

#### ARTICLE IV

### **HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**

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

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

Section 4.3      Rules and Regulations. By a majority vote of the Board of Directors, the Association may, from time to time adopt, amend and repeal Rules and Regulations with respect to all aspects of the Association's rights, activities and duties under this Declaration. The Rules and Regulations may, without limitation, govern use of the Subdivision, including prohibiting, restricting or imposing charges for the use of any portion of the Subdivision by Owners, Residents or others, interpret this Declaration or establish procedures for operation of the Association or the administration of this Declaration; provided, however, that the Rules and Regulations shall not be inconsistent with this Declaration, the Articles, Bylaws or the terms of the Road Maintenance Declaration. A copy of the Rules and Regulations, as they may from time to time be adopted, amended or repealed, shall be maintained in the office of the Association and shall be available to each Owner upon request.

Section 4.4      Membership of Association. Every Owner of a Lot shall be a Member of the Association. Such Owner and Member shall abide by the Association's Rules and Regulations, shall pay the Assessments provided for in this Declaration, when due, and shall comply with decisions of the Association's governing body. Conveyance of fee simple title to a Lot automatically transfers membership in the Association without necessity of further



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documents. Membership shall be appurtenant to and may not be separated from ownership of any Lot that is subject to Assessment.

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

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

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

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

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

The Association shall make the determination as to when maintenance, repair, replacement and care shall be done, and its determination shall be binding. Declarant shall have the right to employ a manager to oversee and implement the Association's maintenance obligations, and any such management fees incurred thereby shall be paid by the Association.



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The Association shall also perform the other duties prescribed by this instrument or the Association's Rules and Regulations.

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

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

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

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

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

4.7.5 Each Lot Owner shall be deemed to agree by acceptance of delivery of a deed to a Lot, to repair and/or replace at his or her expense all portions of the Common Areas which may be damaged or destroyed by reason of his or her own intentional or negligent act or omission, or by the intentional or negligent act or omission of any invitee, tenant, licensee family member, including, but not limited to any repairs necessary which result from damage incurred by pets or vehicles owned by the Lot Owner, or owned by any guest, invitee, Tenant or licensee of such Lot Owner. To the extent that any Common Area is damaged as an insurable loss and the proceeds from the Association's insurance policy are utilized to pay for the loss, the Owner shall be responsible for payment of the deductible as an Individual Assessment in accordance with Section 5.4.

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

Section 4.9      Effect of Insurance or Construction Guarantees. Notwithstanding the fact that the Association and/or any Lot Owner may be entitled to the benefit of any guarantee of



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

## ARTICLE V

### COVENANT FOR ASSESSMENTS

Section 5.1      Regular Assessments. Regular Assessments for the payment of the Common Expenses shall be made in the manner provided herein, and in the manner provided in the Bylaws. The Regular Assessment is established for the benefit and use of the Association and shall be used in covering all of the Common Expenses.

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



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obligations to pay any Special Assessment with respect to any Lot owned by it unless there is a Dwelling Unit located upon the Lot that is occupied as a residence.

Section 5.3      Working Capital Assessment. Upon the initial transfer of record of the Lot from the Declarant (or successor declarant or designated declarant) to the Lot Owner (other than a successor declarant or designated declarant), the purchaser is required to pay a sum equal to two (2) full months of the Regular Assessment due on his or her Lot as his or her initial contribution to the working capital of the Association. This sum is not an advance payment of the monthly Regular Assessment; rather the sum is allocated to a working capital fund to meet unforeseen expenditures and operating expenses or to purchase any additional equipment or services. While the Declarant is in control of the Association, it cannot use any of the working capital funds to defray its expenses, reserve contributions, or construction costs. When control of the Association is transferred to the Lot Owners, the working capital fund shall be transferred to the Association for deposit to a segregated fund. After control of the Association is transferred to the Lot Owners the Declarant shall be responsible to collect the initial contribution to the working capital account and forward such funds to the Association. Additionally, at the closing, each purchaser of a Lot is required to pay a pro-rata share of the Regular Assessment due in the month of closing.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Section 5.8 Assessment Certificate. The Association shall, upon demand, at any reasonable time, furnish to any Owner liable for Assessments a certificate in writing signed by an Officer or other authorized agent of the Association, setting forth the status of said Assessments; i.e., "current", and if not current, "delinquent" and the amount due. Such certificate shall be conclusive evidence of the payment of any Assessment therein stated to have been paid. A reasonable charge to cover labor and materials may be made in advance by the Association for each certificate.

Section 5.9 Books and Records of the Association. The Association shall keep full and correct books of account. The Association shall make available to all Lot Owners and the holders of all first mortgages on Lots, current copies of the books, records and financial



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statements of the Association upon reasonable request during normal business hours. All funds collected by the Association shall be held and expended solely for the purposes designated by this Declaration and shall be deemed to be held for the use, benefit and account of the Association and all of the Lot Owners. All books and records must be kept in accordance with good accounting procedures.

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

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

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

Section 5.12      Disputes as to Common Expenses; Adjustments. Any Owner who believes that the portion of Common Expenses chargeable to his Lot, for which an assessment lien has been filed by the Association, has been improperly charged against his or her Lot, may bring action in an appropriate court of law.

Section 5.13      Purchaser at Foreclosure Sale Subject to Declaration, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of the Association. Any purchaser of a Lot at a foreclosure sale shall automatically become a Member of the Association and shall be subject to all the provisions of this Declaration, the Bylaws and the Rules and Regulations.

Section 5.14      Non-Liability of Foreclosure Sale Purchaser for Past Due Common Expenses. When the holder of a first mortgage or first deed of trust of record or other purchaser of a Lot acquires title to the Lot as a result of foreclosure of the first mortgage first deed of trust or by deed in lieu of foreclosure, such acquirer of title, his, her or its successors and assigns, shall not be solely liable for the share of the Common Expenses or other Assessments by the Association chargeable to such Lot which became due prior to the acquisition of title to the Lot



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by such acquirer, other than Assessments for which a claim of lien has been docketed with the Craven County Clerk of Superior Court prior to the recordation of the lien being foreclosed. Such unpaid share of Common Expenses or Assessments shall be deemed to be Common Expenses collectible from all of the Lots, including that of such acquirer, his, her or its successors or assigns. This provision shall not relieve the party acquiring title or any subsequent Owner of the subject Lot from paying future Assessments.

Section 5.15      Liability for Assessments Upon Voluntary Conveyance. In a voluntary conveyance of a Lot, any grantee or his or her first mortgagee shall inform the Board of Directors in writing of such contemplated conveyance and such grantee or first mortgagee shall be entitled to a statement from the Board of Directors of the Association setting forth the amount of all unpaid Assessments (including current Assessments) against the grantor due the Association. Neither the grantee nor the mortgagee shall be personally obligated for any delinquent Assessments, but such delinquent Assessments, along with interest, late charges, costs and reasonable attorneys fees shall be a lien against the Lot in accordance with Section 5.10 and Section 5.11 herein.

Section 5.16      Late Charge. The Association may impose a charge against any Lot Owner who fails to pay any amount assessed by the Association against his Lot within ten (10) days after such Assessments are due and payable and who fails to exercise his rights under this Declaration or under the laws of the State of North Carolina to successfully contest such Assessment. The amount of the late charge shall be the greater of (a) twenty and 00/100 Dollars (\$20.00), or (b) twenty percent (20%) of the delinquent amount, or such other amount as may be determined by the Association from time to time. Additionally, if a Lot Owner shall be in Default in payment of an installment upon an assessment or of a single monthly assessment, the Association has the right to accelerate all monthly Assessments remaining due in the current fiscal year. The total of such Assessments, together with the delinquent Assessments shall then be due and payable by the Lot Owner no later than ten (10) days after the delivery of written notice of such acceleration to the Lot Owner or twenty (20) days after mailing of such notice to him by certified mail, whichever occurs first. If such acceleration amount is not paid by the due date, the above-described late charge may be imposed on the part of such accelerated amount not paid by the due date.

Section 5.17      Miscellaneous.

5.17.1 The Association may change the interest rate due on delinquent Assessments (including any late charges), except that the rate cannot be changed more often than once every six (6) months. As of its effective date, the new interest rate will apply to all Assessments then delinquent.

5.17.2 The Owner has the sole responsibility of keeping the Association informed of the Owner's current address if different from the Lot owned. Otherwise notice sent by Association to the Lot is sufficient for any notice requirement under this Declaration.

5.17.3 The lien under this Article V arises automatically, and no notice of lien need be recorded to make the lien effective.



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5.17.4 The Assessment lien includes all collection costs, including demand letters, preparation of documents, reasonable attorneys' fees, court costs, filing fees, collection fees, and any other expenses incurred by the Association in enforcing or collecting the Assessment.

5.17.5 Any Assessment otherwise payable in installments shall become immediately due and payable in full without notice upon Default in the payment of any installment. The acceleration shall be at the discretion of the Board.

5.17.6 No Owner of a Lot may exempt himself or herself from liability for his or her contribution toward the Common Expenses by waiver of the use or enjoyment of any of the Common Areas or by the abandonment of his or her Lot.

5.17.7 This Section 5.17 applies to every type of Assessment.

## ARTICLE VI

### **EASEMENTS AND ENCUMBRANCES**

Section 6.1      Easement for Encroachments. The Dwelling Units, all utility lines, and all other improvements as originally constructed by or on behalf of Declarant or its assigns shall have an easement to encroach upon any setback, Lot or Common Area as a result of the location of the building, utility lines and other improvements across boundary lines between and along Lots and/or the Common Areas, or as a result of building or improvement movement or alterations or additions from time to time, provided that such alterations or additions have complied with the requirements of this Declaration.

Section 6.2      Lot's Utility Easements. Easements are granted in favor of each Lot Owner to and throughout the Common Areas and, if necessary, the setback areas of any other Lots, as may be necessary for the installation, maintenance, repair and use of underground water, gas, sewer, power and other utilities and services including power and communication, now or hereafter existing, including maintaining, repairing and replacing any pipes, wires, ducts, conduits, equipment, fixtures, utility, power or communication lines or equipment, or other components. The foregoing notwithstanding, no Lot Owner (other than Declarant) may exercise the easement rights reserved in this Section 6.2 without the prior written approval of the Board as described in Section 6.6 below and the Declarant, so long as it owns a Lot in the Subdivision.

Section 6.3      Utility Easements. Easements are reserved and/or granted hereby in favor of the Declarant and/or the Association through each Lot (provided that such easements shall not materially and unreasonably interfere with the use of any dwelling located upon any Lot) and the Common Areas for the purpose of installing, laying, maintaining, repairing and replacing any pipes, wires, ducts, conduits, equipment, fixtures, utility, power or communication lines or equipment, or other components throughout the Common Areas. Without limiting any other provision in this Article 6, it is understood that Declarant's easement rights reserved herein may be utilized for the benefit of property within or outside of the Subdivision. Each Lot Owner and/or his respective mortgagee by acceptance of a deed conveying such ownership interest and each mortgagee encumbering such ownership interest, as the case may be, hereby irrevocably



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appoint Declarant, or the Association, as the case may be, as his attorney in fact, coupled with an interest, and authorize, direct and empower such attorney, at the option of the attorney, to execute, acknowledge and record for and in the name of such Lot Owner and his mortgagee, such easements or other instruments as may be necessary to effect the purpose of this Section 6.3. The easements may be assigned and/or granted by the Declarant and/or the Association to any utility or service company.

Section 6.4      General Easements. An easement is hereby reserved and/or granted in favor of the Declarant and/or the Association in, on, over and through the Common Areas, the Lots and/or Dwelling Units for the purposes of maintaining, cleaning, repairing, improving, regulating, operating, policing, replacing and otherwise dealing with the Common Areas, Lots and/or Dwelling Units, including all improvements thereon as required or permitted by the Constituent Documents or applicable law. An easement is hereby reserved in favor of Declarant over the Common Areas for the purpose of advertising or promoting sales of Lots or Dwelling Units in the Subdivision. Furthermore, the Developer reserves the right to subject the Lots and/or Dwelling Units to a contract with City of New Bern, or any successor thereto, for the installation of street lighting which requires a continuing monthly payment to the City of New Bern by each Owner.

Section 6.5      Access Easement. Appurtenant to each Lot is an easement over any Common Area for necessary pedestrian and vehicular ingress and egress to and from any such Lot over the Common Areas, to and from a thoroughfare. The easement shall be over such walkways, driveways, or other ways as are designated by the Declarant and/or the Association and shall be subject to the terms of the Constituent Documents.

Section 6.6      Use of Easement. Any use of the rights and easements granted and reserved in this Article VI shall be reasonable. If any damage, destruction, or disturbance occurs to a Lot or Common Area as a result of the use of any easement or right, the Lot or Common Area shall be restored by, or at the direction of, the Association promptly in a reasonable manner at the expense of the person or persons making the use of the easement or right that resulted in the damage, destruction or disturbance. Before beginning work, Association may require all or any part of the expected expense to be prepaid by that person or those persons liable for the expense. Additionally, should any Lot Owner other than Declarant elect to exercise its easement rights hereunder, it shall be required to obtain the Board's prior written approval (not to be unreasonably withheld), after providing the Board with detailed plans of its proposed work, as well as evidence of appropriate insurance and other such reasonable information or assurances as the Board may require. No easement may be granted across, through, over, or under any Lot or Common Area, which materially restricts ingress and egress to the Lot or Common Area, unless reasonable alternate ingress and egress is provided or unless the restrictions is only temporary. All easements reserved hereunder shall be perpetual and non-exclusive.

Section 6.7      Reservation of Access Easement by Declarant. Declarant reserves an easement for itself, its grantees, successor and assigns, to enter upon the Subdivision for access, including ingress and egress for both vehicles and pedestrians, to and from any public street, road, land, walkway or right-of-way. The easement shall be over the streets, sidewalks, bridges and other access ways of the Subdivision. Declarant further reserves the right to connect, at Declarant's expense, to any street, roadway, walkway or other means of access that are located



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on the Common Areas of the Subdivision. This reservation of access easements and the right of connection should be construed liberally in favor of the Declarant, in order to facilitate the development of all or any portion of the Subdivision.

Section 6.8      Reservation of Construction Easement by Declarant. The Declarant reserves the non-exclusive right and easement to temporarily go upon the Subdivision in order to complete the development of the Subdivision and the construction of the improvements to be located therein, and to develop other neighboring land. The easement should be construed broadly in favor of the Declarant, including giving Declarant the right to store temporarily construction materials, equipment or dirt. After the construction is finished, Declarant must, at Declarant's cost, repair any damage done to the Subdivision including to any landscaping. As soon as reasonably possible after Declaration has completed construction on the neighboring land, Declarant must remove all debris, equipment, materials and dirt from the Subdivision.

Section 6.9      Roadway Easement. Pursuant to the Road Maintenance Declaration, Declarant has reserved for the benefit and grants to all Lot Owners, the non-exclusive right of ingress and egress on, over and across all public and private roadways (the "Roadways") located on or to be located on a portion of the Subdivision which private roadways extend between one or more publicly dedicated streets. Roadways (other than those (if any) that have been accepted by applicable governmental authorities for maintenance, constitute Common Areas and shall be maintained, insured, and repaired by the Association in accordance with this Declaration and the Road Maintenance Declaration. The Roadways do not constitute Recreational Facilities. The Declarant hereby reserves the right (but not the obligation), in its sole discretion, to annex additional Roadways into the Subdivision. Notwithstanding the foregoing to the contrary, no part of the Roadway shall be dedicated or transferred to a unit of local government without acceptance of the unit of local government involved.

Section 6.10      Declarant's Easements: General. The easements and grants reserved for and granted to the Declarant also benefit and bind any heirs, successors and assigns of Declarant and their respective guests, invitees or lessees, including, without limitation, assignees of Declarant.

Section 6.11      Easements to Run with Land. All easements and rights described in this Article VI are easements appurtenant, running with the land, perpetually in full force and effect, and at all times shall inure to the benefit of and be binding on the Declarant, its successors and assigns, and any Owner, purchaser, mortgagee, and other person or entity now or hereafter having an interest in the Subdivision, or any part or portion of it.

Section 6.12      Reference to Easements and Deeds. Reference in the respective deeds of conveyance or any mortgage or trust deed or other evidence of obligation, to the easements and rights described in this Declaration, shall be sufficient to create and reserve such easements and rights to the respective grantees, mortgagees and trustees in said instruments as fully and completely as those such easements and rights were recited fully and set forth in their entirety in such instruments.

  
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## ARTICLE VII

### INSURANCE

Section 7.1      General Insurance. In addition to such insurance as is required to be maintained by the Association pursuant to the Road Maintenance Declaration, the Association shall carry a master policy of fire and extended coverage, vandalism, malicious mischief and liability insurance, and if required by law, workmen's compensation insurance with respect to the Subdivision and the Association's administration thereof in accordance with the following provisions:

7.1.1 The Board of Directors shall review the insurance coverage required under this Section 7.1 at least annually, and if any of such insurance coverage becomes impossible or impractical to obtain, the Association shall obtain coverage that most closely approximates the required coverage with the deductible provisions as determined by the Board of Directors. In any event, all such insurance must comply, at a minimum, with the applicable requirements set forth in the North Carolina Planned Community Act.

7.1.2 The Association shall also maintain liability insurance in reasonable amounts, 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 Common Areas. The Association shall try to have its liability insurance contain cross-liability endorsements or appropriate provisions to cover liability of the Lot Owners, individually and as a group (arising out of their ownership interest in the Common Areas), to another Lot Owner.

Section 7.2      Fidelity Insurance. The Association must have fidelity coverage against dishonest acts on the part of Officers and employees, Members of the Association, members of the Board, trustees, employees or volunteers responsible for the handling of funds collected and held for the benefit of the Lot Owners. The fidelity bond or insurance must name the Association as the named insured and shall be written in an amount sufficient to provide protection which is in no event less than the insured's total Regular Assessment, plus all accumulated reserves and all other funds held by the Association either in its own name or for the benefit of the Lot Owners.

Section 7.3      Directors' and Officers' Errors and Omissions Insurance. The Association shall purchase insurance to protect itself and to indemnify any Director or Officer, past or present against expenses actually and reasonably incurred by him/her in connection with the defense of any action, suit or proceeding, civil or criminal, in which he is made a party by reason of being or having been such Director or Officer, except in relation to matters as to which he shall be adjudged in such action, suit or proceeding to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of duty to the Association; or to obtain such fuller protection and indemnification for Directors and Officers as the law of North Carolina permits. The policy or policies shall be in an amount to be reasonably determined by the Association.



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Section 7.4      Premiums. All premiums upon insurance purchased by the Association shall be Common Expenses. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Lot Owners may be responsible for certain deductibles to the insurance policies purchased by the Association.

7.4.1.1      Responsibility of Lot Owner. The Association shall not be responsible for procurement or maintenance of any insurance covering any Lot or Dwelling Unit, or the contents of and Lot or Dwelling Unit nor the liability of any Lot Owner for injuries not caused by or connected with the Association's operation, maintenance or use of the Common Areas or other property located in the Subdivision.

## ARTICLE VIII

### ASSOCIATION

Section 8.1      Association. The administration of the Subdivision shall be vested in the Association. The Owner of any Lot, upon acquiring title, shall automatically become a Member of the Association and shall remain a Member until such time as his ownership of such Lot ceases for any reason, at which time his membership in the Association shall automatically cease. The Association shall have full power and responsibility to administer, operate, sustain, maintain, and govern the Subdivision including but not limited to, the powers and responsibilities to make prudent investments of funds held by it; to make reasonable Rules and Regulations; to borrow money; to make Assessments; to bring lawsuits and defend lawsuits; to enter into contracts; to enforce all of the provisions of this Declaration, the Bylaws and any other documents or instruments relating to the establishment, existence, operation, alternation of the Subdivision. The powers of the Association shall be construed liberally and shall include, without limitation, all of the powers set forth in *Section 47F-3-102* of the Planned Community Act.

Section 8.2      Board of Directors. Unless otherwise specifically stated in this Declaration, the Association shall act exclusively through its Board of Directors (the "Board"). The Association in accordance with the Bylaws shall choose the Board. The Board shall be authorized to delegate the administration of its duties and powers by written contract to a managing agent or administrator employed for that purpose by the Board.

Section 8.3      Limitations on Association's Duties.

8.3.1 The Association did not construct the improvements, including the Dwelling Units. The Association does not warrant in any way or for any purpose, the improvements in the Subdivision. Construction defects are not the responsibility of the Association.

8.3.2 The Association shall have a reasonable time in which to make any repair or do any other work, which it is required to do under the Constituent Documents. The Association must first have actual knowledge of a problem. Any determination of the reasonableness of the Association's response, must allow for the facts that the Association is volunteer and that the funds available to the Association are limited.



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8.3.3 In case of ambiguity or omission, the Board may interpret the Declaration and the other Constituent Documents, and the Board's interpretation shall be final if made without malice or fraud. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Declarant may overrule any interpretation affecting it, for so long as Declarant owns any portion of the Property; and such interpretation cannot be enforce against the Declarant, its successors or assigns.

## ARTICLE IX

### **HARMONY, ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS**

Section 9.1 Architectural Control Committee. Except for original construction performed by or on behalf of Declarant or as otherwise in these covenants provided, no building, fence, electric pet fence, sidewalk, drive, mailbox, or other structure, or improvement or anything attached thereto visible from the outside of the structure or improvement (including, without limitation, storm doors, windows, drapes or window coverings) shall be erected, placed, altered, or maintained within the Subdivision nor shall any exterior addition to or change (including any change in color) or alteration therein be made until the proposed building plans, specifications, exterior color and finish, plot plans (showing the proposed location of such building or structure, drives and parking areas), general contractor and all subcontractors, and construction schedule shall have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Board of Directors of the Association, or by any architectural control committee appointed by said Board of Directors. Refusal of approval of plans, location or specification by said Board of Directors or architectural control committee may be based upon any reasonable ground, including, without limitation, lack of harmony of external design, color, location or relation to surrounding structures and topography and purely aesthetic considerations which, in the discretion of said Board of Directors or architectural control committee shall deem sufficient. After approval by the Board of Directors or architectural control committee is given, no alterations may be made in such plans except by and with their prior written consent. One copy of all plans, specifications and related data shall be furnished the Board of Directors or architectural control committee for its records.

Section 9.2 Minimum Square Footage of Dwelling Unit. Any structure built for use as a dwelling unit to be constructed on a Lot with the Subdivision subject to the Declaration shall contain not less than 1,200 square feet of heated space for one story house and 1,400 square feet of heated space for any house in excess of one story. The minimum square footage herein provided shall be measured by using the fully enclosed and heated floor space all devoted to general living purposes and be exclusive of roofed or unroofed porches, breeze ways, decks, terraces, garages, and any outbuildings. Any dwellings in excess of one story shall contain not less than 700 square feet on the first level of such structures which shall be fully enclosed and heated floor space all devoted to living purposes exclusive of roofed or unroofed porches, breeze ways, decks, terraces, garages, and any outbuildings.



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## ARTICLE X

### USE RESTRICTIONS

Section 10.1 Use and Occupancy. The Association shall make Rules and Regulations to govern the use and occupancy of the Subdivision. In addition, the following covenants, conditions, and restrictions, as to use and occupancy shall run with the land and shall be binding upon each Lot Owner, his heirs, tenants, licensees and assigns.

Section 10.2 Purpose of Subdivision. Except as otherwise provided in this Declaration, no part of the Subdivision shall be used for other than housing and the common recreational purposes for which the property was designed, and each Lot shall be used only for residential purposes. Except for the construction, sales and management activities (including, without limitation, the right of Declarant to maintain one or more model Dwelling Units, or sales offices) of the Declarant, no business, trade, industry, occupation or profession of any kind, whether for profit or not for profit, may be conducted, maintained, or permitted on any part of the Subdivision property. To the extent permitted by law, an Owner may use a portion of his or her Dwelling Unit for an office or studio (other than a music and/or dance studio) provided that the activities conducted therein shall not interfere with the quiet enjoyment or comfort of any other owner or occupant; and provided further that such activities do not increase the normal flow of traffic or individuals in and out of the Subdivision or in and out of said Owner's Lot.

Section 10.3 Obstruction of Common Areas. There shall be no storage or parking of any items, or vehicles in any part of the Common Areas, except as permitted by the Rules and Regulations.

Section 10.4 Parking. Except for vehicles being used by persons providing services to the Declarant, the Association, the Lot Owners or otherwise used or authorized to be used at the Subdivision by the Declarant, no part of the Subdivision may be used for the parking of any trailer coach, house trailer, mobile home, automobile trailer, motorcycle, camp car, recreational vehicle, camper, truck which exceeds 3/4 ton, boat, boat trailer, or any vehicle with letters or other markings over four inches tall or wide, or any other similar vehicle (collectively, "Special Vehicles"), unless such Special Vehicles are parked in the garage of the Lot Owner who owns such Special Vehicle and the garage door of such Lot Owner is completely closed at all times when a Special Vehicle is parked therein. Operative vehicles, other than Special Vehicles, used by a resident of a Lot as a primary source of transportation may be parked in the driveway of such Lot Owner or in any garage space owned by the Owner of such Lot. However, the residents of any one Lot may not collectively park more than four (4) operative vehicles other than Special Vehicles in the Subdivision. Inoperative vehicles may not be parked within the Subdivision unless these inoperative vehicles are parked in the garage and the garage door is completely closed. No auto maintenance and/or repairs may be performed on the Subdivision except if performed inside the garage of a Lot Owner. Vehicles, whether owned by a Lot Owner or not, parked in violation of any part of this Declaration or in violation of any Rules or Regulations, shall be towed away and stored at the Owner's risk and expense. No vehicle of any type shall be parked on any street in the Subdivision. By parking in the Project, the Owner of the vehicle or other vehicle user hereby waives any claim against the Association resulting directly or indirectly out of the towing, unless the towing can be shown beyond a reasonable doubt to have



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been done maliciously by the Association. Note that the Association is not obliged to try to determine the owner of a vehicle and first give notice, before towing the vehicle. If a Lot Owner is not sure about the right to park at any particular area or space, the Lot Owner should request, in writing, a written opinion from the Board. If the Board gives the approval sought by the Lot Owner or if the Board does not answer the written request by the Board, the Lot Owner may park in the space until further written notice to the contrary from the Board. Note that the Association's right to tow a vehicle includes the right to immobilize it.

Section 10.5      Animals and Pets. No animals of any kind shall be raised, bred, or kept on any Lot or in any Dwelling Unit or in the Common Areas, except that two dogs, two cats or one of each, or two other household pets may be kept in a Dwelling Unit, subject to the Rules and Regulations, provided that it is not kept, bred or maintained for any commercial purpose, and that it is kept subject to the Rules and Regulations of the Association. Dogs, cats or other household pets must be kept within the confines of the Owner's Dwelling Unit except when being held on hand leash by the pet owner of the animal. No pet may be "staked", housed, tied up or otherwise left in any Common Area. A Lot Owner shall be responsible for cleaning up after his household pet. Notwithstanding the above, the Association shall have the right to promulgate Rules and Regulations pertaining to the size, number and type of such household pets and the right to levy fines and enforcement charges against persons who do not clean up after their pets. Additionally, the right of an occupant to maintain an animal in a Dwelling Unit shall be subject to termination if the Board in its full and complete discretion, determines that maintenance of the animal constitutes a nuisance or creates a detrimental effect on the Subdivision or occupants.

Section 10.6      Nuisances. No noxious or offensive activity shall be carried on in any Dwelling Unit or in the Common Areas or on the Lot of an Owner, nor shall anything be done therein, either willfully or negligently, which may be or become an annoyance or nuisance to the other Lot Owners or occupants.

Section 10.7      Laundry or Rubbish and Open Fires in Common Areas and Facilities. No clothes, sheets, blankets, laundry of any kind or other articles shall be hung out or exposed on any Lot in a manner visible from any Common Area, neighboring Lot or street. All trash, garbage or other rubbish shall be deposited only in covered sanitary containers as provided in Section 10.9 below. No open fires shall be permitted on any part of the Subdivision other than fires in charcoal grills or other similar cooking devices located upon Lots or grills or similar devices (if any), owned by the Association and constituting a portion of the Recreational Facilities, provided the use of such devices does not violate any local governmental rules or regulations.

Section 10.8      Prohibited Activities. Except as otherwise provided in this Declaration, no business, trade, industry, occupation or profession of any kind, whether for profit or not for profit, shall be conducted, maintained or permitted on any part of the Subdivision. A Lot Owner is permitted to place and maintain a standard "For Sale" or "For Rent" sign; provided, however it is of a typical size within the industry or within an area expressly permitted by the Board of Directors. No other sign that is visible from the outside of Dwelling Units may be placed on any part of the Subdivision except as expressly permitted by the Board of Directors. Declarant and/or the Board shall have the right to immediately remove and dispose of those



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items in violation of this Declaration. A Lot Owner must obtain the prior written consent of the Board of Directors in the event a Lot Owner desires to maintain a "For Sale" or "For Rent" sign which is not of a typical size within the industry, or desires to maintain other displays or advertising, unless otherwise provided for under the Rules and Regulations. The right is reserved by the Declarant to use any such unsold or unoccupied Dwelling Units or other structures in the Subdivision as models and/or offices in connection with the construction, sale or rental of Dwelling Units.

So long as the Declarant owns a Lot no action may be taken nor may any Rule or Regulation be adopted or amended that would (a) directly or indirectly alter the exterior appearance of any part of the Subdivision; (b) reduce or discontinue any maintenance standard or practice in effect as of the date when the Declarant no longer controls the Board; (c) adversely affect the Declarant's sale or leasing of any Lots; or (d) otherwise adversely affect the Declarant, any of its rights, or any Lot owned by it without, in each case, first obtaining the Declarant's written consent.

Section 10.9      Trash Disposal. Each Lot Owner shall deposit all trash, garbage, or other rubbish by as directed and instructed by the Board. Lot Owners shall keep trash containers at all times in each Lot Owner's garage (if applicable), or in such other location as designated by the Board, except on the days which trash, garbage, or other rubbish is collected by the local waste removal authorities. Any trash containers placed outside by the Lot Owners in the location designated for collection by the local waste removal authorities shall only remain in such location for a period not to exceed twenty-four (24) hours. The Board shall have the right to dispose of any trash, garbage, or other rubbish of a Lot Owner in violation of this Article X, and may assess the Lot Owner for the cost of such removal, which amount shall be payable on the date the next installment of the regular assessment is due.

Section 10.10      Nondiscrimination. No owner (including the Declarant), or any employee, agent or representative thereof, shall discriminate upon the basis of sex, race, age, color, creed or national origin in the sale, lease or rental of any Lot nor in the use of the Common Areas.

## ARTICLE XI

### **ENFORCEMENT**

Section 11.1      Enforcement.

11.1.1 The Association or any Lot Owner may enforce these covenants, conditions and restrictions. Enforcement of these covenants, conditions and restrictions shall be by any proceeding at law or in equity against any person or persons violating or attempting to violate ("Violating Party") any covenant, condition or restriction, either to restrain or enjoin violation or to recover damages, and against the land to enforce any lien created by these covenants. In addition to all other amounts due on account of said violation or attempted violation, the Violating Party shall be liable to the parties enforcing the covenants and/or restrictions of this Declaration (the "Enforcing Parties") for all reasonable attorney's fees and court costs incurred by the Enforcing Parties.



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Failure or forbearance by the Association or any Owner to enforce any covenant, condition or restriction herein contained shall in no event be deemed a waiver of the right to do so thereafter. In any lawsuit filed to enforce this Declaration by injunction or restraint, there shall be and there is hereby created and declared to be a conclusive presumption that any violation or breach or any attempted violation or breach of any of the within covenants, conditions or restrictions cannot be adequately remedied by action at law or by recovery of damages.

11.1.2 In addition to all other remedies of the Association, the Association shall have the right to assess a maximum fine of \$150.00 per day (or such higher amount as may be allowed by law) per violation against any Owner who violates any provision of this Declaration or the Articles, Bylaws or Rules and Regulations of the Association after such Owner has been given notice of the violation and an opportunity to be heard with respect to the violation in accordance with such policies and procedures as may be adopted from time to time by the Board of Directors or as may be set forth in the Bylaws.

11.1.3 In addition to the above rights, the Association may also enter upon a Lot or any land upon which a violation exists to remove any violation, perform maintenance or make repairs thereon which is the responsibility of a Lot Owner who has failed to remove said violation or to perform such maintenance or make such repairs (i) after having given such owner at least ten (10) days prior notice, or (ii) without giving notice in the event of an emergency.

Any action brought by the Association hereunder may be brought in its own name, in the name of its Board or in the name of its managing agent. In any case of flagrant or repeated violation by a Lot Owner, he or she may be required by the Association to give sufficient surety or sureties for his or her future compliance with the covenants, conditions and restrictions contained in this Declaration, the Bylaws and the Rules and Regulations.

Section 11.2 Severability. Invalidation of any one of these covenants, conditions or restrictions by judgment or court order shall in no way affect any other provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 11.3 Restrictions Run With Land. The easements or other permanent rights or interests are herein created, the covenants and restrictions of this Declaration shall run with and bind the land, and shall inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by the Association, or the Owner of any Dwelling Unit subject to this Declaration, their respective legal representatives, heirs, successors, and assigns.

Section 11.4 Amendment. The Association (the Declarant controlling the Association until the expiration of the Development Period) may amend this Declaration at any time, as long as consistent with the design, scheme and purposes of this Declaration, by the affirmative vote or written agreement of the Owners to whom not less than seventy-five percent (75%) of all of the votes in the Association are allocated in accordance with Section 4.4 and Section 4.5 above. Any amendment must be recorded in the Craven County Register of Deeds. Following the end of the Development Period, no such agreement to amend, in whole or in part,



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shall be effective unless written notice of the proposed amendment is sent to every Member at least thirty (30) days in advance of any action taken, and no such amendment shall be effective with respect to any permanent easements or other permanent rights or interests relating to the Common Areas herein created (unless such amendment is consented to in writing by Declarant and all other beneficiaries of such permanent easements, rights of interests).

Section 11.5      Reservation of Special Declarant Rights. Declarant reserves the right to maintain sales and management offices, model units, construction trailers, storage or staging areas, and advertising signs upon Lots or the Common Areas and upon Lots owned by it until the expiration of the Development Period and to exercise all other “Special Declarant Rights” as defined in the Planned Community Act. Without limiting the foregoing, and notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, during the Development Period, Declarant shall have the right to annex additional Lots or Common Areas into the Subdivision by filing a supplement to this Declaration in the Craven County Register of Deed’s Office together with an amendment to the Plat (if applicable). Such additional Lots or Common Areas need not be contiguous to the Property. Declarant shall have the right to assign all or a portion of any rights or easements reserved herein by a written assignment thereof, recorded in the Craven County Register of Deed’s Office.

Section 11.6      Management and Service Contracts. Any agreement for the professional management of the Subdivision of the Common Areas may not exceed three (3) years and shall provide for termination by either party without cause and without payment of a termination fee upon reasonable notice.

Section 11.7      Binding Determination. In the event of any dispute or disagreement with or between any Owner(s) relating to, or of any other disputes, disagreements or questions regarding, the interpretation or application of the provisions of this Declaration or the Articles or Bylaws of the Association, the determination thereof (i) by Declarant for so long as Declarant retains control of the Association; and (ii) thereafter by the Board of Directors of the Association shall be final and binding on each and all such Owners; providing that any determination which directly or indirectly affects Declarant shall require Declarant’s prior consent to become binding upon Declarant.

Section 11.8      Captions and Titles. All captions, titles or headings in this Declaration are for the purpose of reference and convenience only and are not deemed to limit, modify or otherwise affect any of the provisions hereof, or to be used in determining the intent or context thereof.

Section 11.9      Notices. Except as otherwise provided in this Declaration, any notice to any Owner under this Declaration shall be in writing, shall be effective on the earlier of (i) the date when received by such Owner, or (ii) the date which is three days after mailing (postage prepaid) to the last address of such Owner set forth in the books of the Association. The address of an Owner shall be at his Lot (or any of them if more than one) unless otherwise specified in writing to the Association. The Articles and Bylaws shall specify the permissible manner of giving notice for voting and all other Association matters for which the manner of giving notice is not prescribed in this Declaration.

  
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Section 11.10 Governing Law. This Declaration shall be deemed to be made under, and shall be construed in accordance with and shall be governed by, the laws of the State of North Carolina, and suit to enforce any provision hereof or to obtain any remedy with respect hereto shall be brought in state court in Craven County, and for this purpose each Owner by becoming such hereby expressly and irrevocably consents to the jurisdiction of said court.

## ARTICLE XII

### **NEUSE RIVER BUFFER RULE (NCDENR)**

Section 12.1 Pursuant to the Neuse River Buffer Rule; 15A NCAC 2B.0233 promulgated by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Declarant has agreed to impose certain Restrictions on the Restricted Buffer as more particularly set forth and has agreed that these restriction may be enforces by the North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) or any successor (hereinafter the "NCDWQ"). The Declarant hereby declares that the Restricted Buffer Area is described as follows and shall forever be held transferred, sold, conveyed, occupied and maintained subject to the conditions and restrictions set forth herein:

The Riparian Buffer applied to the fifty (50) foot wide buffer directly adjacent to surface waters in the Neuse River Basin. The buffer shall consist of two zones.

A. Zone 1 is that area measured from the most landward limit of the normal water level of the landward limit of CAMA coastal marsh, extending landward for a distance of thirty (30) feet. This Zone shall consist of a vegetative area that is undisturbed except for uses provided for in Subparagraph (6) of 15A NCAC 2B.0233.

B. Zone 2 (the outer 20 feet landward from the outer edge of Zone I.) Zone 2 shall consist of a stable Vegetative area that is undisturbed except for activities and uses provided for in Subparagraph (6) of 15A NCAC 2B.0233.

The restriction shall run with the Restricted Buffer Area and shall be binding on all parties having any right, title or interest in and to the Restricted Buffer Area, or any portion thereof and their heirs, personal representatives, successors, and assigns. Any present or future owner or occupant of the Restricted Buffer Area or any portion thereof: by acceptance of a deed of conveyance of all or part of the Covenant Area of an instrument conveying any interest therein, whether or not the deed or instrument shall so express, shall be deemed to have accepted the Restricted Buffer Area subject to the Restriction and shall agree to bound by, to comply with and to be subject to each and every one of the Restrictions hereinafter set forth in 15A NCAC 2B.0233.



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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Declarant has caused this instrument to be executed as of the day and year first above written.

LRH DEVELOPMENT, LLC

BY: [Signature]  
ERNEST L. REASON, JR., Member-Manager

BY: [Signature]  
RICKIE L. SCHEPER, Member-Manager

BY: [Signature]  
HOVEY AIKEN, Member-Manager

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF Craven

I, Lisa B Reason, a Notary Public, do hereby certify that ERNEST L. REASON, JR., personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged that he is a Member-Manager of LRH DEVELOPMENT, LLC, a North Carolina Limited Liability Company, and further acknowledged the due execution thereof.

WITNESS my hand and official stamp or seal, this the 18 day of August, 2009.

[Signature]  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 9-11-2011



  
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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

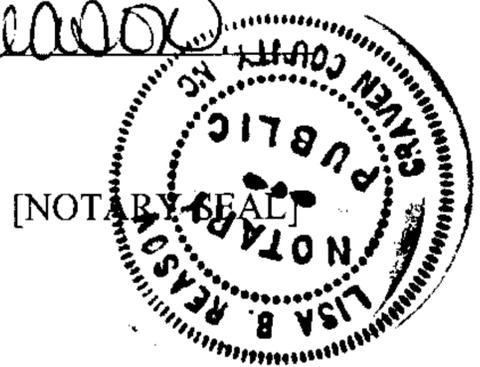
COUNTY OF Craven

I, Lisa B Reason, a Notary Public, do hereby certify that RICKIE L. SCHEPER, personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged that he is a Member-Manager of LRH DEVELOPMENT, LLC, a North Carolina Limited Liability Company, and further acknowledged the due execution thereof.

WITNESS my hand and official stamp or seal, this the 18 day of August, 2009.

Lisa B Reason  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 9-11-2011



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF Craven

I, Lisa B Reason, a Notary Public, do hereby certify that HOVEY AIKEN personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged that he is a Member-Manager of LRH DEVELOPMENT, LLC, a North Carolina Limited Liability Company, and further acknowledged the due execution thereof.

WITNESS my hand and official stamp or seal, this the 18 day of August, 2009.

Lisa B Reason  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 9-11-2011



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EXHIBIT A

Legal Description

BEING located in Craven County, North Carolina, and being more particularly depicted as those subdivided residential building Lots, septic tank lots, associated Common Areas and roadways as shown on that plat entitled "FINAL PLAT OF THE VILLAGE @ CROATAN, Planned Unit Development, Section One, Phase One", prepared by Brad L. Suitt & Associates, P.A., dated 02/20/2009 and recorded in Plat Cabinet H, Slide 147A-C, Craven County Registry.



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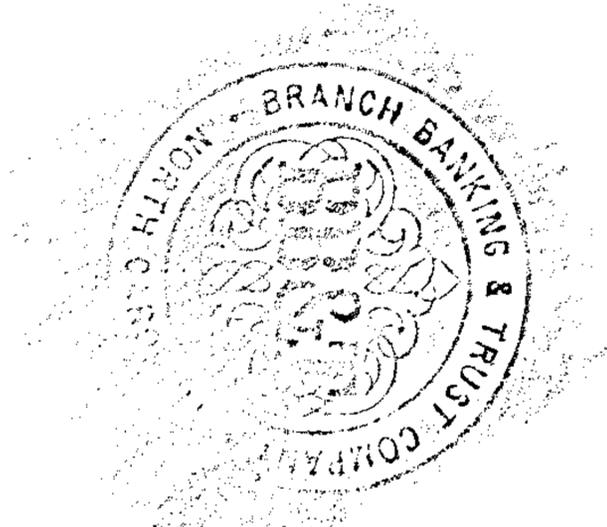
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CONSENT OF MORTGAGEE

BRANCH BANKING AND TRUST COMPANY, a North Carolina banking corporation and the holder of a deed of trust recorded in the Office of the Craven County, North Carolina Register of Deeds, in Book 2736, Page 200, and BB&T Collateral Service Corporation, in its capacity as trustee under the aforesaid deed of trust, hereby consent to the execution and delivery of the foregoing Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions, with exhibits thereto (the "Declaration"), and to the filing thereof, in the office of the County Recorder of Craven County, North Carolina, and further subject and subordinate the above-described deed of trust to the provisions of the foregoing Declaration with attached exhibits (including, without limitation, any easements reserved therein).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, BRANCH BANKING AND TRUST COMPANY, by its authorized officer, and the undersigned Trustee have caused this Consent to be executed this 26 day of August, 2009.

BRANCH BANKING AND TRUST COMPANY



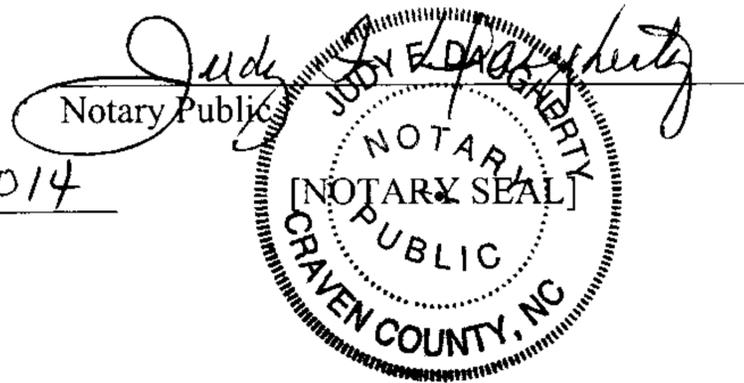
By: [Signature]  
Name: GARY BROWN  
Title: V.P.

BB&T COLLATERAL SERVICE CORPORATION

Name: [Signature]  
Title: Trustee under the aforesaid Deed of Trust

STATE OF North Carolina  
COUNTY OF Craven ) : SS:

I, Judy F. Daugherty, a Notary Public of the aforesaid county and state, certify that GARY BROWN, personally came before me this day and, being duly sworn, acknowledged that he/she is Vice President of BRANCH BANKING AND TRUST COMPANY, a North Carolina banking corporation and that the seal affixed to the foregoing instrument in writing is the corporate seal of said corporation, and that said writing was signed and sealed by him/her in behalf of said corporation by its authority duly given. And the Vice President acknowledged the said writing to be the act and deed of said corporation. Witness my hand and official stamp or seal this 26 day of August, 2009.



My Commission Expires: April 3, 2014



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