

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
OF  
FOREST CREEK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.  
(A Corporation Not for Profit Under  
the Laws of the State of Florida)**

In order to form a corporation not for profit under and in accordance with the provisions of the State of Florida, the undersigned do hereby associate themselves into a corporation not for profit, and to that end by these Articles of Incorporation state:

**ARTICLE 1  
NAME**

1.0 The name of this corporation shall be: FOREST CREEK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. (hereinafter referred to as the "Association").

**ARTICLE 2  
DEFINITIONS**

2.0 The terms contained and used in these ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION shall have the same definitions and meanings as those set forth in the DECLARATION OF COVENANTS AND RESTRICTIONS FOR FOREST CREEK SUBDIVISION (hereinafter referred to as the "Declaration").

**ARTICLE 3  
PURPOSE**

3.0 The purpose for which the Association is organized is to provide an entity responsible for the operation of a single family residential community to be known generally as Forest Creek Subdivision (hereinafter referred to as the "Project") to be developed by FOREST CREEK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, a Florida corporation (hereinafter referred to as the "Developer").

**ARTICLE 4  
POWERS**

4.0 The Association shall have the following powers:

4.1 The Association shall operate, maintain and manage the surface water or storm water management system(s) in a manner consistent with the St. Johns River Water Management District permit requirements and applicable District rules, and shall assist in the enforcement of the Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions which relate to the surface water or storm water management system.

The Association shall levy and collect adequate assessments against members of the Association for the costs of maintenance and operation of the surface water or storm water management system.

4.2 The Association shall have all of the powers set forth in the Declaration and all of the common law and statutory powers and privileges granted to corporations not for profit under the laws of

the State of Florida, except where the same are in conflict with the Declaration, these Articles, or the By-Laws of this Association which may be hereafter adopted.

4.3 The Association shall have all of the powers reasonably necessary to implement and effectuate the purposes of the Association not otherwise expressly prohibited herein, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) To make and amend reasonable rules and regulations for the maintenance, conservation, and use of the property and for the health, comfort, safety, and welfare of lot owners.
- (b) To own, control, operate, manage, maintain, repair, and replace the common property, including the right to reconstruct improvements after casualty and the right to make future improvements to the common property.
- (c) To Levy and collect Assessments against members of the Association as provided for in the Agreement and the By-Laws of this Association. Without limiting the generality of the preceding sentence, such Assessments may be levied and collected for the purchase of insurance on the common property, insurance for the protection of the Association, its Officers, Directors, and members, and comprehensive general public liability and property damage insurance; to acquire, operate, lease, manage, and otherwise trade and deal with such property, whether real or personal, which may be necessary or convenient for the operation and management of the common property; to pay all taxes, utility charges, and other expenses with respect to the common property; and generally to accomplish the purposes set forth in the Declaration.
- (d) To hire such employees or agents, including professional management agents or companies (which may be the Developer or an entity affiliated with the Developer), and purchase such equipment, supplies, and materials as may be needed to provide for the management, supervision, and maintenance of the property.
- (e) To enforce the provisions of the Declaration, these Articles of Incorporation, and the By-Laws of the Association.
- (f) To exercise, undertake, and accomplish all of the powers, rights, duties, and obligations which may be granted to or imposed upon the Association pursuant to the Declaration, including, but not limited to, the enforcement of all of the covenants, restrictions, and other terms contained in or imposed by the Declaration.
- (g) The irrevocable right of access to each lot during reasonable hours, when necessary, for the maintenance, repair, or replacement of any common property or for making emergency repairs necessary to prevent damage to the common property, or to another lot or lots.
- (h) To pay taxes and other charges, on or against property owned or accepted by the Association.
- (i) To borrow money and, from time to time, to make, accept, endorse, execute, and issue debentures, promissory notes, or other obligations of the Association for monies borrowed, in payment of property acquired, or for any of the other purposes of the Association, and to secure the repayment of any such obligation by mortgage, pledge, or other instrument of trust, or by lien upon, assignment of, or agreement in regard to all or any part of the property, rights, or privileges of the Association, wherever situated.
- (j) To buy, own, operate, lease, sell, trade, and mortgage both real and personal property.

(k) To charge recipients for services rendered by the Association and the use of Association Property where such is deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors of the Association and is permitted by law.

## **ARTICLE 5 MEMBERS**

5.0 The qualification of members, the manner of their admission to and termination of such membership, and voting by members shall be as follows:

5.1 All lot owners shall be members of the Association, and no other persons or entities shall be entitled to membership, except as otherwise provided herein.

5.2 Membership is nontransferable and inseparable from ownership of the lot, except as an appurtenance to a lot.

5.3 The Corporation shall have two (2) classes of voting membership:

**Class A:** Class A members shall be all owners of lots in the Forest Creek Subdivision, excluding Developer. There shall be only one (1) Class A member per platted plot. When more than one (1) person holds an interest in any such lot, all such persons shall be members. The vote for such lot shall be exercised as they, amongst themselves, determine, but in no event shall more than one (1) vote be cast with respect to any such lot.

**Class B:** The Class B member shall be Developer, or any successor Developer, which shall be entitled to ten (10) votes for each lot it owns. The Class B membership shall cease and be converted to Class A membership on the happening of one of the following events, whichever occurs earlier:

(A) Three (3) months after ninety percent (90%) of the lots in all phases of the Subdivision that will ultimately be operated by the Association have been conveyed to members other than the Developer (“members other than the Developer” shall not include builders, contractors, or others who purchase a parcel for the purpose of constructing improvements thereon for resale); or

(B) The Developer elects to terminate its Class B membership and convert to Class A membership; or

(C) January 1, 2005.

5.4 The By-Laws shall provide for an annual meeting of members, and may make provisions for regular and special meetings of members in addition to the annual meeting.

## **ARTICLE 6 EXISTANCE AND DURATION**

6.0 Existence of the Association shall commence with the filing of these Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State, Tallahassee, Florida. The Association shall exist in perpetuity.

**ARTICLE 7  
ADDRESS**

7.0 The initial principal office of the Association shall be located at 3115 Dixie Highway, Palm Bay, Florida 32905. The Association may maintain offices and transact business in such other places, within or without the State of Florida, as may from time to time be designated by the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE 8  
DIRECTORS**

8.0 The affairs and property of the Association shall be managed and governed by a Board of Directors composed of not less than three (3) Directors. The first Board of Directors shall have three (3) members, and the number of Directors on subsequent Boards will be determined from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the By-Laws of the Association. Directors need not be members of the Association.

8.1 Directors of the Association shall be appointed in the manner determined by the By-Laws of the Association. Directors may be removed and vacancies on the Board of Directors shall be filled in the manner provided for in the By-Laws.

8.2 The Directors named in these Articles shall serve until the Turnover Date, or until otherwise removed by the Developer as provided for in the By-Laws and any vacancies in their number occurring before the Turnover Date shall be filled by the remaining Directors or by the Developer as provided for in the Declaration or the By-Laws of this Association.

8.3 The names and addresses of the first Board of Directors who shall serve until their successors are appointed and have qualified, or until removed, are as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Roy J. Pence	P.O. Box 87, Palm Bay, FL. 32906
Benjamin E. Jefferies	1050 Hollow Brook Lane, Malabar, FL. 32950
Ronald W. Thompson	544 Ponderosa St., W. Melbourne, FL. 32904

8.4 The "Turnover Date" is defined as the earlier of: (I) Three (3) months after ninety percent (90%) of the lots in all phases of the Subdivision that will ultimately be operated by the Association have been conveyed to members other than the Developer ("members other than the Developer" shall not include builders, contractors, or others who purchase a parcel for the purpose of construction improvements thereon for resale); (II) the Developer elects to terminate its Class B membership and convert to Class A membership; or January 1, 2005.

**ARTICLE 9  
OFFICERS**

9.0 The affairs of the Association shall be administered by the Officers of the Association holding the offices designated in the By-Laws. The Officers of the Association shall be elected by the Board of Directors at its first meeting following the annual meeting of the members of the Association and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors. Officers need not be members of the Association.

The By-Laws may provide for the duties of the Officers, and for the removal from office of Officers and for the filling of vacancies.

## **ARTICLE 10 SUBSCRIBER**

10.0 The name and address of the Subscriber to these Articles of Incorporation is as follows: Victor S. Kostro, Esquire., 1825 Riverview Drive, Melbourne, FL. 32901.

## **ARTICLE 11 BY-LAWS**

11.0 The first By-Laws of the Association shall be adopted by a majority vote of the Board of Directors of the Association and, thereafter, such By-Laws may be altered, amended, or rescinded only as provided in the By-Laws.

## **ARTICLE 12 INDEMNIFICATION**

12.0 Indemnity. The Association indemnify any person who was or is a party, or is threatened to be made a party, to any threatened, pending or contemplated action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the Association) by reason of the fact that such person is or was a Director, Officer, employee, or agent of the Association, against expenses (including attorneys' fees and appellate attorneys' fee), judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with such action, suit, or proceeding, provided such person acted in good faith and in a manner reasonably believed by him or her to be in, or at least not opposed to, the best interest of the Association and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, such person had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful; except no indemnification shall be made in respect of any claim, issue, or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable because of gross negligence or willful misfeasance or malfeasance in the performance of his or her duties to the Association, unless and only to the extent that the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine, upon application, that despite the adjudication of liability, but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnification for such expenses which such court shall deem proper. The termination of any action, suit, or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which he or she reasonably believed to be in, or at least not opposed to, the best interest of the Association and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, such person had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

12.1 Expenses. To the extent that a Director, Officer, employee, or agent of the Association has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit, or proceeding referred to in Paragraph 12.0 hereof, or in defense of any claim, issue, or matter therein, such person shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorneys' fees and appellate attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection therewith.

12.2 Approval. Any indemnification under Paragraph 12.0 hereof (unless ordered by a court) shall be made by the Association only as authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the Director, Officer, employee, or agent is proper in the circumstances because such person has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in such Paragraph 12.0 hereof. Such

determination shall be made (a) by the Board of Directors by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of Directors who are not parties to such action, suit, or proceeding, or (b) if such quorum is not obtainable, or, even if obtainable, a quorum of disinterested Directors so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion, or (c) by a majority of members of the Association.

12.3 Advances. Expenses incurred in defending a civil or criminal action, suit, or proceeding may be paid by the Association in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit, or proceeding as authorized by the Board of Directors in the specific case upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the Director, Officer, employee, or agent to repay such amount unless it shall ultimately be determined that such person is entitled to indemnification by the Association as authorized in this Article.

12.4 Miscellaneous. The indemnification provided by this Article shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which such person seeking indemnification may be entitled under any By-Law, agreement, vote of the members of the Association, or otherwise, both as to action in his or her official capacity while holding such office, as well as continuing to such a person after he or she has ceased to be a Director, Officer, employee, or agent. Such indemnification shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, personal representatives, and administrators of such person.

12.5 Insurance. The Association shall have the power to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a Director, Officer, employee, or agent of the Association, or is or was serving at the request of the Association as a Director, Officer, employee, or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise against any liability asserted against or arising out of his or her status as such, whether or not the Association would have the power to indemnify such person against such liability under the provisions of this Article.

## **ARTICLE 13 AMENDMENTS**

13.0 Amendments While Developer Holds Two-Thirds (2/3) of Total Membership Votes. At any time Developer holds two-thirds (2/3) of the total membership votes (Class A and Class B combined), these Articles may be amended by the majority vote of the Board of Directors.

13.1 Amendments While Developer Does Not Hold Two-Thirds (2/3) of Total Membership Votes. At any time the Developer does not hold two-thirds (2/3) of the total membership votes, amendments to articles may be proposed by the Board of Directors of the Association acting upon a vote of the majority of the Directors, or by members of the Association owning not less than one-third of the lots, whether meeting as members or by instrument in writing signed by them. Upon any Amendment or Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation being proposed by said Board of Directors, or members, such proposed Amendment or Amendments shall be transmitted to the president of the Association or, in the absence of the President, such other Officer of the Association who shall thereupon call a special meeting of the members of the Association for a date not sooner than twenty (20) days nor later than sixty (60) days from the receipt by him or her of the Proposed Amendment or Amendments, and it shall be the duty of the Secretary to give to each member written or printed notice of such special meeting, stating the time and place thereof, and reciting the proposed Amendment or Amendments in reasonably detailed form, which notice shall be mailed not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30) days before the date set for such special meeting. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to have been given when deposited in the United States mail addressed to the member at his post office address as it appears on the records of the Association, the postage thereon prepaid. Any member may waive such notice, by written waiver of notice. And, when such waiver of notice is filed in the records of the Association (whether before or after the holding of the meeting), it shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice to such member.

At such meeting, if the Developer maintains a Class B membership, the Amendment or Amendments proposed must be approved by the Developer and an affirmative vote of the members holding at least a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total number of members of the Association entitled to vote thereon in

order for such Amendment or Amendments of the Articles of Incorporation to be transcribed and certified by the President and Secretary of the Association as having been duly adopted and the original or an executed copy of such Amendment or Amendments so certified and executed with the same formalities as a deed shall be filed with the Secretary of the State of Florida and also recorded in the Public Records of Brevard County within twenty (20) days from the date on which the same became effective, such Amendment or Amendments to refer specifically to the recording data identifying the Declaration. Thereafter, a copy of said Amendment or Amendments in the form in which the same were placed of record by the Officers of the Association shall be mailed or delivered to all of the members of the Association, but mailing or delivering a copy thereof shall not be a condition precedent to the effectiveness of such Amendment or Amendments. At any such meeting held to consider such Amendment or Amendments, the written vote of any member of the Association shall be recognized if such member is not in attendance at such meeting or represented there at by proxy, provided such written vote is delivered to the Secretary of the Association at or prior to such meeting.

At such meeting, if the Developer no longer maintains a Class B membership, the Amendment or Amendments proposed must be approved solely by an affirmative vote of members holding at least a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total number of members of the Association entitled to vote thereon and the above referenced procedure for certification, filing and recording shall be followed.

The Developer specifically reserves the absolute and unconditional right, as long as Developer owns any lot, to amend these Articles without the consent or joinder of any party to (i) conform to the requirements of the St. Johns River Water Management District, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Federal National Mortgage Association, Veterans Administration, Department of Housing and Urban Development, or any other generally recognized institution involved in the purchase and sale of home loan mortgages, or pursuant to any requirement of any federal, state or local government entity, agency or authority; (ii) conform to the requirements of mortgage lenders or title insurance companies; or (iii) perfect, clarify, or make internally consistent the provisions herein.

Notwithstanding any other terms or conditions contained herein, no amendments may be made to these Articles amending or terminating the rights of the Developer without the prior written consent of the Developer.

13.2 Governmental Approval of Certain Amendments. So long as there is a Class B membership, the following actions shall require the prior approval of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Federal Housing Administration or the Veterans Administration; mortgaging of any Common Areas in the Project; or dissolution of the Corporation.

## **ARTICLE 14 ASSOCIATION ASSETS**

14.0 The share of a member in the funds and assets of the Association cannot be assigned, hypothecated, or transferred in any manner, except as an appurtenance to such member's lot. The funds and assets of the Association shall belong solely to the Association subject to the limitation that the same be expended, held, or used for the benefit of the membership and for the purposes authorized herein, in the declaration, and in the Bu-Laws of this Association.

14.1 In the event of a permanent dissolution of the Association, the Owners may establish a successor nonprofit organization for the purpose of holding title to the association assets and carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the Association hereunder. In the event no such organization is formed, then the assets shall be dedicated to Brevard County, Florida. However, in no event shall Brevard County, Florida (or any municipality as may be applicable) be obligated to accept any dedication offered to it by the Association or the Owners pursuant to this Section, but Brevard County, Florida, may accept such a dedication and any such acceptance must be made by formal resolution of the then empowered County Commission of Brevard County, Florida. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event of permanent

dissolution, the Association assets must either be dedicated to a public body, or conveyed to a not-for-profit organization with similar purposes.

14.2 In the event of termination, dissolution or final liquidation of the Association, the responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the surface water or storm water management system must be transferred to and accepted by an entity which would comply with Section 40C-42.027, F.A.C., and be approved by this St. Johns River Water Management District prior to such termination, dissolution or liquidation.

## **ARTICLE 15 TRANSACTIONS IN WHICH DIRECTORS OR OFFICERS ARE INTERESTED**

15.0 No contract or transaction between the Association and one or more of its Directors or Officers, or between the Association and any other corporation, partnership, association, or other organization in which one or more of its Directors or Officers are directors or officers, or have a financial interest, shall be invalid, void, or voidable solely for this reason, or solely because the Director or Officer is present at or participates in the meeting of the Board or committee thereof which authorized the contract or transaction, or solely because his or her or their votes are counted for such purpose. No Director or Officer of the Association shall incur liability by reason of the fact he or she is or may be interested in any such contract or transaction.

15.1 The Association shall be free to contract with the Developer, its Directors or Officers, and any other any other corporation in which any of them are interested.

15.2 Interested Directors may be counted in determining the presence of a quorum at a meeting of the Board of Directors or of a committee, which authorized such a contract or transaction.

## **ARTICLE 16 INITIAL REGISTERED OFFICE ADDRESS AND NAME OF REGISTERED AGENT**

16.0 The street address of the initial registered office of the Association is 1825 Riverview Drive, Melbourne, FL. 32901, and the initial registered agent of the Association at that address is Victor S. Kostro, Esquire.

IN WHITNESS WHEREOF, the Subscriber has affixed his signature this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March. 1998.

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Victor S. Kostro

## **ACCEPTANCE OF REGISTERED AGENT**

Having been named as registered agent to accept service of process for FOREST CREEK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC, at the place designated in these Articles, I agree to act in this capacity and I further agree to comply with the provisions of all statutes relative to the proper and complete performance of my duties.

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Victor S. Kostro

Date: March 30, 1998