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DECLARATION

OF

COVENANTS, CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

FOR

TREELINE



HOUIMAN_31193_8

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DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS FOR TREELINE

THIS DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS (this "Declaration"), made as of the date hereinafter set forth by RH OF TEXAS LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, a Maryland limited partnership and ASHTON HOUSTON RESIDENTIAL L.L.C., a Texas Limited Liability Company (hereinafter referred to as the "Declarants").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Declarants are the owners of that certain real property described as follows:

Treeline Section One, a subdivision in Harris County, Texas according to the Plat thereof recorded on December 19, 2007, under Film Code No. 618187 of the Map Records of Harris County, Texas (the "*Initial Property*"); and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Declarants to provide a common plan as to the use, permissible construction, and common amenities of such subdivision and, to this end to subject the Lots (hereinafter defined) in such subdivision and any other property hereafter made subject to this Declaration in accordance with the provisions hereof to the covenants, conditions and restrictions hereinafter set forth for the benefit of all present and future owners thereof;

NOW, THEREFORE, Declarants hereby declare that the Properties (herein defined) (including, without limitation, the Lots in the above named subdivision and within any other property hereafter made subject to this Declaration) shall be held, sold and conveyed subject to the following easements, restrictions, covenants and conditions, which shall run with said Properties and shall be binding upon all parties having any right, title or interest in said Properties or any part thereof, their heirs, successors and assigns, and shall inure to the benefit of each owner thereof.

ARTICLE I DEFINITIONS

The following words, when used in this Declaration, shall have the following meanings:

<u>SECTION 1.</u> "Association" shall mean and refer to TREELINE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC., a Texas non-profit corporation, its successors and assigns.

SECTION 2. "*Builder*" shall mean and refer to any person or entity designated in writing by the Declarants who is primarily engaged in the business of constructing residential dwellings and who is undertaking the construction of a residence on a Lot, including the Declarants.

<u>SECTION 3.</u> "*Common Area*" shall mean and refer to all of the Properties, save and except the Lots and any publicly owned real property (e.g., public streets), which Common Area may be owned by the Association from time to time for the benefit of and for the common use and enjoyment of the Owners. Notwithstanding the foregoing, one or more Lots may be conveyed to the Association and may become Common Area, in which event nothing herein shall require the construction of a residential dwelling on any such Lot or Lots.

<u>SECTION 4.</u> "*Declarants*" shall mean and refer to RH OF TEXAS LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, a Maryland limited partnership, and ASHTON HOUSTON RESIDENTIAL L.L.C., a Texas Limited Liability Company, together with their successors or assigns, provided that an assign is designated in writing by the Declarants as an assign of all, or part, of its rights under this Declaration.

<u>SECTION 5.</u> "*Gated Lots*" shall mean and refer to any group of Lots served by Streets, gates and related items to the exclusion of other Lots. The initial Gated Lots are comprised of Lots 1-44, Block 1 and Lots 1-4, Block 3 out of the Initial Property.

<u>SECTION 6.</u> "*Lot*" shall mean and refer to any of the numbered lots shown on the recorded plats of the subdivisions within the Properties intended for the construction of a residence, excluding all reserve tracts shown on a plat, but including Lots created by a re-plat of a reserve tract.

SECTION 7. "Member" shall refer to every person or entity that holds a membership in the Association.

<u>SECTION 8.</u> "*Owner*" shall mean and refer to the record owner, whether one or more persons or entities, of the fee simple title to any Lot, including contract sellers, but excluding those having an interest merely as security for the performance of an obligation or those owning an easement right, a mineral interest, or a royalty interest.

<u>SECTION 9.</u> "*Properties*" shall mean and refer to the real property within the jurisdiction of the Association, being (i) the Initial Property and (ii) any additional property hereafter added to the jurisdiction of the Association.

<u>SECTION 10.</u> "*Street*" shall refer to any street, drive, boulevard, road, alley, lane, avenue, or thoroughfare within or adjacent to the Properties.

ARTICLE II

TREELINE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEES

<u>SECTION 1.</u> <u>CREATION.</u> There is hereby created a TREELINE New Construction Committee (herein referred to as the "*New Construction Committee*"), which shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all original construction on the Lots in the Properties. There is also hereby created a TREELINE Modifications Committee (herein referred to as the "*Modifications Committee*") which has exclusive jurisdiction over all modifications, additions or alterations made on or to the residences and other improvements on the Lots within the Properties (the New Construction Committee and the Modifications Committee being collectively referred to herein as the "*Committees*"). No person serving on a Committee shall be entitled to compensation from

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the Association for services performed in such capacity, however, the Committees may employ, at the expense of the Association, one or more architects, engineers, attorneys, or other consultants to assist the Committees in carrying out their respective duties hereunder.

SECTION 2. NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

A. <u>Number of Members</u>. Each of the Committees shall consist of three (3) members.

B. <u>Appointment to Committees</u>. The Declarants shall have the right to appoint all members of the Committees as well as the right to remove any member (as further described herein) until both Declarants have sold and conveyed all of their Lots in the Properties and are no longer Members of the Association. Prior to such date, in the event of the death, or removal or resignation of any person serving on such Committee, the Declarants shall designate (as further described herein) a successor or successors, who shall have all of the authority and power of his or their predecessor(s). Until such successor member or members of the Committee shall have been so appointed, the remaining member or members shall have full authority to exercise the powers herein granted to such Committee.

C. <u>Appointment of Members Between Declarants</u>. Each of the Declarants shall appoint one (1) member to each Committee, and the third member of each Committee shall be jointly appointed by the Declarants. Each of the Declarants may remove or replace its appointed member; and both of the Declarants acting together may remove or replace the jointly appointed member of each Committee. As to the jointly appointed member of each Committee, if the Declarants cannot agree on (i) who to appoint, (ii) whether to remove such member or (iii) the appropriate replacement for such member, then such matter shall be resolved by arbitration as set forth in Section 8 of Article X hereof. If one Declarant conveys all of its Lots in the Properties prior to the other Declarant doing so, then such other Declarant may (from such time until the conveyance of all of its Lots in the Properties) unilaterally remove and replace all members of the Committees.

D. <u>Appointment After Declarants</u>. After the date on which both Declarants have sold and conveyed all of their Lots within the Properties, the Association may either perform the functions of the Committees itself or appoint and remove the members of the Committees.

<u>SECTION 3.</u> <u>POWERS OF THE COMMITTEES</u>. No building, structure or other improvements shall be constructed on any Lot, and no exterior alteration shall be made to any improvements including, without limitation, change of exterior color until the site plan and the final working plans and specifications have been submitted to and approved in writing by majority vote of the applicable Committee as to conformity with the restrictions herein contained and harmony of external design and location in relation to existing structures and topography within the Properties.

The Committees shall have the right to specify architectural and aesthetic requirements for Lots, minimum setback lines, the location, height, and extent of fences, walls, or other screening devices, the orientation of structures with respect to Streets, walks, paths and structures on adjacent property and shall have the right to limit the number of acceptable exterior materials and finishes that may be utilized in construction or repair of improvements. The Committees

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shall have full power and authority to reject any site plan or final working plans and specifications that do not comply with the restrictions herein contained or that do not meet its minimum construction or architectural design requirements or that, in the sole and uncontrolled discretion and opinion of the applicable Committee, will not be compatible with the overall character and aesthetics of the Properties.

The Committees shall also have the right, exercisable at their sole discretion, to grant variances to the restrictions of this Declaration in specific instances where the applicable Committee in good faith deems that such variance does not adversely affect the architectural and environmental integrity of the Properties. A Committee may require the submission of such documents and items as it shall deem appropriate in connection with its consideration of a request for a variance. If the Committee shall approve such request for a variance, it shall evidence such approval, and grant its permission for such variance, only by written instrument addressed to the Owner of the property relative to which such variance has been requested, expressing the decision of the Committee to permit the variance, and describing (when applicable) the conditions on which the variance has been approved. Any request for a variance shall be deemed to have been disapproved in the event of either (a) written notice of disapproval from the Committee or (b) failure by the Committee to respond to the request for variance.

SECTION 4. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY. The Committees have no liability or obligation whatsoever in connection with any plans and/or specifications and no responsibility for the adequacy thereof or for the construction of any improvements contemplated by any such plans and/or specifications. The Committees have no duty to inspect any improvements; and, if a Committee should inspect any improvements, it shall have no liability or obligation to any party arising out of such inspection. The Committees expressly shall have no liability or responsibility for defects in or omissions from any plans and/or specifications or for defects in or omissions from the construction of any improvements. Notwithstanding any covenant, condition or term contained in this Declaration or provision of the Bylaws of the Association to the contrary, a Committee taken or omitted pursuant to this Declaration or the Bylaws of the Association. Each Owner by accepting a conveyance of any Lot or of any portion of the Properties conclusively shall be deemed to have unconditionally and irrevocably waived all claims against the Committees arising or resulting from acts or omissions pursuant to this Declaration or the Bylaws of the Association.

<u>SECTION 5.</u> <u>MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEES</u>. The Committees shall meet from time to time as necessary to perform their respective duties, and may from time to time, by resolution unanimously adopted in writing, designate a representative to take an action or perform any duties for and on behalf of the Committee. In the absence of such designation of a representative, the vote of the majority of the members of the Committee, or the written consent of the majority of the members of the Committee taken without a meeting, shall constitute and act of the Committee.

ARTICLE III TREELINE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

SECTION 1. ORGANIZATION; CONVEYANCE OF COMMON AREA. The Declarants have caused the Association to be organized and formed as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Texas. The principal purposes of the Association are the collection, expenditure, and management of the maintenance funds, enforcement of the restrictive covenants contained herein, and architectural control of the Lots in the Properties. The Declarants have conveyed or will soon convey the Common Area to the Association. When additional property is annexed into the jurisdiction of the Association, the Common Area thereof shall be conveyed to the Association upon such annexation or at a later date upon which such additional property is platted.

<u>SECTION 2.</u> <u>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</u>. The Association shall act through a Board of Directors (the "*Board of Directors*") consisting of a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) members. The Board of Directors shall manage the affairs of the Association as specified in this Declaration and the Bylaws of the Association. Prior to the Conversion Date (as hereinafter defined), all directors shall be appointed (and may be removed) by the Declarants in their sole discretion.

<u>SECTION 3.</u> <u>MEMBERSHIP</u>. Every Owner of a Lot in the Properties shall be a Member of the Association. Membership shall be appurtenant to and may not be separated from ownership of any Lot which is subject to assessment by the Association.

SECTION 4. VOTING RIGHTS. The Association shall initially have two (2) classes of membership as follows:

<u>Class A</u>. Class A Members shall be all persons or entities who own a Lot in the Properties with the exception of the Declarants and the Builders. After the Conversion Date, the Declarants and the Builders shall become Class A Members with respect to the Lots they own.

<u>Class B</u>. The Class B Members shall be the Declarants and the Builders. The Class B membership shall cease and become converted to Class A membership on the Conversion Date.

Class A Members shall be entitled to one (1) vote for each Lot owned within the Properties and the Class B Members shall be entitled to five (5) votes for each Lot owned within the Properties. When two or more persons or entities hold undivided interests in any Lot, all such persons or entities shall be Members, and the vote for the Lot owned by such Members shall be exercised as they, among themselves, determine, but in no event shall more than one vote be cast with respect to each Lot in which such Members own undivided interests.

SECTION 5. CONVERSION DATE. The "Conversion Date" shall occur on the earlier to occur of:

(i) The date the total number of votes of the Class A Members equals the number of votes of the Class B Members; or

 (ii) December 31, 2015 or such earlier date as may be established by Declarants in a written instrument recorded by Declarants in the Official Public Records of Real Property of Harris County, Texas.

<u>SECTION 6.</u> <u>TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP</u>. The membership of a person or entity in the Association shall terminate automatically whenever such person or entity ceases to be an Owner, except that such termination shall not release or relieve any such person or entity from any liability or obligation incurred under or in any way connected with the Association or this Declaration during the period of ownership, nor impair any rights or remedies which the Association or any other Owner has with regard to such former Owner.

ARTICLE IV COVENANT FOR MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENTS

SECTION 1. CREATION OF THE LIEN AND PERSONAL OBLIGATION FOR ASSESSMENTS.

The Declarants, for each Lot within the subdivision described on the first page Α. hereof and within any property hereafter made subject to this Declaration, hereby covenant and each Owner of any Lot within the Properties, by acceptance of a deed therefor, whether or not it shall be expressed in the deed or other evidence of the conveyance, is deemed to covenant and agree to pay the Association (i) a one-time capitalization fee (as contemplated in Section 2 of this Article); (ii) annual assessments or charges; (iii) special assessments for capital improvements; and (iv) with respect to the Gated Lots, the Neighborhood Assessments (herein defined), such fees, assessments and charges to be fixed, established and collected as hereinafter provided. These fees, assessments and charges, together with interest thereon as hereinafter provided, costs of collection, and reasonable attorney's fees, shall be a charge on the land and shall be secured by a continuing lien upon the property against which such assessments or charges are made. Each such fee, assessment or charge, together with such interest, late charges, costs of collection, and reasonable attorney's fees shall also be and remain the personal obligation of the Owner of the particular Lot at the time the fee, assessment or charge fell due notwithstanding any subsequent transfer of title of such property. The personal obligation for delinquent fees, assessments and charges shall not pass to successors in title unless expressly assumed by them. However, successors in title shall nonetheless acquire title to the Lot subject to the lien securing the fees, assessments and charges.

B. In order to secure the full and timely payment of all such fees, assessments, charges and other amounts payable by each Owner hereunder, each Owner of any Lot within the Properties, by acceptance of a deed therefor, whether or not it shall be expressed in the deed or other evidence of the conveyance, and in consideration and as part of the purchase price for such Owner obtaining the Lot acquired by such Owner, does hereby grant and convey to the Association a continuing lien against such Lot. Such lien shall be binding against the Owner of such Lot, as well as such Owner's heirs, legal representatives, successors and assigns.

<u>SECTION 2.</u> <u>CAPITALIZATION FEE</u>. The Association may charge a one-time capitalization fee against each Lot in the amount of \$400.00 in order to defray, in whole or in part, the cost (i) of any construction, reconstruction, repair or replacement of a capital

improvement located upon the Common Area, including fixtures and personal property related thereto, and (ii) incurred by the Association in performing the functions set forth in Section 3 of this Article and in otherwise carrying out its purposes. Such capitalization fee shall become due and payable upon the conveyance of a Lot to the first Owner thereof other than a Builder. This amount shall be in addition to, and not in lieu of, the assessments referred to in this Article and shall not be considered an advance payment of any such assessments. Any increase in the amount of such capitalization fee must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of the Members who are voting in person or by proxy at a meeting duly called for this purpose.

<u>SECTION 3.</u> <u>PURPOSE OF ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS</u>. The annual assessments levied by the Association shall be used for carrying out the purposes of the Association as stated in its certificate of formation, this Declaration and all other restrictive covenants instruments administered by the Association. The judgment of the Board of Directors of the Association in determining the functions to be performed by the Association, in determining the amount of annual assessments, and in the expenditure of funds shall be final and conclusive so long as its judgment is exercised in good faith. Such funds may be used to pay costs incurred with respect to all or any of the following:

- (i) Operation, maintenance, repair, replacement and improvement of the Common Area as well as fences, walls, entryways, walkways, road esplanades, cul de' sacs and road right-of-ways and easement areas within, adjacent to or in the vicinity of the Properties;
- (ii) Payment of taxes and premiums for insurance coverage in connection with the Common Area and for directors and officers liability insurance;
- Paying the cost of labor, equipment (including expense of leasing any equipment), material, and any associated management or supervisory services and fees required for management and supervision of the Common Area;
- (iv) Paying the cost and fees of a manager or firm retained to carry out the duties of the Association or to manage the affairs and property of the Association;
- (v) Installing and maintaining improvements and recreational equipment in the Common Area;
- (vi) Maintenance and replacement of private Streets, entry gates and security systems;
- (vii) Designing, purchasing and installing any improvements to the Common Area;
- (viii) Mowing, maintenance and removing debris from the Common Area;
- (ix) Maintaining and replacing any landscaping in the Common Area;

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- (xi) Collecting and disposing of trash, garbage, ashes, rubbish and other similar materials;
- (xii) Payment of legal fees and expenses incurred to collect assessments and enforce the restrictions set forth in this Declaration;
- (xiii) Contracting for the services of policemen to patrol the Properties or employing or contracting with a private firm for security services;
- (xiv) Contracting for insect and pest control such as mosquito fogging;
- (xv) Carrying out the duties of the Association;
- (xvi) Creation and funding of such reserve funds as the Association deems necessary; and
- (xvii) Carrying out such purposes of the Association as generally benefit the Members of the Association.

As stated hereinabove, the Association shall not be obligated to perform all of the foregoing functions or any particular function. The judgment of the Board of Directors of the Association in establishing annual assessments and in the expenditure of said funds shall be final and conclusive so long as said judgment is exercised in good faith.

SECTION 4. MAXIMUM LEVEL OF ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS. The annual assessment by the Association for 2007, the initial year of assessment, shall be established in such amount as may be determined by the Board of Directors but shall not be in excess of \$800.00 per Lot. The annual assessment in any year thereafter may be increased by the Board of Directors of the Association, at its sole discretion, by an amount equal to a fifteen percent (15%) increase over the annual assessment for the previous year without a vote of the Members of the Association. The annual assessment in any year may be increased above fifteen percent (15%) only with the approval by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of the Members who are voting in person or by proxy, at a meeting duly called for this purpose. After consideration of current maintenance costs and future needs of the Association, the Board of Directors may fix the annual assessment at any amount not in excess of the maximum.

SECTION 5. SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS. In addition to the annual assessments authorized above, the Association may levy, in any year, a special assessment against the Lots applicable to that year only, for the purpose of defraying, in whole or in part, the cost of any construction, reconstruction, repair or replacement of a capital improvement located upon the Common Area, including fixtures and personal property related thereto; provided, however, any special assessment must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of the Members who are voting in person or by proxy at a meeting duly called for this purpose. Special assessments may be collected on a monthly basis at the Board of Director's election.

SECTION 6. NEIGHBORHOOD ASSESSMENTS. With respect to the Gated Lots, in addition to the annual assessments authorized above, the Association shall establish (i) a reserve fund ("Street Reserve") for the maintenance and/or periodic replacement of all Streets, curbs and related items constructed or to be constructed for the exclusive benefit of the Gated Lots and (ii) a separate and distinct reserve fund ("Gate Reserve") to be used solely for the maintenance and/or periodic replacement of all street gates and related items constructed or to be constructed for the exclusive benefit of the Gated Lots. The Gated Lots shall be assessed an annual fee for perpetual funding of the Street Reserve and the Gate Reserve, which assessments shall be administered by the Association (such assessments herein referred to as the "Neighborhood Assessments"). The Neighborhood Assessments shall remain separate and distinct from the regular annual assessments to be charged by the Association. The Street Reserve and the Gate Reserve shall be initially funded by the collection of a one-time fee of approximately \$50.00 for the Gated Lots upon the conveyance of a Gated Lot to the first Owner thereof other than a Builder. Said amount shall be in addition to the capitalization fee referred to in Section 2 of this Article. The annual Neighborhood Assessments by the Association for 2007, the initial year of the Neighborhood Assessments, shall be established in such amount as may be determined by the Board of Directors but shall not be in excess of \$100.00 per Gated Lot. The annual Neighborhood Assessments in any year thereafter may be increased by the Board of Directors of the Association, at its sole discretion, by an amount equal to a fifteen percent (15%) increase over the annual Neighborhood Assessments for the previous year without a vote of the Members of the Association. The annual Neighborhood Assessments in any year may be increased above fifteen percent (15%) only with the approval by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of the Members who are Owners of Gated Lots and who are voting in person or by proxy, at a meeting duly called for After consideration of current maintenance costs and future needs of the this purpose. Association, the Board of Directors may fix the annual Neighborhood Assessments at any amount not in excess of the maximum. Whenever reference is made in this Declaration to annual assessments (except as to Section 4 of this Article), such reference shall be deemed to include the Neighborhood Assessments.

SECTION 7. NOTICE AND QUORUM.

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A. Written notice of any meeting called for the purpose of taking any action authorized under Sections 2, 4 or 5 of this Article shall be sent to all Members not less than fifteen (15) days nor more than sixty (60) days in advance of the meeting. At the first such meeting called, the presence of Members or of proxies entitled to cast twenty percent (20%) of the votes of the Association's membership shall constitute a quorum. If the required quorum is not present or represented, another meeting may be called subject to the same notice requirement, and the required quorum at the subsequent meeting shall be one-half (1/2) of the required quorum at the preceding meetings. No subsequent meeting shall be held more than sixty (60) days following the preceding meeting.

B. Written notice of any meeting called for the purpose of taking any action authorized under Section 6 of this Article shall be sent to all Members who are Owners of Gated Lots not less than fifteen (15) days nor more than sixty (60) days in advance of the meeting. At the first such meeting called, the presence of Members or of proxies entitled to cast twenty percent (20%) of the votes of the Owners of the Gated Lots shall constitute a quorum. If the required quorum is not present or represented, another meeting may be called subject to the same

notice requirement, and the required quorum at the subsequent meeting shall be one-half (l/2) of the required quorum at the preceding meetings. No subsequent meeting shall be held more than sixty (60) days following the preceding meeting.

SECTION 8. RATES OF ASSESSMENT. Both annual and special assessments on all Lots shall be fixed at uniform rates and all Lots in the Properties shall commence to bear their assessment simultaneously; provided, however, Lots owned by the Declarants or a Builder shall be assessed at fifty percent (50%) of the rate of the Lots owned by other Owners. The assessment for an individual Lot, within a calendar year, shall change as the ownership of such Lot passes from the Declarants or a Builder, and the assessment for such Lot shall be prorated according to the applicable rate during each type of ownership. There shall also be no assessments on any portion of the Properties which has not been platted into Lots.

SECTION 9. DATE OF COMMENCEMENT AND DETERMINATION OF ANNUAL ASSESSMENT. The annual assessment provided for herein shall commence as to all Lots in the Properties on the first day of the month following the conveyance of the first Lot in the Properties with a residence to an individual Owner, or on such later date as the Association determines. The assessment for such year shall be adjusted according to the number of months remaining in the calendar year and shall be due and payable thirty (30) days after notice of the assessment is sent to every Owner whose Lot is subject to assessment. On or before the 30th day of November in each year, the Association shall fix the amount of the annual assessment to be levied against each Lot in the next calendar year. Written notice of the figure at which the Board of Directors of the Association has set the annual assessment shall be sent to every Owner whose Lot is subject to the payment thereof. Each annual assessment shall be due and payable in advance on the first day of January of each calendar year; provided, however, assessments on Lots owned by the Declarants or other Builders may be accrued and paid upon conveyance to an individual Owner. The Association shall, upon demand, and for reasonable charge, furnish a certificate signed by an officer or authorized representative of the Association setting forth whether the assessments on a specified Lot have been paid. A properly executed certificate of the Association as to the status of assessments on a particular Lot is binding upon the Association as of the date of its issuance.

SECTION 10. EFFECT OF NONPAYMENT OF ASSESSMENTS; REMEDIES.

A. Any assessments or charges which are not paid when due shall be delinquent. If an assessment or charge is not paid within thirty (30) days after the due date, it shall bear interest at the rate of eighteen percent (18%) per annum or such other rate as the Board of Directors may establish from the due date until the date paid; provided, however, that no such interest rate shall exceed the maximum non-usurious interest rate allowed by applicable law. The Association may bring an action at law against the Owner personally obligated to pay the assessment, or to foreclose the lien herein retained against the property. Interest as above specified, costs and reasonable attorney's fees incurred in any such action shall be added to the amount of such assessment or charge.

B. The lien in favor of the Association is created by the recordation of this Declaration, which constitutes record notice and perfection of the lien. No other recordation of a lien or notice of lien shall be or is required. By acquiring a Lot, and in consideration and as part

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of the purchase price for such Lot, an Owner grants to the Association a power of sale in connection with the Association's lien. The Association may appoint, from time to time, an officer, agent, trustee, or attorney of the Association to exercise the power of sale on behalf of the Association. The Association shall exercise its power of sale pursuant to Section 51.002 of the Texas Property Code, and any applicable revision(s), amendment(s), or recodifications thereof in effect at the time of the exercise of such power of sale. The Association has the right to foreclose its lien judicially or by nonjudicial foreclosure pursuant to the power of sale created hereby. Costs of foreclosure may be added to the amount owed by the Owner to the Association. An Owner may not petition a court to set aside a sale solely because the purchase price at the foreclosure sale was insufficient to fully satisfy the Owner's debt. The Association may bid for and purchase the Lot at the foreclosure sale utilizing funds of the Association. The Association may own, lease, encumber, exchange, sell, or convey a Lot. The purchaser at any such foreclosure sale shall be entitled to sue for recovery of possession of the Lot by an action of forcible detainer without the necessity of giving any notice to the former owner or owners of the Lot sold at foreclosure. Unless otherwise provided by law, the Owner shall have no right of redemption after or resulting from a foreclosure sale of the Association's lien. Nothing herein shall prohibit the Association from taking a deed in lieu of foreclosure or from filing suit to recover a money judgment for sums that may be secured by the lien. At any time before a nonjudicial foreclosure sale, an Owner of a Lot may avoid foreclosure by paying all amounts due the Association. Foreclosure of a tax lien attaching against a Lot under Chapter 32, Tax Code, shall not discharge the Association's lien under this paragraph for amounts becoming due to the Association after the date of foreclosure of the tax lien. No Owner may waive or otherwise escape liability for the assessments provided for in this Declaration by non-use of the Common Area or abandonment of his Lot.

SECTION 11. SUBORDINATION OF THE LIEN TO MORTGAGES. As herein above provided, the title to each Lot shall be subject to a lien securing the payment of all assessments and charges due the Association, but the lien shall be subordinate to the lien of any mortgage or mortgages imposed on a Lot to secure debt incurred for the purchase price thereof or for any improvements thereto (or any refinancing thereof). Sale or transfer of any Lot shall not affect the lien in favor of the Association provided, however, the sale or transfer of any Lot pursuant to mortgage foreclosure or any proceeding in lieu thereof shall extinguish the lien securing such assessment or charge as to payments which became due prior to such sale or transfer. No sale or transfer shall relieve such Lot or the Owner thereof from liability for any charges or assessments thereafter becoming due or from the lien thereof. In addition to the automatic subordination provided for hereinabove, the Association, in the sole discretion of its Board of Directors, may subordinate the lien securing any assessment provided for herein to any other mortgage lien or encumbrance, subject to such limitations, if any, as the Board of Directors may determine.

<u>SECTION 12. EXEMPT PROPERTY</u>. All properties dedicated to, and accepted by, a local public authority and all properties owned by a charitable or non-profit organization exempt from taxation by the laws of the State of Texas, including the Association, shall be exempt from the assessments and charges created herein. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no Lot which is used as a residence shall be exempt from said assessments and charges.

SECTION 13. SUBSIDY PAYMENTS. Until such time as the Declarants have sold and conveyed all of their Lots in the Properties and are no longer Members of the Association, the

s - s s Declarants may annually elect either to pay annual assessments on the Lots they own as herein provided or to pay the Association, on terms agreeable to the Declarants, the difference between the amount of annual assessments collected on all other Lots subject to assessment and the amount of the actual expenditures incurred to operate the Association during the year (the "Subsidy"). The payment by the Declarants of a Subsidy in any year in lieu of annual assessments shall under no circumstances obligate the Declarants to pay a Subsidy in a future year or years. The Subsidy may be paid by the Declarants in increments throughout the year as funds are needed by the Association.

ARTICLE V <u>RIGHTS IN THE COMMON AREA</u>

<u>SECTION 1.</u> <u>OWNER'S RIGHT OF ENJOYMENT</u>. Subject to the provisions herein stated, every Member shall have a right of enjoyment in the Common Area, and such right shall be appurtenant to and shall pass with the title to every Lot, subject the following rights of the Association:

A. The Association shall have the right to charge reasonable admission and other fees for the use of a recreational facility, if any, situated upon the Common Area.

B. The Association shall have the right, with the approval by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of the Members who are voting in person or by proxy at a meeting duly called for this purpose, to borrow money and to mortgage, pledge, deed in trust, or hypothecate any or all of the Common Area as security for money borrowed or debts incurred.

C. The Association shall have the right to take such steps as are reasonably necessary to protect the Common Area against foreclosure of any such mortgage.

D. The Association shall have the right to suspend the voting rights and rights to use the Common Area of a Member for any period during which any assessment or other amount owed by such Member to the Association remains unpaid in excess of thirty (30) days.

E. The Association shall have the right to establish reasonable rules and regulations governing the Members' use and enjoyment of the Common Area, and to suspend the enjoyment rights of any Member for any period not to exceed sixty (60) days for any infraction of such rules and regulations.

F. The Association shall have the right to grant or dedicate easements in portions of the Common Area to public or private utility companies.

G. The Association shall have the right to enter into agreements pursuant to which individuals who are not Members of the Association are granted the right to use the Common Area and the facilities located thereupon.

<u>SECTION 2.</u> <u>DELEGATION OF USE</u>. Each Member shall have the right to extend his right of enjoyment to the Common Area to the members of his family and to such other persons as may be permitted by the Association. The Owner of a leased residence shall be deemed to have delegated his rights of use to his tenant.

SECTION 3. GATED COMMUNITY.

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A. <u>Private Streets</u>. The Streets within the Properties are private streets that have not been dedicated to and are not owned by the City of Tomball or Harris County, Texas. Accordingly, the City of Tomball and Harris County have no responsibility to maintain the Streets within the Properties. The Association has the sole responsibility for maintenance of such Streets and the costs relating thereto, which costs shall be collected through the fees, assessments and charges described in Article IV hereof. The Association shall own the private Streets within the Properties; provided, however, neither the Declarants nor the Association make any commitment that the private Streets always will be private streets. Changes in ordinances, laws or regulations of the City of Tomball, Harris County or other governmental authorities, or other action on the part of such authorities, may cause the private Streets to no longer be private.

B. Entry Gate. The Declarants may install an entry gate ("Entry Gate") that limits vehicular access to the private Streets from the public Streets. The purpose of the Entry Gate shall be to provide some degree of restriction of vehicular access onto the private Streets. The Entry Gate shall be owned by the Association. Operation of the Entry Gate shall be the responsibility of the Association. The Declarants shall not be required to operate or maintain the Entry Gate. All costs of operation and maintenance of the Entry Gate shall be paid by the Owners through the fees, assessments and charges described in Article IV hereof. The Entry Gate will be installed based upon the representations of vendors regarding the operational and performance capabilities of the components thereof. The Declarants disclaim all, and make no, warranties of any nature regarding the Entry Gate, including, without limitation, any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for the purpose for which it was designed. The Declarants do not expressly or impliedly guarantee that the Entry Gate will avert or prevent occurrences or consequences that the Entry Gate is designed to avert or prevent. The Entry Gate is not intended to replace or to serve in lieu of individual alarm systems or other measures to provide security to a residential dwelling on a Lot. The provisions of this subsection shall also extend to any entry gate constructed for the exclusive benefit of the Gated Lots.

C. <u>Personal Security of Owners</u>. Neither the Declarants nor the Association is responsible for providing security to the Owners or their family members, guests, invitees or property. Each Owner's personal security, and the security of his family members, guests, invitees and property, is his own responsibility.

ARTICLE VI USE RESTRICTIONS

<u>SECTION 1.</u> <u>RESIDENTIAL USE</u>. Each and every Lot subject to this Declaration is hereby restricted to residential dwellings for single family residential use only; provided, however any Lot or Lots owned by the Association may be used for park or open space purposes, and improvements consistent with such use may be erected thereupon. No business, professional, commercial or manufacturing use shall be made of any of the Properties; provided, however, the foregoing shall not be construed to prohibit (a) the use of a residence for a home occupation incidental to the principal residential use or (b) the use of model homes on the Lots by the Declarants and such Builders as from time to time may be designated in writing by the

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Declarants. No structure other than one single family residence and its approved outbuildings shall be constructed, placed on, or permitted to remain on any Lot in the Properties. The use of any Lot for duplex houses, garage apartments for rental purposes, apartment houses, or mobile homes is specifically prohibited..

<u>SECTION 2.</u> <u>ANIMALS AND LIVESTOCK</u>. No animals, livestock, or poultry of any kind shall be raised, bred, or kept on the Properties. Consistent with its use as a residence, dogs, cats, or other household pets not to exceed two (2) of each type of pet and no more than a total of four (4) in number may be kept on a Lot, provided that they are not kept, bred, or maintained for any business purposes. Household pets must be confined to a fenced backyard or kept within the residence when not being walked on a leash.

<u>SECTION 3.</u> <u>NUISANCES</u>. No noxious or offensive trade or activity shall be carried on within the Properties nor shall anything be done thereon which may be or become an annoyance or nuisance to residents of the Properties.

SECTION 4. PARKING OF VEHICLES. Except as otherwise hereinafter provided, only passenger automobiles, passenger vans, motorcycles, and pick-up trucks, that are in operating condition, having current license plates and inspection stickers, and are in daily use as motor vehicles on the streets and highways of the State of Texas and which do not exceed six feet six inches in height, or seven feet six inches in width or twenty-one feet in length are permitted within the Properties. No motor vehicle, non-motorized vehicle, trailer, boat, marine craft, hovercraft, aircraft, machinery or equipment of any kind may be parked or stored, on any part of any Lot or in the Street adjacent to a Lot unless it is concealed from public view inside a garage or other approved enclosure; provided, however, motor vehicles may be parked for temporary periods in the driveway on a Lot for not in excess of three (3) hours in any specific twenty-four (24) hour period. Only normal maintenance shall be permitted to be performed in the driveway of any Lot on a vehicle. These restrictions shall not apply to any vehicle, machinery, or maintenance equipment temporarily parked and in use for the construction, repair or maintenance of a house in the immediate vicinity.

<u>SECTION 5.</u> <u>PERMITTED HOURS FOR CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY</u>. Except in an emergency or when other unusual circumstances exist, as determined by the Association, after the initial construction of residences by the Declarants and the Builders, outside construction work or noisy interior construction work shall be permitted only between the hours of 6:30 A.M. and 9:00 P.M.

<u>SECTION 6.</u> <u>DISPOSAL OF TRASH</u>. No trash, rubbish, garbage, manure, debris, or offensive material of any kind shall be kept or allowed to remain on any of the Properties, nor shall any of the Properties be used or maintained as a dumping ground for such materials. All such matter shall be placed in sanitary refuse containers constructed of metal, plastic or masonry materials with tight fitting sanitary covers or lids and placed in an area adequately screened by planting or fencing until 5:00 p.m. on the day before a scheduled trash pick-up when such containers may be placed on the curb in front of the home. Equipment used for the temporary storage and/or disposal of such material prior to removal shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition and shall comply with all current laws and regulations and those which may be promulgated in the future by any federal, state, county, municipal or other governmental body

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with regard to environmental quality and waste disposal. In a manner consistent with good housekeeping, the Owner of each Lot shall remove such prohibited matter from his Lot at regular intervals at his expense.

<u>SECTION 7.</u> <u>DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES</u>. No gasoline, motor oil, paint, paint thinner, pesticide, or other product considered to be a contaminant or a hazardous substance under applicable federal or state laws and regulations shall be disposed of on any of the Properties nor shall any such material be deposited into a storm sewer, sanitary sewer manhole, drainage channel or detention pond within the Properties, but rather all such materials shall be handled and disposed of in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations and the recommendations of the manufacturer of the applicable product or a governmental entity with jurisdiction.

SECTION 8. BUILDING MATERIALS. Unless otherwise approved by the applicable Committee, no Lot shall be used for the storage of any materials whatsoever, except that material used in the construction of improvements erected upon any Lot may be placed upon such Lot at the time construction is commenced. During initial construction of residences by Builders in the Properties, building materials may be placed or stored outside the property lines. During initial construction of improvements on any portion of the Common Area by the Declarants, building materials may be placed or stored on such portion of the Common Area. Building materials may remain on Lots or Common Area (as applicable) for a reasonable time, so long as the construction progresses without undue delay after which time these materials shall either be removed or stored in a suitable enclosure thereon. Under no circumstances shall building materials be placed or stored on the Streets.

<u>SECTION 9.</u> <u>MINERAL PRODUCTION</u>. No oil drilling, oil development operations, refining, quarrying or mining operations of any kind shall be permitted upon any of the Properties, nor shall oil wells, tanks, tunnels, mineral excavations or shafts be permitted upon any of the Properties. No derrick or other structure designed for use in boring for oil or natural gas shall be permitted upon any of the Properties.

<u>SECTION 10. STORAGE OF VEHICLES</u>. Unless otherwise approved by the Association, no boat, watercraft, boat trailer, boat rigging, motor home, trailer, commercial vehicle or inoperable motor vehicle shall be parked or kept in a Street or on any Lot unless such vehicle is stored within a garage. No Owner of any Lot or any visitor or guest of any Owner shall be permitted to perform repair work on automobiles or other vehicles in driveways or Streets.

ARTICLE VII ARCHITECTURAL RESTRICTIONS

<u>SECTION 1.</u> <u>TYPE OF RESIDENCE</u>. Only one detached single-family residence not more than two (2) stories in height with an attached or detached garage for a minimum of two (2) cars shall be built or permitted on each Lot. All structures shall be of new construction and no structure shall be moved from another location onto any Lot. All residences must be kept in good repair and must be painted when necessary to preserve their attractiveness. No garage may be converted to a use other than a garage for the parking of cars.

<u>SECTION 2.</u> <u>LIVING AREA REQUIREMENTS</u>. The total living area of each single family dwelling, exclusive of open porches and garages, shall be not less than two thousand (2,000) square feet.

SECTION 3. LOCATION OF RESIDENCE ON LOT.

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A. The location of each residence on a Lot will be approved by the New Construction Committee with its approval of the site plan and the final working plans and specifications. No building shall be located on any Lot nearer to a Street than the minimum building setback lines shown on the plat containing such Lot and no building shall be located on any utility easement. Unless otherwise approved by the New Construction Committee, no building shall be located nearer than twenty (20) feet from the front lot line or nearer than five (5) feet to an interior lot line, except a detached garage or other permitted accessory building located sixty (60) feet or more from the front lot line may be located not less than three (3) feet of an interior lot line and a residence or detached garage on a Lot which is adjacent to a platted reserve tract may be located not less than three (3) feet from the common line between such Lot and reserve tract. For the purposes of this Section, eaves, steps and open porches or driveways shall not be considered as a part of a building.

B. Subject to the approval by the New Construction Committee, an Owner of one or more adjoining Lots or portions thereof may consolidate or re-subdivide such Lots or portions into one or more building sites with the privilege of placing or constructing improvements on such resulting building sites, in which case the side setback lines shall be measured from the resulting side property lines rather than from the Lot lines indicated on the plat. Any such resulting building site must have a width at the front building setback line of not less than the minimum width of the Lots in the same block. The amount of annual assessments, special assessments and all other charges against any such re-subdivided Lot, as well as the voting rights attributed thereto, shall be determined by the Board of Directors in its sole discretion.

<u>SECTION 4.</u> <u>TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>. The exterior facade of all residences, exclusive in each case of doors, windows and other openings shall contain a minimum percentage of brick, stone, stucco or other masonry which for purposes hereof shall include Hardiplank, as specified and approved by the New Construction Committee. The color of the brick, stucco or other masonry used must be approved in writing by the New Construction Committee. No garage or accessory building shall exceed in height the dwelling to which it is appurtenant without the written consent of the New Construction Committee. Every garage and accessory building (except a greenhouse) shall correspond in style and architecture with the dwelling to which it is appurtenant. All buildings and structures shall conform to the established drainage pattern on the Lot.

<u>SECTION 5.</u> <u>TEMPORARY BUILDINGS</u>. Temporary buildings or structures shall not be permitted on any Lot except for storage sheds no taller than eight (8) feet in height placed in the rear yard and not visible from any Street. However, the Declarants may permit temporary toilet facilities, sales and construction offices and storage areas to be used by Builders in connection with the construction and sale of residences. With the Declarants' approval, Builders may use garages as sales offices for the time during which such Builders are marketing homes.

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At the time of the sale of a residence by a Builder, any garage appurtenant to such residence used for sales purposes must be reconverted to a garage or a garage must be added to such residence.

<u>SECTION 6.</u> <u>DRIVEWAYS</u>. On each Lot the Builder shall construct and the Owner shall maintain at his expense the driveway from the garage to the abutting Street and shall repair at his expense any damage to the Street occasioned by connecting the driveway thereto.

<u>SECTION 7.</u> <u>ROOF PITCH; ROOF MATERIAL/ROOF STACKS</u>. The roof pitch of each residence shall have a minimum of six (6) feet of vertical rise for each twelve (12) feet of horizontal length. The roofs of all buildings shall be constructed or covered with fiberglass or dimensional shingles of a color approved by the New Construction Committee. Any other type of roofing material shall be permitted only at the discretion of the New Construction Committee. All roof stacks must be painted to blend with the roof color.

SECTION 8. FENCES. No fence or wall shall be erected on any Lot nearer to the Street than the minimum building setback lines from the Street shown on the plat containing such Lot, unless prior written approval of the applicable Committee. The erection of chain link fences on any Lot is prohibited. No fence on any Lot shall be stained. Each Owner shall, at his expense, maintain the fence and or retaining wall, if applicable, installed by the Builder to enclose the backyard of his Lot (or other enclosure approved by the applicable Committee).

SECTION 9. LANDSCAPING. Each Owner shall solid sod the area between the residence and the curb line of the abutting Street at the front of the residence (and the area between the side of the residence and the abutting Street on corner Lots) prior to occupancy of the residence. A minimum of two (2) trees at least four (4) inches in diameter at the point twelve (12) inches above the ground shall be planted in the front yard of each Lot as well as in the side yard on corner Lots. Thereafter the Owner of each Lot shall keep his Lot mowed to prevent unsightly appearance. Dead or damaged trees which might create a hazard to property or persons, shall be promptly removed or repaired, and if not removed by the Owner upon request, then the Association may remove or cause to be removed such trees at the Owner's expense and shall not be liable for damage caused by such removal. Vacant Lots shall not be used as dumping grounds for rubbish, trash, rubble, or soil, except that the Declarants may designate fill areas into which materials specified by Declarants may be placed.

<u>SECTION 10. SIGNS</u>. No sign, emblem, advertisement, billboard or other such structure of any kind may be kept, displayed or placed within the Properties (including, without limitation, any Lot, Common Area or Street), or on any moving vehicle within the Properties, so as to be visible from public view without the written consent of the Association, except for the following:

A. For Sale Signs. An Owner may erect one (1) sign on his Lot, not exceeding two feet by three feet $(2' \times 3')$ in area, fastened only to a stake in the ground and extending not more than three feet (3') above the surface of such Lot advertising the Lot for sale.

B. <u>Declarants' Signs</u>. The Declarants may erect and maintain a sign or signs deemed reasonable and necessary by Declarants for the construction, development, identification, operation, promotion, leasing and sale of the Properties.

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C. <u>Builders' Signs</u>. A Builder may utilize one (1) professional sign (of not more than ten [10] square feet in size) per Lot for advertising and sales promotion of the residential dwelling being constructed on the Lot by such Builder.

D. <u>Political Signs</u>. Political signs may be erected upon a Lot by the Owner thereof advocating the election of one or more political candidates or the sponsorship of a political party, issue or proposal, provided that such signs shall not be erected more than thirty (30) days in advance of the election to which they pertain and shall be removed within ten (10) days after such election. An Owner may erect no more than two (2) such signs on his Lot, not exceeding two feet by three feet (2' x 3') in area, fastened only to a stake in the ground and extending not more than three feet (3') above the surface of such Lot.

E. <u>School Spirit Signs</u>. Signs on a Lot containing information about one or more children residing on such Lot and the school they attend shall be permitted so long as the sign is not more than thirty-six inches by thirty-six inches (36" x 36"). There shall be no more than one (1) sign for each child age eighteen (18) and under residing on such Lot. Banners are not permitted.

F. <u>Security Signs/Stickers</u>. Signs or stickers provided to an Owner by a commercial security or alarm company providing service to the residential dwelling on a Lot shall be permitted so long as the sign is not more than twelve inches by twelve inches $(12^{\circ} \times 12^{\circ})$ or the sticker is four inches by four inches $(4^{\circ} \times 4^{\circ})$. There shall be no more than one (1) sign per Lot and stickers on no more than fifty percent (50%) of the windows and one (1) on the front door or front entry area.

The Association (including, without limitation, any member of the Board of Directors, any member of the Committees, or their designees) or the Declarants shall have the right to remove any sign, emblem, advertisement, billboard or other such structure without being subject to any civil or criminal liability. The Association may impose a fine for any Owner's failure to comply with this Section. Failure of an Owner to comply with this Section shall be grounds for action by the Association, including, without limitation, an action to recover sums for damages, injunctive relief or any combination thereof, including costs and attorneys' fees incurred in bringing such actions, and if necessary, cost and attorneys' fees for appellate review thereof.

<u>SECTION 11. TRAFFIC SIGHT AREAS</u>. No fence, wall, hedge, or shrub planting which obstructs sight lines at elevations between two and six feet above the Street shall be permitted to remain on any corner Lot within fifteen (15) feet of the point formed by the intersection of the building set back lines of such Lot.

<u>SECTION 12. EXTERIOR ANTENNAE</u>. No television, radio, or other electronic towers, aerials, antennae, satellite dishes or device of any type for the reception or transmission of radio or television broadcasts or other means of communication shall be erected, constructed, placed or permitted to remain on any Lot or upon any improvements thereon, except that this prohibition shall not apply to those antennae specifically covered by the regulations promulgated under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as amended from time to time. The Board of Directors is empowered to adopt rules governing the types of antennae that are permissible in the Properties and to establish reasonable, non-discriminatory restrictions relating to safety, location

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and maintenance of antennae. To the extent that receipt of an acceptable signal would not be impaired, an antenna permissible pursuant to the rules of the Board of Directors may only be installed in a side or rear yard location, not visible from a Street, and integrated with the dwelling and surrounding landscape. Antennae shall be installed in compliance with all state and local laws and regulations.

SECTION 13. PLAYGROUND AND SPORTS EQUIPMENT. All playground equipment, such as playhouses and swing sets (which shall not exceed twelve (12) feet in height above natural grade and shall not exceed 100 square feet of floor area), shall be situated, concealed and shielded so as not to be visible from any Street. Not more than one play structure exceeding eight (8) feet in height is permitted on any Lot. No playground or sports equipment, whether permanent or temporary, may be located within any easement on a Lot or closer to the boundary of a Lot than the closest building setback line thereto. Playground equipment should utilize natural materials and muted earth tone colors whenever possible. Wood play structures must be left natural, stained or painted to match the existing main residential dwelling. Canvas awnings or rods must be primary or earth tone colors, without patterns except earth tone camouflage. Awnings that become torn or faded must be replaced. Composition shingle roofing on any play structures must be compatible with the roof of the main residential dwelling. Permanent basketball goals shall be mounted on a metal pole not affixed to any house or structure. Semi-permanent basketball goals mounted on moveable platforms shall be positioned on the exterior edge of the driveway in the grass between residences. The goal shall be placed no closer to the Street than the applicable building setback line. Other types of portable goals may be temporarily located in the front of a residence while in use as long as they are moved to the garage or rear of the residence when not in use. Skateboard ramps are prohibited.

<u>SECTION 14. DECORATIONS AND LIGHTING</u>. No decorative appurtenances such as sculptures, birdbaths and birdhouses, fountains, or other decorative embellishments shall be placed on the residence or on the front yard or on any other portion of a Lot which is visible from any Street, unless such specific items have been approved in writing by the Modifications Committee. Customary seasonal decorations for holidays are permitted without approval by the Modifications Committee. Outside lighting fixtures shall be placed so as to illuminate only the yard of the applicable Lot and so as not to affect or reflect into surrounding residences or yards. No mercury vapor, sodium or halogen light shall be installed on any Lot which is visible from any Street unless otherwise approved by the Modifications Committee.

<u>SECTION 15. AIR CONDITIONERS</u>. No window or wall type air conditioners shall be permitted in any improvements within the Properties, but the Declarants and Builders may install and use such air conditioners in sales offices and construction offices within the Properties, provided such air conditioners are removed when such facilities cease to be used.

<u>SECTION 16. PRIVATE UTILITY LINES</u>. All electrical, telephone, and other utility lines and facilities which are located on a Lot and are not owned by a governmental entity or a public utility company shall be installed underground unless otherwise approved in writing by the New Construction Committee.

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SECTION 17. ENFORCEMENT OF LOT MAINTENANCE.

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A. Each Owner of a Lot shall at all times be obligated to maintain his property and all improvements thereupon (and the area between the boundary lines of adjacent property and adjacent Streets if such area is not otherwise maintained), so as to keep same in a clean, sightly and safe condition and to conform with any specific standards which the Board of Directors may adopt by resolution for the Properties. An Owner's maintenance obligation shall include, but not be limited to: the maintenance of all visible exterior surfaces of all buildings and other improvements including fences; the prompt removal of all paper, debris, and refuse; the removal and replacement of dead and diseased trees and plantings; the removal of all snow and ice from paved areas; the repair, replacement, cleaning and relamping of all signs and lighting fixtures; the mowing, watering, fertilizing, weeding, replanting and replacing of all approved landscaping; the maintenance of any private drainage improvements unless the Association has elected to perform such maintenance; and, during construction, the cleaning of dirt, construction debris and other construction-related refuse from Streets and storm drains and inlets.

In the event of the violation of any covenant herein by any Owner or occupant of Β. any Lot and the continuance of such violation after ten (10) days written notice thereof, or in the event the Owner or occupant has not proceeded with due diligence to complete appropriate repairs and maintenance after such notice, the Association shall have the right (but not the obligation), through its agents or employees, to enter upon such Lot and to secure compliance with these restrictions and restore such Lot to a neat, attractive, healthful and sanitary condition. The Association may render a statement of charge to the Owner or occupant of such Lot for the cost of such work, plus an administrative fee in an amount not to exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the cost of such work. The Owner or occupant agrees by the purchase or occupation of the Lot to pay such statement immediately upon receipt. In the event of the failure to pay for such work, the amount of such statement may be added to the annual maintenance charge provided for herein and shall be secured by a lien on the Lot in the same manner as such annual charge. The Association, or its agents and employees shall not be liable, and are hereby expressly relieved from any liability, for trespass or other tort in connection with the performance of the maintenance and other work authorized herein.

<u>SECTION 18. DAMAGE AND DESTRUCTION OF IMPROVEMENTS</u>. Any buildings or improvements within the Properties which are damaged or partially destroyed by fire, storm or any other means shall be repaired within a reasonable period of time not to exceed sixty (60) days from the occurrence of such damage and the Lot restored to a clean, orderly and attractive condition. Any buildings or improvements which are damaged or destroyed to the extent that repairs are not practicable, shall be demolished and removed within a reasonable period of time not to exceed ninety days from the occurrence of such damage and the Lot restored to a clean and the Lot restored to a clean and attractive condition.

ARTICLE VIII EASEMENTS

<u>SECTION 1.</u> <u>GENERAL</u>. Easements for the installation and maintenance of utilities are reserved as shown and provided for on the plats or as dedicated by separate instruments. No utility company or authorized political subdivision using the easements referred to herein shall

be liable for any damages done by them or their assigns, agents, employees or servants, to fences, shrubbery, trees, flowers, improvements or other property of the Owner situated on the land covered by such easements as a result of construction, maintenance or repair work conducted by such parties or their assigns, agents, employees or servants.

<u>SECTION 2.</u> <u>EASEMENTS FOR ASSOCIATION</u>. There is hereby granted a general right and easement to the Association, its directors, officers, agents, and employees, including, but not limited to, any manager employed by the Association and any employees of such manager, to enter upon any Lot or any portion thereof in the performance of their respective duties. Except in the event of emergencies, this easement is to be exercised only during normal business hours and then, whenever practicable, only upon advance notice to and with permission of the Owner or occupant of the residence directly affected thereby.

<u>SECTION 3.</u> <u>MAINTENANCE EASEMENT</u>. There is granted to the Association, its successors and assigns, a five-foot wide construction and maintenance easement adjacent and parallel to each of the rear and side lot lines of all Lots that abut a landscape reserve, perimeter boundary of the Properties or Street where the Declarants have constructed or hereafter construct a fence or wall, together with the right of ingress and egress for the purposes, without liability to the Owner for damages arising from the use of the easement, of constructing, repairing, and/or reconstructing the fence or wall. The easement area shall remain unobstructed of any structures or plantings that would prohibit access to the fence or wall for construction and maintenance purposes.

SECTION 4. UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM.

An underground electric distribution system will be installed within each Α. subdivision within the Properties which will be designated an Underground Residential Subdivision and which underground service area shall serve all Lots in the subdivision. The Owner of each Lot in the Underground Residential Subdivision shall, at his own cost, furnish, install, own, and maintain (all in accordance with the requirements of local governing authorities and the National Electric Code) the underground service cable and appurtenances from the point of the electric company's metering on customer's structure to the point of attachment at such company's installed transformers or energized secondary junction boxes, such point of attachment to be made available by the electric company at a point designated by such company at the property line of each Lot. The electric company furnishing service shall make the necessary connections at said point of attachment and at the meter. In addition, the Owner of each Lot shall, at his own cost, furnish, install, own and maintain a meter loop (in accordance with the then current standards and specifications of the electric company furnishing service) for the location and installation of the meter of such electric company for the residence constructed on such Owner's Lot. For so long as underground service is maintained in the Underground Residential Subdivision, the electric service to each Lot therein shall be underground, uniform in character and exclusively of the type known as single phase, 120/240 volt, three wire, 60 cycle, alternating current.

B. Easements for the underground service may be crossed by driveways and walkways provided that the Builder or Owner makes prior arrangements with the utility company furnishing electric service and provides and installs the necessary electric conduit of

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approved type and size under such driveways or walkways prior to construction thereof. Such easement for the underground service shall be kept clear of all other improvements, including buildings, patios, or other pavings, and neither Builder nor any utility company using the easements shall be liable for any damage done by either of them or their assigns, their agents, employees, or servants, to shrubbery, trees, or improvements (other than crossing driveways or walkways provided the conduit has been installed as outlined above) of the Owner and located on the land covered by said easements.

ARTICLE IX

COMMON AREA INSURANCE

SECTION 1. INSURANCE. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, the Association shall, as an expense of all Members payable with funds from annual assessments, obtain blanket all-risk casualty insurance for all insurable improvements on the Common Area, if any, for the full replacement cost thereof, or if blanket all-risk coverage is not reasonably available, an insurance policy providing fire and extended coverage. The Association may also obtain (i) a public liability policy covering the Common Area, insuring the Association and its Members for all damages or injury caused by the negligence of the Association, its agents or the Members in such amount as the Board of Directors deems appropriate, (ii) worker's compensation insurance, and the Association shall obtain such insurance if and to the extent required by law, (iii) directors' and officers' liability coverage, and (iv) a fidelity bond or fidelity insurance on directors, officers, employees, and other persons handling or responsible for the Association's funds.

SECTION 2. DAMAGE AND DESTRUCTION. Immediately after damage or destruction by fire or other casualty of all or any part of the property covered by insurance written in the name of the Association, the Association shall proceed with the filing and adjustment of all claims arising under such insurance and the repair or reconstruction of the damaged or destroyed property, to the extent insurance proceeds are available for such purpose. Repair or reconstruction, as used in this paragraph, means repairing or restoring the property to substantially the same condition which existed prior to the fire or other casualty, allowing for any changes or improvements necessitated by changes in applicable building codes. If insurance proceeds are insufficient to cover a repair or reconstruction, the Board of Directors may levy a special assessment to cover the shortfall, subject to the requirements of Section 5 of Article IV above. In the event that insurance proceeds are unavailable to repair or reconstruct the Common Area, the damaged or destroyed property shall be restored to its natural state and maintained by the Association in a neat and attractive condition.

<u>SECTION 3.</u> <u>ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLICIES</u>. All insurance policies shall be reviewed at least annually by the Board of Directors in order to ascertain whether the coverage contained in the policies is sufficient to make any necessary repairs or replacement of the property which may have been damaged or destroyed.

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ARTICLE X GENERAL PROVISIONS

<u>SECTION 1.</u> <u>TERM</u>. These covenants shall run with the land and shall be binding upon all parties and all persons claiming under until December 31, 2047, after which time said covenants shall be automatically extended for successive periods of ten (10) years each, unless an instrument signed by the Owners of a majority of the Lots covered by this Declaration has been recorded, agreeing to change or terminate the covenants herein, in whole or in part.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.

A. <u>By Declarants</u>. This Declaration may be amended unilaterally at any time and from time to time by the Declarants (a) if such amendment is necessary to bring any provision hereof into compliance with any applicable governmental statute, rule, or regulation or judicial determination which shall be in conflict therewith; (b) if such amendment is required by an institutional or governmental lender or purchaser of mortgage loans, including, for example, the Federal National Mortgage Association or Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, to enable such lender or purchaser to make or purchase mortgage loans on the property subject to this Declaration; (c) if such amendment is necessary to enable any governmental agency or reputable private insurance company to insure mortgage loans on the property subject to this Declaration; or (d) in order to correct any clerical or typographical error contained in this Declaration. Any such amendment shall become effective when an instrument is filed for record in the Official Public Records of Real Property of Harris County, Texas, executed and acknowledged by the Declarants.

B. <u>By Owners</u>. This Declaration may be amended at any time by an instrument executed by a majority vote of the Members; provided, however, any amendment prior to the date on which the Declarants have sold and conveyed all of their Lots in the Properties must be approved and executed by the Declarants. Any such amendment shall become effective when an instrument is filed for record in the Official Public Records of Real Property of Harris County, Texas, executed and acknowledged by the requisite Members.

<u>SECTION 3.</u> <u>SEVERABILITY</u>. Invalidation of any one of these covenants by judgment or other court order shall in no way affect any other provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect except as to any terms and provisions which are invalidated.

<u>SECTION 4.</u> <u>GENDER AND GRAMMAR</u>. The singular wherever used herein shall be construed to mean or include the plural when applicable, and the necessary grammatical changes required to make the provisions hereof apply either to corporations (or other entities) or individuals, male or female, shall in all cases be assumed as though in each case fully expressed.

<u>SECTION 5.</u> <u>TITLES</u>. The titles in this Declaration of Articles and Sections contained herein are included for convenience only and shall not be used to construe, interpret, or limit the meaning of any term or provision contained in this Declaration.

<u>SECTION 6.</u> <u>RE-PLATTING</u>. The Declarants shall have the right to subdivide any reserve tracts contained within the Properties into single-family residential lots, by recorded plat

or in any lawful manner. Lots created by the subdivision of a reserve tract shall be subject to these restrictions as if such lots were originally platted as Lots.

SECTION 7. NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES. No representations or warranties of any kind, express or implied, shall be deemed to have been given or made by the Declarants or their agents or employees in connection with any portion of the Properties, or any improvements thereon, their physical condition, compliance with applicable laws, fitness for intended use, or in connection with the Properties, sale, operation, maintenance, cost of maintenance, taxes, or regulation thereof, unless and except as specifically shall be set forth in NONE OF THE ASSOCIATION, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THE writing. DECLARANTS, ANY MANAGING AGENT OF THE ASSOCIATION, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES, AFFILIATES, AGENTS OR ATTORNEYS SHALL IN ANY WAY BE CONSIDERED INSURERS OR GUARANTORS OF SECURITY WITHIN THE PROPERTIES AND SHALL NOT BE HELD LIABLE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE BY REASON OF ALLEGED FAILURE TO PROVIDE SECURITY OR INEFFECTIVENESS OF SECURITY MEASURES ADEQUATE UNDERTAKEN, IF ANY.

SECTION 8. ARBITRATION BETWEEN DECLARANTS. IF THE DECLARANTS FAIL TO AGREE ON ANY MATTER RELATING TO THE PROPERTIES, SUCH MATTER SHALL BE RESOLVED BY BINDING ARBITRATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION. SUCH ARBITRATION SHALL BE CONDUCTED BY A NEUTRAL ARBITRATOR SELECTED BY THE AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION, OR OTHER THIRD PARTY ARBITRATION ORGANIZATION AGREED UPON BY THE PARTIES, AT ITS OFFICES CLOSEST TO THE PROPERTIES. THE ARBITRATION CONDUCTED ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN SHALL BE ARBITRATION COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION RULES ASSOCIATION OR SUCH OTHER PROCEDURES AS MAY BE AGREED UPON BY THE PARTIES. THE PARTIES AGREE TO (A) JOIN INTO THE ARBITRATION PROCEEDING HEREUNDER OR (B) JOIN ANY OTHER ARBITRATION PROCEEDING BEING CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OR ENTITIES RELATED TO THE DISPUTE THAT MAY BE NECESSARY TO COMPLETELY RESOLVE THE DISPUTE. THE ARBITRATION SHALL DETERMINE ALL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS UNDER THIS DECLARATION AND THE DECISION OF THE ARBITRATOR SHALL BE FINAL, BINDING AND ENFORCEABLE IN THE ABSENCE OF FRAUD. THE ARBITRATOR SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY, POWER AND RIGHT TO AWARD DAMAGES AND PROVIDE FOR OTHER REMEDIES AS ARE AVAILABLE AT LAW OR IN EQUITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF TEXAS (INCLUDING ENFORCEMENT OF SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE), EXCEPT THAT THE ARBITRATOR SHALL HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO AWARD CONSEQUENTIAL, INCIDENTAL OR PUNITIVE DAMAGES UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES (WHETHER THEY BE EXEMPLARY DAMAGES, TREBLE DAMAGES OR ANY OTHER PENALTY OR PUNITIVE TYPE OF DAMAGES), REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH DAMAGES MAY BE AVAILABLE UNDER THE LAWS OF TEXAS. THE PARTIES HEREBY WAIVE THEIR RIGHT, IF ANY, TO RECOVER PUNITIVE DAMAGES IN CONNECTION WITH ANY ARBITRATED DISPUTE OR CONTROVERSY. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL PROHIBIT OR PREVENT ANY PARTY FROM SEEKING JUDICIAL RELIEF TO

MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO DURING THE PENDENCY OF A DISPUTE OR DURING ARBITRATION PROCEEDINGS.

SECTION 9. ANNEXATION.

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A. <u>By Declarants</u>. The Declarants shall have the unilateral right, privilege, and option at any time to annex additional property to the jurisdiction of the Association and to subject such property to this Declaration (with the written consent of the owner of such property) by filing for record a declaration of annexation in respect to the property being annexed that subjects such property to all of the provisions of this Declaration. Any such annexation by the Declarants shall not require approval by the Association or the Members and shall be effective upon the filing for record of such declaration. The rights reserved by Declarants herein to annex additional land shall not, and shall not be implied or construed so as to, impose any obligation upon the Declarants to annex additional land they own. The Declarants may designate any Gated Lots in such declaration of annexation.

B. <u>By Other Owners</u>. Upon request by an owner of real property other than the Declarants, the Association may annex such real property to its jurisdiction and subject such real property to this Declaration. Any such annexation shall require the affirmative vote of Members representing a majority of the Association's votes present at a meeting duly called for such purpose and, as long as the Declarants own any portion of the Properties, the written consent of such Declarants. Annexation of land not owned by either of the Declarants shall be accomplished by filing of record in the public records of Harris County, Texas, an annexation agreement describing the property being annexed. Such annexation agreement shall be signed by the Association, by the owner of the property being annexed, and, as long as the Declarants own any portion of the Properties, by the Declarants.

C. <u>Effect of Annexation</u>. The Owners of Lots in property annexed into the jurisdiction of the Association shall be entitled to all of the rights of Owners in this Declaration (including, without limitation, the use and benefit of the Common Area) and shall be subject to all of the obligations of Owners in this Declaration. The annexed property shall be impressed with and subject to all fees, charges and assessments imposed by the Association pursuant to this Declaration.

SECTION 10. MERGER; DISSOLUTION. The Association may be merged with another non-profit corporation or dissolved only with (i) the assent given in writing by not less than two-thirds (2/3's) of the Members and (ii) as long as the Declarants own any Lots within the Properties, the written assent of the Declarants. In the event of a merger of the Association with another non-profit corporation organized for the same purposes, the Association's properties, rights, and obligations may be transferred to the surviving association, or alternatively, the properties, rights and obligations of the other association may be added to the properties, rights and obligations of the Association as a surviving corporation pursuant to a merger. The surviving association shall administer the covenants, conditions and restrictions established by this Declaration, together with the covenants, conditions and restrictions applicable to the properties of the other association as one scheme. In the event of the dissolution of the Association, the assets of the Association shall be dedicated to an appropriate public agency to be used for purposes similar to those for which the Association was created. In the event that such dedication is refused acceptance, such assets shall be granted, conveyed and assigned to any non-profit corporation, association, trust or other organization to be devoted to such similar purposes.

<u>SECTION 11. ENFORCEMENT</u>. The Association or any Owner shall have the right to enforce, by any proceeding at law or in equity, the covenants, conditions, restrictions, and liens contained herein. Failure of the Association or any Owner to enforce any of the provisions herein contained shall in no event be deemed a waiver of the right to do so thereafter.

[Signature Page Follows]

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Declaration is executed effective as of the $\underline{12^{m}}$ day of December, 2007.

RH OF TEXAS LIMITED PARTNERSHIP,

a Maryland limited partnership

Ryland Homes of Texas, Inc., By: general partner

By: Ernest Loeb.

ASHTON HOUSTON RESIDENTIAL, L.L.C., a Texas limited liability company

By:

Christaylor, Authorized Representative

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF HARRIS §

This instrument was acknowledged before me on December $\cancel{2}$, 2007 by Ernest Loeb, Vice President of Ryland Homes of Texas, Inc., a Maryland corporation, which is the general partner of RH of Texas Limited Partnership, a Maryland limited partnership.

Nee (SEAL) Notary Public in and for V SALLEE the State of Texas State of Texas Hon Expires 5-2010 GAIL ANN SALLEE Notary Public, State of Texas My Commission Expires THE STATE OF TEXAS ş 07-05-2010 COUNTY OF HARRIS §

This instrument was acknowledged before me on December $\cancel{2}$, 2007 by Chris Taylor, Authorized Representative of Ashton Houston Residential, L.L.C. a Texas Limited Liability Company.



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Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

20070741932 # Pages 32 12/20/2007 08:42:50 AM e-Filed & e-Recorded in the Official Public Records of HARRIS COUNTY BEVERLY KAUFMAN COUNTY CLERK Fees 136.00

RECORDERS MEMORANDUM This instrument was received and recorded electronically and any blackouts, additions or changes were present at the time the instrument was filed and recorded.

Any provision herein which restricts the sale, rental, or use of the described real property because of color or race is invalid and unenforceable under federal law. THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF HARRIS I hereby certify that this instrument was FILED in File Number Sequence on the date and at the time stamped hereon by me; and was duly RECORDED in the Official Public Records of Real Property of Harris County, Texas.

