

**SETTLERS RIDGE**

**COVENANTS, RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS**

STATE OF TEXAS       §  
  §  
COUNTY OF AUSTIN   §

This Declaration is made on the date hereinafter set forth by Settlers’ Crossing, Inc., a Texas Corporation, hereinafter called “Declarant”

**RECITALS**

The following facts exist:

- A.     Declarant is the owner of that certain property known as Settlers Ridge, a subdivision in Austin County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof recorded under Austin County Clerk’s File No. \_\_\_\_\_, Plat Cabinet No. \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_ of the Plat Records of Austin County, Texas.
- B.     Declarant desires to place certain restrictions, covenants, conditions, stipulations, and reservations upon and against, such property in order to establish a uniform plan for the development, improvement and sale of such property, and to insure the preservation of such property, and to insure the preservation of such uniform plan for the benefit of both the present and future owners of residential lots in said subdivision.

NOW, THEREFORE, Declarant does hereby adopt, establish and impose the following restrictions, reservations, covenants and conditions upon all lots as defined herein, and owner’s properties, as defined herein, which shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of Declarant and each owner in the subdivision, The Association (as defined herein) shall, in addition, have the right to enforce the restrictions, reservations, covenants and conditions herein set forth by any proceeding at law and/or in equity as may be deemed advisable or appropriate.

**ARTICLE I**

**Definitions**

**Section 1. “Properties”** shall mean and refer to the real property hereinabove described, and, where applicable, the real property, which may be hereafter, annexed into the jurisdiction of the Association in the manner hereinafter described.

**Section 2. “Lot”** shall mean and refer to any plot of land shown upon any recorded Subdivision Plat, with the exception of any portion of the Properties, which is or may be hereafter designated or described on the Subdivision Plat as “Reserve” or with words of similar meaning.

**Section 3. “Declarant”** shall mean and refer to Settlers’ Crossing, Inc., or its successors and/or assigns, including but not limited to, any person, firm, corporation, partnership, association, trust or other legal entity, or any combination thereof, which acquires all or substantially all of the Properties then owned by Settlers’ Crossing, Inc., (or subsequent successors in interest), by conveyance or assignment from Settlers’ Crossing, Inc., or by judicial or non-judicial foreclosure, for the purpose of development and/or construction on the properties.

**Section 4. “Owner”** shall mean and refer to the record owner, whether one or more persons or entities, of fee simple title to any Lot or portion thereof which is a part of the Subdivision, including contract buyer, but excluding those whose interest is held merely as security for the performance of an obligation.

**Section 5. “Subdivision Plat”** shall mean and refer to the map or plat of Settlers Ridge, recorded in the Plat Records of Austin County, Texas, or as such may be amended from time to time in accordance with applicable law.

**Section 6. “Association”** shall mean and refer to the Settlers Ridge Homeowners Association, a Texas non-profit corporation, its successors and/or assigns.

**Section 7. “Common Area”** shall mean all real property which may be acquired by the Association for the common use and enjoyment of the Owners in this Subdivision and, where applicable, in any additional land annexed into the jurisdiction of the Association.

**Section 8. “Dwelling”** shall mean that portion of the structure, which Declarant intends to construct and in fact constructs, or places, on a portion of a Lot for occupancy by one person or one family only.

**Section 9. “Subdivision”** shall mean Settlers Ridge, as described in the Recitals above.

**ARTICLE II**

**Property Rights in Common Area**

Every owner shall have a nonexclusive right and easement of enjoyment in, and to, the Common Area, which right shall be appurtenant to and shall pass with the title to every Lot, subject to the right of the Association to dedicate or transfer all or any part of the Common Area to any public agency, authority or utility company for such purposes and subject to such conditions as may be agreed to by the members (provided, however, that no such dedication or transfer shall be effective unless an instrument signed by two-thirds (2/3rds) of each class of members agreeing to such dedication or transfer has been recorded), and to the terms and conditions of the Declaration.

**ARTICLE III**

**Membership and Voting Rights in Association**

**Section 1. Membership** Every Owner of a Lot, which is subject to assessment, shall be a member of the Association. Membership shall be appurtenant to, and shall not be separated from, ownership of any Lot, which is subject to assessment. Every member shall have the right at all reasonable times during business hours to inspect the books of the Association.

**Section 2. Voting Rights** The Association shall have two (2) classes of voting membership:

**Class A.** Class A members shall be all Owners with the exception of the Declarant and shall be entitled to one (1) vote for each Lot owned. When more than one person holds an interest in any one property, such persons shall be members, but the vote for such lot shall be exercised as they among themselves determine, and in no event shall more than one (1) vote be cast with respect to any one lot.

**Class B.** Class B member shall be Declarant who shall be entitled to three (3) votes for each lot owned.

The Class B membership shall cease and be converted to Class A membership when the total votes outstanding in the Class A membership equal the total votes outstanding in the Class B membership, or January 1, 2030.

**ARTICLE IV**

**Restrictions, Covenants and Conditions**

**Use Restrictions**

**Section 1. Land Use and Building Type.** All lots shall be known, described and used for site built residential purposes only and no structure shall be erected, altered, placed or permitted to remain on any Lot other than one single-family detached residence and garage with other Architectural Control Committee approved buildings such as storage buildings. As used herein, the term "residential purposes" shall be construed to prohibit the use of said property for garage apartments or apartment dwellings, save that if such dwelling is designed in conjunction with the primary dwelling original plans and approvals, and is used by a family member and not for rental, it shall be permissible. No Lot or Owner's Property shall be used for business or professional purposes of any kind, nor for any commercial or manufacturing purposes.

**Section 2. Architectural Control.** No building shall be erected, placed or altered on any Lot or Owner's Property until the construction plans and specifications and a plot plan showing the locations of the structure have been approved by the Architectural Control Committee, herein after established, as to quality of workmanship and materials, harmony of external design with existing structures, and as to location with respect to topography and finished grade elevation, in accordance with the procedures set forth in Article VIII hereof. All home builders must be approved by the architectural control committee, and not all home builders will be approved. At the time of this filing, the only approved home builder in Settlers Ridge is RCOT Construction/Ranch Country Homes and/or its affiliates.

**Section 3. Type of Construction, Material and Landscape.**

- a. The roof of any residence shall meet or exceed all Federal Housing Administration (FHA) Standards.
- b. No landscaping shall be done on the side of any dwelling facing a street in the Subdivision until the landscape layout and plans shall have first been approved by the Architectural Control Committee.
- c. No window or wall-type air conditioners shall be permitted to be used, erected, placed, or maintained, on, or in, any building within view from the street, except in sales offices, as described hereinabove.

- d. No fence, or wall, shall be erected, or allowed to remain, nearer the street than the front of the residence. All fences and walls shall be composed of suitable materials, as approved by the Architectural Control Committee and any fence that faces the street must be of wood, vinyl, steel (or other approved material), construction and be maintained by owner in good repair. No fence or wall shall exceed seven feet (7') in height above ground level unless otherwise approved by the Architectural Control Committee.
- e. On all lots in Settlers Ridge, the residence exterior design identifying any and all materials to be used must be included in the original plan submission for final approval by the Architectural Control Committee.
- f. All homes or Lots must be improved with a minimum of one two-car garage with an overhead door, with sufficient space for storage or the addition of a separate storage building or barn for the storage of toys, bikes, lawn equipment ect., in order that the lot shall be maintained in a neat and orderly manner free of clutter and/or trash. All buildings must first be approved by the Architectural Control Committee.
- g. All homes must have concrete driveways or of other substance or material approved by the Architectural Control Committee extending from the garage to the street at least twelve feet (12') wide. Any circular driveways must also be covered with concrete.
- h. The Declarant herein, or the Architectural Control Committee, or its successors and/or assigns, may, in its discretion, approve variances, deviations and exceptions from the provisions of these restrictions, where, in their opinion, such change will result in a more commonly beneficial use and such change would be in keeping with the overall intentions of these restrictions.

**Section 4. Annoyances or Nuisances**

- a. No noxious or offensive activity shall be carried on upon any Lot, nor shall anything be done therein which may be, or may become an annoyance or nuisance to the neighborhood. No signs or other advertising shall be displayed on any lot unless the size, form, and number of same are first approved in writing by the Architectural Control Committee; provided however, that any owner may, without such prior approval, erect one (1) sign not more than five (5) square feet advertising the property for sale or rent.
- b. No discharge of firearms, or hunting, shall be allowed within the subdivision.

**Section 5. Temporary Structures**

- a. No structure of a temporary character, whether trailer, motor home, tent, shack, carport, barn or other outbuilding shall be maintained or used on any Lot at any time as a residence or for any purpose without prior approval of the Architectural Control Committee; provided, however, Declarant reserves the exclusive right to erect, place and maintain such facilities in or upon any portions of the Properties as in its sole discretion may be necessary or convenient while selling lots, selling or constructing residences and constructing other improvements upon the Properties. Such facilities may include but are not limited to sales and construction offices, storage areas, model Dwellings, signs, fences and portable toilet facilities.
- b. No commercial vehicle, inoperative automobile / pickup or other vehicle will be stored, parked or kept on any Lot or Owner's Property for more than forty-eight (48) hours during a seventy-two (72) hour period, unless shielded from public view by a garage or fence constructed in accordance with the terms hereof and duly approved by the Architectural Control Committee. An inoperative vehicle is defined as a vehicle that will not function mechanically, or has expired registration. No vehicle shall be parked in front of any residence except on designated established driveways.
- c. No campers, travel trailers, RVs, utility/farm trailers, boats, etc. will be stored, parked or kept on the driveway or in front of the residence for more than forty-eight (48) hours during a seventy-two (72) hour period unless otherwise approved by the Architectural Control Committee.

**Section 6. Oil and Mining Operations** No oil drilling or development operations, oil refining, quarrying or mining operations of any kind shall be permitted upon or in any Lot nor shall oil wells, tanks, tunnels, mineral excavations or shafts be permitted upon or in any Lot. No derrick or other structure designed for use in boring for oil or natural gas or other minerals shall be erected, maintained or permitted upon any Lot.

**Section 7. Storage and Disposal of Garbage and Refuse**

- a. Subject property shall not be used or maintained as a dumping ground for rubbish or trash, and no garbage, or other waste shall be kept except in sanitary containers. All other equipment for storage and disposal of such materials shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition. Garbage and trash shall be disposed of at least once a week. All garbage or trash accumulated from day to day shall be kept in covered sanitary containers, which shall not be visible from any road or right of way.

- b. Storage of furniture, fixtures, appliances, machinery, equipment, wood piles, lumber or other goods and chattels not in active use, which is visible from outside the lot will not be allowed. Storage of any material that could pollute surrounding areas, including but not limited to, batteries, oil drain pans and tires will not be permitted.

**Section 8. Visual Obstructions at the Intersections of Public Streets** No object, plant, or thing shall be placed, planted, or permitted on any corner Lot in which object, plant or thing obstructs reasonably safe and clear visibility of pedestrian or vehicular traffic through sight lines parallel to the ground surface at elevations between two feet (2') and six feet (6') above the roadways.

**Section 9. Maximum Height of Antenna** No radio or television aerial wires or antennae shall be maintained on any portion of any Lot, or Owner's Property, forward of the front of the Dwelling, nor shall the top of any free standing antenna of any style, exclusive of masts, be permitted to extend more than twenty feet (20') above the roof of any Dwelling. All amateur radio operation shall be conducted so as to cause no electronic interference with surrounding households.

**Section 10. Animal Husbandry** Dogs, cats, and other domestic household pets may be kept and maintained by any property owner provided they are properly leashed or controlled, but may not exceed four (4) domestic pets per household. Horses are allowed, providing that such stock is confined within a fenced area to the rear of the home site located on the Owner's Property. Horses are limited to one (1) per 1 acre of land owned and shall be kept enclosed by suitable fencing of subject property and must be confined to the rear portion of the property at least fifty feet (50') away from the back of the residence. The premises shall be maintained in such a manner as to prevent health hazards and shall not be offensive to the neighboring tracts. Dog kennels or dog training facilities are not permitted; they are in violation of these restrictions. Raising or keeping of other livestock will not be permitted unless given special approval by the Directors of the Homeowners' Association.

**Section 11. Burning and Burned Houses** No person shall be permitted to burn trash outside the main residential building; however, recreational fire pits are allowed, provided the fire pit is not left unattended. In the event that any residence has burned and is thereafter abandoned for at least thirty (30) days, the Association may, after ten (10) days' written notice to the record owner of the residence, cause the burned and abandoned residence to be removed, the Lot or Owner's Property cleared, and lien attached, the expense of such removal and clearing to be charged to and paid by the record owner. In the event of such removal and clearing by the Association, the Association shall not be liable in trespass or for damages, expenses, costs or otherwise to Owner for such removal and clearing.

**Section 12. Minimum Square Footage** The living area of the main residential structure, exclusive of open porches and garages, shall not be less than 1,500 square feet on any lot in Settlers Ridge.

**Section 13. Building Set Back** No immovable structure, including, but not limited to, dwellings, garages, open-walled sheds or barns shall be located closer than fifty-five feet (55') from the front property line, or closer than fifty-feet (55') on side property line, if contiguous to a street, and shall be no closer than ten feet (10') from the side lot lines and no closer than ten feet (10') from the rear property line. Also, for these purposes, porches, stoops, bays and covered areas are considered a building structure, unless a variance is obtained from the Architectural Control Committee.

**Section 14.** Sewage disposal for each lot must be a private sewage facility designed by a registered professional civil engineer, or a registered professional sanitarian, based on a site evaluation performed on subject lot and approved by Austin County Environmental Department. Inspection and/or acceptance of a private sewage facility by Austin County shall indicate only that the facility meets minimum requirements and does not relieve the owner of the property from complying with County, State, and Federal regulations. Private sewage facilities, although approved as meeting minimum standards, must be upgraded by the owner, at the owner's expense, if normal operation of the facility results in objectionable odors, if unsanitary conditions are created, or if the facility, when used, does not comply with governmental regulations. A properly designed and constructed private sewage facility system, in suitable soil, can malfunction if the amount of water required to dispose of waste is not controlled. It will, therefore, be the responsibility of the lot owner to maintain and operate the private sewage facility in a satisfactory manner.

**Section 15.** It is specifically agreed that multi-family housing is not allowed and that none of the lots described herein shall be further subdivided, nor shall any re-platting be allowed if the result of such re-platting would create any lot with less than 100 feet of road frontage.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Reservations, Exceptions and Dedications**

**Section 1. Recorded Subdivision Plat of the Properties** The Subdivision Plat of the Properties dedicates for use as such, subject to the limitations as set forth therein, the streets and easements shown thereon and establishes certain restrictions applicable to the Properties, including, without limitation, certain minimum setback lines. All dedications, limitations, restrictions and reservations shown on the Subdivision Plat of the Properties are incorporated herein and made a part hereof as if fully set forth herein, and shall be construed as being adopted in each and every contract, deed or conveyance executed or to be executed by or on behalf of Declarant conveying said property or any plan thereof, whether specifically

referred to therein or not. However, notice must be taken that certain minimum setback lines have been changed and modified by this Declaration, which shall govern.

**Section 2. Easements** Declarant reserves the easements and rights-of-way, and title conveyed by Declarant shall be subject thereto, as shown on the Subdivision Plat of the Properties for the purpose of construction, maintaining and repairing a system or systems of electrical lighting, electric power, telegraph and telephone line or lines, gas, sewer, cable television or any other utility Declarant sees fit to install in, across and/or under the Properties. Declarant reserves the right to make changes in and additions to the above easements for the purpose of most efficiently and economically installing the improvements. Neither Declarant nor any utility company nor authorized political subdivision using the easements herein referred to shall be liable for any damages done by them or their assigns, their agents, employees or servants, to fences, shrubbery, tress or flowers or any other property of the Owner of the land covered by said easements. All utility companies shall have the right to remove and keep all or part of any buildings, fences, trees, shrubs, or other improvements or growths which in any way endanger or interfere with the construction, maintenance or efficiency of its respective utility system on any easement strips, and any utility company shall, at all times, have the right of egress and ingress for inspection, patrolling, maintaining and adding to or removing all or part of its respective utility system without the necessity at any time of procuring the permission of anyone.

**Section 3. Existing Liens** Violation or failure to comply with these restrictions, covenants and conditions shall in no way affect the validity of any mortgage, loan or bona fide lien which may in good faith be then existing on any Lot.

**Section 4. Water, Sewer and Drainage** Declarant hereby reserves for itself the right to place or repair connecting lines or facilities for all utility systems, including water and drainage facilities on or under any Lot for service to and drainage of such Lot and other Lots. An easement shall exist on any Lot for such connecting lines and common drainage facilities as the same are installed and Declarant hereby reserves an easement on any Lot on which connecting lines and common drainage facilities are installed for their maintenance in favor of the Owner of any property on which the connecting lines or facilities, provided that any entry upon the property on which the connecting lines or common drainage facilities are located shall be made with as little inconvenience to the owner as possible.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Maintenance Charge and Covenant**

#### **For Maintenance Assessments**

**Section 1. Creation of the Lien and Personal Obligations of Assessments** Subject to the terms of this Article VI, the Declarant for each Lot owned within the Properties hereby covenants, and each Owner of any Lot by acceptance of a deed therefor, whether or not it shall be so expressed in such deed, is deemed to covenant and agrees to pay the Association: (1) annual assessments or charges, and (2) special assessments for capital improvements, such assessments, together with interest, costs, and reasonable attorney's fees, shall be a charge on the land and shall be a continuing lien upon the property against which such assessment is made. Each such assessment, together with interest, costs and reasonable attorney's fees, shall also be the personal obligation of the person who was the Owner of such property at the time when the assessment fell due. The personal obligation for delinquent assessments shall not pass to his successors in title unless expressly assumed by them, but remains a lien on subject property until paid.

**Section 2. Annual Assessment or Charge** Subject to the terms of this Article VI, each lot in the Subdivision is hereby subjected to an annual maintenance charge and assessment not to exceed \$15 per month, or \$180 per annum, for the purpose of creating a fund to be designated and known as the "maintenance fund", which maintenance charge and assessment will be paid by the Owner or Owners of each lot within said Subdivision (and any area annexed under the jurisdiction of the Association) in advance in monthly, quarterly or annual installments, connecting as to all Owner's Properties on the first day of the month following conveyance of the first Owner's Property by Declarant to an Owner. There will be a one-time Special Assessment at closing on each lot sale from Declarant to Owner's of \$200.00 per lot. The rate at which each Owner's Property will assessed, and whether such assessment shall be payable monthly, quarterly or annually, will be determined by the Board of Directors of the Association at least thirty (30) days in advance of each annual assessment. Said rate and when it is payable may be adjusted from year to year by said Board of Directors as the needs of the Subdivision may in the judgment of the Directors require. The assessment for each Owner's Property shall be uniform except that (a) as long as there is a Class B membership, the Board of Directors may charge and collect a fraction of the annual assessment on each Lot owned by Declarant until the conveyance of said lot by Declarant to an Owner, provided that, any such fractional charge to Declarant shall not be less than twenty five percent (25%). The Board of Directors shall establish the due dates. The Association shall upon demand and for a reasonable charge furnish a certificate signed by an officer of the Association setting forth whether the assessments on a specified Owner's Property have been paid. The Association shall use the proceeds of said maintenance fund for the use and benefit of all residents of said Subdivision, as herein set forth. Such uses and benefits to be provided by said Association may include, by way of clarification and not limitation, any and all of the following: property taxes of common areas, constructing and maintaining parks, parkways, street lights, rights-of-ways, easements, esplanades and other public areas; supervising and contracting for the collection and disposition of garbage, ashes, rubbish and the like; maintenance of any Common Area; payment of all legal and other expenses incurred in connection with the enforcement of all recorded charges and assessments, covenants, restrictions and conditions affecting said property to which the maintenance fund applies, payment of all reasonable and necessary expenses in connection with the

collection and administration of the maintenance charge and assessment, employing necessary service persons in the opinion of the Association to keep the property in the Subdivisions neat and in good order, or which is considered of general benefit to the Owners or occupants of the property, it being understood that the judgment of the Association in the expenditure of said funds shall be final and conclusive so long as such judgment is exercised in good faith.

**Section 3. Special Assessments for Capital Improvements** In addition to the annual assessments authorized above, the Association may levy, in any assessment year, a special assessment applicable to that year only for the purpose of defraying, in whole or in part, the cost of any acquisition, construction, reconstruction, repair or replacement of a capital improvement upon any Common Area, including fixtures and personal property related thereto, provided that any such assessment shall have the assent of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the votes of each class of members who are voting in person or by proxy at a meeting duly called for this purpose.

**Section 4. Notice and Quorum for any Action Authorized under Sections 2 and 3** Written notice of any meeting called for the purpose of taking any action authorized under Section 2 or Section 3 shall be sent to all members, or delivered to their residences, not less than thirty (30) 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 sixty percent (60%) of all the votes of each class of membership shall constitute a quorum. If required quorum is not present, another meeting may be called subject to the same notice requirement, and the required quorum at the subsequent meeting may be reduced. No such subsequent meeting shall be less than one-half (1/2) of the required quorum at the preceding meeting. No such subsequent meeting shall be held more than sixty (60) days following the proceeding meeting.

**Section 5. Effect of Non-payment of Assessments: Remedies of the Association** Any assessment not paid within thirty (30) days after the due date shall bear interest from the due date at the rate of eight percent (8%) per annum. The Association may bring an action at law against the Owner personally obligated to pay the same, or foreclose the lien against the Property. No Owner may waive or otherwise escape liability for the assessments provided for herein by non-use of the Common Area or abandonment of his Property.

**Section 6. Subordinated Lien to Secure Payment** To secure the payment of the maintenance charge and assessment established hereby and to be levied on individual Owner's Properties as above provided, there shall be reserved in each Deed by which the Owner (the present and any subsequent owners) shall convey such Properties, or any part thereof, the Vendor's Lien for the benefit of the Association, said lien to be enforceable through appropriate proceedings at law by such beneficiary; provided, however, that each such lien shall be specifically made secondary, subordinate and inferior to all liens, present and future, given, granted, and created by or at the instance and request of the Owner of any such Lot to secure the payment of monies advanced or to be advanced on account of the purchase price and/or the improvement of any such Lot; and further provided that as a condition precedent to any proceeding to enforce such lien upon any Lot upon which there is an outstanding valid and subsisting first mortgage lien, said beneficiary shall give the holder of such first mortgage lien sixty (60) days written notice of such proposed action, such notice, which shall be sent to the nearest office of such first mortgage lienholder by prepaid U.S. Registered Mail, to contain the statement of the delinquent maintenance charges upon which the proposed action is based. Upon the request of any such first mortgage lienholder, said beneficiary shall acknowledge in writing its obligation to give the foregoing notice with respect to the particular property covered by such first mortgage lien to the holder thereof. Sale or transfer to mortgage foreclosure or any proceeding in lien thereof shall extinguish the lien to such assessment as to payments, which became due prior to such sale or transfer. No sale or transfer shall relieve such Lot from liability for any assessments thereafter becoming due or from the lien thereof.

**Section 7. Duration** The above maintenance charge and assessment will remain effective for the full term (and extended term, if applicable) of the within covenants.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Maintenance, Repairs and Improvements**

**Section 1. Dwelling Exterior and Lot Maintenance** Each Owner shall maintain the exterior of his Dwelling in an attractive manner and shall not permit the paint, roof, rain gutters, downspouts, exterior walls, windows, doors, walks, driveways, parking areas and other exterior portions of his Dwelling to deteriorate in an unattractive manner. The Owners of each building shall be responsible for the maintenance of the exterior of their building. The Architectural Control Committee will permit no change of paint, brick or roof color without approval. The Architectural Control Committee shall rule on the need for accomplishing the work and shall set the time frame to accomplish the work if the work is required. Their ruling shall be binding on both Owners without limiting the generality of the foregoing obligations for exterior maintenance; each Owner shall repair and maintain in sound condition:

- a. The exterior paint on his Dwelling so that no portion thereof peels, scales or chinks excessively and all painted portions remain neat;
- b. The windows on his Dwelling so that no caulking thereon is chipped or cracked and no window panes are broken;
- c. Exterior woodwork on his Dwelling, including all doors and windowsills, so that it remains whole, sound and neat;
- d. The roof of his Dwelling so that all shingles are properly secured and no worn areas or holes are permitted to remain;

- e. The rain gutters and downspouts on his Dwelling so that all are properly painted or treated to prevent rust and corrosion, properly secured to roof, eaves, gables or exterior walls (as the ease may be) and maintain without holes;
- f. All fences or walls erected on his Lot so that all holes and cracks are repaired as they appear and no wooden portion thereof is permitted to decay beyond normal weathering.

The Owner shall at all times keep all weeds and grass on his property cut in a sanitary, healthful and attractive manner, and no Owner shall permit weeds or grass to grow to a height greater than five inches (5") upon any Lot or Owner's Property including all parkways. Vegetables in excess of five inches (5") in height shall not be grown in the front yard except within four feet (4') of any main residential building. In no event shall an Owner use any Lot or Owner's Property for storage of materials and equipment except for normal residential requirements or incident to construction of improvements thereon as herein permitted or permit the accumulation of garbage, trash or rubbish of any kind thereon. The drying of clothes, parking cars, installing of play ground equipment or fences in front yard is prohibited and the Owner of any Lot at the intersection of streets adjacent to parks, play grounds, common area, greenbelt or other facilities where the rear yard or portion of the lot is visible to full public view shall construct and maintain a drying yard or other suitable enclosure to screen from public view the drying of clothes, yard equipment and wood piles or storage piles which are incident to the normal residential requirements of a typical family.

In the event of default on the part of the Owner in observing the above requirements or any of them, and the continuance of such default after thirty (30) days written notice thereof, the Architectural Control Committee without liability to the Owner in trespass or otherwise shall have the right to enter upon said Lot or Owner's Property and cause to be cut such weeds and grass and remove or cause to be removed such garbage, trash and rubbish or do anything necessary to secure compliance with these restrictions so as to place said Lot or Owner's Property and the improvements situated thereon in a neat, attractive, healthful and sanitary condition and may render a statement of charge to the Owner of said Lot or Owner's Property for the cost of such work in accordance with Article VI hereof.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Architectural Control Committee**

**Section 1. Composition of Committee** The initial Architectural Control Committee shall be composed of six (6) members, the initial members hereby appointed being David Cryan, Stephen Cryan, Amy Cryan, and three (3) members to be appointed by the Board of Directors of the Association, if operational, each of whose mailing address for purposes hereof is P.O. Box 790, Sealy, Texas 77474. A majority of the Committee may designate a representative to act for it. In the event of death or resignation of any initial or successor member of the Committee, the remaining member or members shall have full authority to designate a successor or successors, subject to the provisions of Section 2, below. In the event of the death or resignation or continued absence or failure to function of all members of the Committee, the Association shall have full authority to appoint a new Committee. Neither the members of the Committee nor its designated representative shall be entitled to any compensation for services performed hereunder.

**Section 2. Functions** No building, fence, wall or other structure shall be commenced, erected or maintained upon any Owner's Property, nor shall any exterior addition to, or change or alteration therein be made, nor shall any landscaping of any Owner's Property be undertaken until the plans and specifications showing the nature, kind, shape, height, materials and location of the same including septic shall have been submitted in writing to the Committee as to harmony of external design and location in relation to surrounding structures and topography. In the event that any plans and specifications are submitted to the Committee as provided herein, and the Committee shall fail either to approve or reject such plans and specifications within a period of sixty (60) days following the Committee's receipt of such submission, such failure shall be deemed to be an approval by the Committee for all purposes.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **General Provisions**

**Section 1. Term** These covenants are to run with the land and shall be binding upon all parties hereto and all persons claiming under them for a period of thirty (30) years from the date these covenants are recorded, after which time said covenants shall be automatically extended for successive periods of ten (10) years; however, the covenants and restrictions of this Declaration may be amended during the first thirty (30) year period by an instrument signed by not less than ninety percent (90%) of the Lot Owners, and thereafter by an instrument signed by not less than a majority of the Lot Owners. Any amendment must be recorded in the Official Public Records of Real Property of Austin County, Texas.

**Section 2. Adjacent Property** An obligation is created hereby with respect to property adjacent to or adjoining the Properties and which is part of the larger tract of land owned by Declarant known as Settlers' Crossing. Declarant may subdivide other portions of its property, or may subject it to a declaration, such as this Declaration. Any Subdivision Plat or Declaration executed by Declarant with respect to any of its other property may be the same, similar or dissimilar to the Subdivision Plat covering the Properties or any part thereof, or to this Declaration.

**Section 3. Enforcement** If any person shall violate or attempt to violate any of the covenants herein, it shall be lawful for any Owner situated in said Properties, including Declarant, to prosecute any proceedings at law or in equity against the person or persons violating or attempting to violate any such covenant and either to prevent him or them from so doing or to recover damages for such violation.

**Section 4. Severability** Invalidation of any one of these covenants by judgment or court order shall in no way affect any of the provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

EXECUTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2020.

ATTEST: Settlers Crossing, Inc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its President

STATE OF TEXAS       §  
                                  §  
COUNTY OF AUSTIN   §

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, of this day personally appeared Stephen Cryan, the President of Settlers' Crossing, Inc, a Texas Corporation, known to me to be the person and officer whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed, and as the act and deed of said corporation, and in the capacity therein stated.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, State of Texas

CONSENT BY LIENHOLDER

Lienholder, as the holder of lien on the Properties, consent to the above recording of the Settlers Ridge Covenants, Restrictions and Conditions in the Official Records of Austin County, Texas.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Citizens State Bank

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

STATE OF TEXAS       §  
                                  §  
COUNTY OF AUSTIN   §

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, of this day personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_ of Citizens State Bank, a Texas Banking Corporation, known to me to be the person and officer whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed, and as the act and deed of said corporation, and in the capacity therein stated.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, State of Texas