

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
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)
COUNTY OF YORK)

**DECLARATION OF ANNEXATION
COVENANT**

THIS DECLARATION OF ANNEXATION COVENANT (this “*Covenant*”) is made this _____ day of _____, 20____ between the City of York, South Carolina (the “*City*”), and the person or entity described below, including all successors in interest and assigns, having ownership in fee simple, life estate, or in any other designation as set forth in the Code of Laws 1976, as amended, or as set forth through judicial interpretation in South Carolina case law (the “*Owner*”):

- () A corporation, incorporated under the laws of the State of _____ and organized under the name of _____
; or
- () A general or limited partnership, limited liability company, or limited liability partnership operating under the name of _____
; or
- () Individual(s) by the name(s) of _____
and _____.

RECITALS:

The real property located at _____
(Tax Map Number _____, as further described herein at Exhibit (A) (the “*Subject Property*”), belonging to the Owner, is located outside the City’s corporate limits, but is located in an area in which annexation into the City is or may become appropriate. The City is under no obligation to furnish Utility Services (as defined herein) to properties located outside of the City’s corporate limits, but may do so by contract with individual property owners.

The Owner wishes to obtain Utility Services (water ___ sewer ___)(please indicate) from the City by contract without the necessity of waiting until the Subject Property may be annexed into the City, and the Owner has entered into an agreement (the “*Utility Service Agreement*”) with the City in order to secure one or more of the Utility Services for the Subject Property. In consideration for the City’s provision of Utility Services to the Subject Property and the connection of the Subject Property to the City’s utility system (the “*System*”), the Owner agrees, pursuant to the provisions of this Covenant, to take such action as is necessary to request annexation into the City at such time as the Subject Property becomes contiguous to the City’s corporate limits. This Covenant shall be binding upon any and all assigns or successors in interest to the Owner’s ownership interest in the Subject Property.

Owner understands that the obligation to execute any and every annexation petition relating to the Subject Property, when presented, is a requirement for Utility Services outside the City, and that failure to satisfy this obligation may, at the election of the City, cause discontinuance and termination of Utility Services to the Subject Property. The Owner further understands that the obligations created under this Covenant run with the land, and will apply equally to subsequent owners of the Subject Property. In order to ensure the ability of the City to enforce the provisions of this Covenant against the Owner or any subsequent owner of the Subject Property, the Owner agrees that the provisions of this Covenant shall serve as restrictive covenants against the Subject Property in favor of, and for the benefit of, the City.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the provision of Utility Services by the City, the Owner hereby covenants as follows:

1. **Recitals Incorporated.** The above recitals are hereby incorporated in and made a part of this Covenant as fully as if set forth verbatim herein. These recitals are true and correct and the Owner is bound thereby. By signing this Covenant, the Owner acknowledges reading, understanding and agreeing to each of the recitals. By and through the recording of this Covenant, all assigns and successors in interest in the Subject Property are determined to have read, understood, and agreed to each of the recitals.

2. **Utility Services.**

A. As used in this Covenant, “**Utility Services**” means and refers to water or sewer services, or both, provided by the City pursuant to the terms of the Utility Service Agreement, including but not limited to, (i) ongoing water or sewer service; (ii) a service tap from existing water or sewer lines, (iii) an extension of water or sewer mains, or (iv) the issuance of a letter of willingness and capability to provide Utility Services.

B. Pursuant to the provisions of the Utility Service Agreement, the City has agreed to furnish Utility Services to the Subject Property upon the terms, conditions and covenants set forth therein, in addition to any other rates, classifications, policies, procedures, and terms of service applicable to Utility Services that the City has adopted or may in the future adopt and any subsequent amendments thereto. The Owner acknowledges that in no event shall the City be obligated to provide or continue to provide Utility Services to the Subject Property, or any portion thereof, if any obligation of the Owner contained in this Covenant is breached or any covenant made by the Owner in this Covenant is false. Any actions or statements made by the City (including the issuance of any letter of willingness and capability) in connection with providing Utility Services to the Subject Property is made subject to the terms of this Covenant, and if this Covenant is breached by the Owner then all such actions or statements may be, in the City’s sole discretion, declared null and void and no reliance by any entity may be placed thereon.

3. **Covenants by Owner.** The Owner makes the following covenants, warranties, agreements and representations, each of which shall be deemed material to this Covenant:

A. The Owner covenants and agrees that he will sign any and every annexation petition which relates to the Subject Property (an “Annexation Petition”) immediately upon presentment by the City. As used in this Covenant, an Annexation Petition shall be construed to relate to the Subject Property if the property to be annexed pursuant to and described in the Annexation Petition includes the Subject Property or any portion thereof. The Owner acknowledges that a purpose of this Covenant is to ensure, as a material benefit and consideration to the City, the Owner’s full and complete cooperation with any effort to annex the Subject Property, and the Owner agrees, that upon request by the City, the Owner will do, execute, acknowledge and deliver, all such further acts, agreements, and assurances as may be requested and reasonably necessary for the full completion and consummation of the purpose contemplated herein. These further acts shall specifically include, but are not limited to, signing subsequent or additional successive Annexation Petitions, in the event prior annexation efforts are unsuccessful. The Owner warrants and covenants that the Owner has not and will not subdivide the Subject Property, combine the Subject Property with other real property not subject to this Covenant, or otherwise manipulate the Subject Property to hinder or impede the City’s ability to annex the Subject Property, and any attempt to do so will be considered a breach of this Covenant. Upon any division of the Subject Property, this Covenant shall apply to any additional properties derived from the Subject Property.

B. The Owner agrees that the obligations contained in this Covenant shall continue in full force and effect until the earlier of the following: (i) the Subject Property, in its entirety, has been successfully annexed into, and continuously lies within, the corporate limits of the City; or (ii) the Owner affirmatively requests in writing that (1) the Subject Property be permanently disconnected from the System, and (2) the Subject Property, in its entirety, is no longer served by the Utility Services.

C. The Owner is the sole owner in fee simple absolute of the Subject Property. Further, the Owner covenants and warrants that he will not transfer, alienate, devise, encumber, or otherwise affect title to the Subject Property for a period of seven days from the date of this Covenant, in order to allow the City time to have this Covenant recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for York County, South Carolina. The Owner will inform any subsequent Owner of (i) the Subject Property, (ii) any portion of the Subject Property, or (iii) any real property that the Subject Property is made a part of, that the obligations contained in this Covenant continue and run with the land. A failure by the Owner to properly inform any successor in interest of the Subject Property of this Covenant shall not affect the validity or applicability of this Agreement with respect to any successor in interest, and any such successor in interest shall remain bound by the provisions hereof.

D. The Owner agrees that any breach of conditions of the Utility Service Agreement or any other agreements associated with the provision of Utility Services made in accordance with this Covenant, shall be a breach of this Covenant. Such conditions may include, but are not limited to, the following: (i) payment of applicable connection fees and surcharges as fixed by the City; (ii) general terms, conditions, and policies upon which Utility Service is made available by the City; and (iii) the payment to the City when due such water or sewer charges, taxes, or fees as may be imposed from time to time.

E. The Owner agrees that the effectiveness of this Covenant will continue and survive any temporary disconnection, interruption, or termination of Utility Services by the City, except for a termination of Utility Services pursuant to Section 3B(ii) above.

4. Restrictive Covenant. THE OWNER HEREBY IMPOSES UPON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CITY A RESTRICTIVE COVENANT REQUIRING THAT FUTURE OWNERS OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, OR ANY PART THEREOF, BE BOUND BY THE SAME TERMS, CONDITIONS AND COVENANTS AS ARE SET FORTH IN THIS COVENANT. THIS RESTRICTIVE COVENANT SHALL CONTINUE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT UNTIL THE EARLIER OF THE FOLLOWING: (A) THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, IN ITS ENTIRETY, HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY ANNEXED INTO AND LIES CONTINUOUSLY WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY; OR (B) THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, IN ITS ENTIRETY, IS NO LONGER BEING SERVED BY THE CITY'S UTILITY SERVICES. ANY AND EVERY FUTURE OWNER OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, OR ANY PART THEREOF, IS BOUND BY THE TERMS CONTAINED IN THIS COVENANT BY ACCEPTANCE OF A DEED TO SUBJECT PROPERTY THAT IS SUBJECT TO THIS RESTRICTIVE COVENANT.

5. **Recordation of Covenant.** The Owner hereby expressly agrees and directs that this Covenant and description of the Subject Property be recorded in the real estate records in the Office of the Register of Deeds for the County of York, State of South Carolina, so as to give record notice to any future prospective purchaser of the Subject Property that this Covenant is an obligation upon the land and runs with the land until the occurrence of either of the two events set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

6. **Description of Property.** This Covenant and restrictive covenant apply to the Subject Property as it is more fully described on the attached Exhibit "A."

7. **Grant of Right of Way.** The Owner grants the City a right-of-way on and through the Subject Property as reasonably necessary for the City's operation of the System in order to provide Utility Services to the Subject Property. In the event a standard grant of right-of-way has not been executed by the Owner before execution of this Covenant, the Owner agrees, upon request, to execute a standard right-of-way to further document and describe the specific location and rights associated therewith.

8. **Grant of Power of Attorney.** In the event the Owner fails to meet the obligations imposed herein and does not sign any Annexation Petition upon request, the Owner hereby irrevocably appoints the City Manager of the City of York, South Carolina, Attorney in Fact for the Owner of the Subject Property with full power to sign any Annexation Petition upon the request of the City.

9. **Owner's Use of Subject Property.** If the Owner changes the current use of the Subject Property to any different use, the City may, at its option, require additional approvals and conditions for continued Utility Service thereon.

10. **Default; Remedies.** As used in this Covenant, a default of this Covenant occurs immediately upon any breach, failure or nonoccurrence of any term, condition, obligation, affirmative act, covenant, representation or warranty. Immediately upon any default by the Owner, the City may, in its sole discretion, void this Covenant and thereby void any statements, actions or commitments by the City as to providing Utility Services to the Subject Property. Additionally, upon any default by the Owner, the City may elect to enforce this Covenant. If any effort to enforce the terms of this Covenant fails for any reason, the City may thereafter elect to rescind and void this Covenant. In the event this Covenant is rescinded or voided, the City shall be under no obligation to provide Utility Services or to continue to provide Utility Services to the Subject Property or any portion thereof. In the event of any default by the Owner of this Covenant, the City shall be entitled to recover from the Owner the costs and attorneys' fees incurred by the City as a result of or in response to the Owner's default.

11. **No Waiver.** The failure of any person or entity having any right, title or interest in the Subject Property, or any portion thereof, including the Owner and his respective heirs, successors, successors in title and assigns or the City, to bring an action to enforce this Covenant, shall not operate as a waiver of the right to do so for any later subsequent violations or the right to enforce any other part of this Covenant at any future time. The failure of any person or entity having any right, title or interest in the Subject Property, or any portion thereof, including the Owner and his respective heirs, successors, successors in title and assigns or the City to exercise or to delay in exercising any right or remedy available hereunder or at law or in equity shall not operate as a waiver. Notice of default or violation shall not be deemed as a condition precedent to the exercise of any right or remedy available hereunder or at law or in equity. Should any person or entity having any right, title or interest in the Subject Property, or any portion thereof, including the Owner and their respective heirs, successors, successors in title and assigns or the City fail to bring an action for enforcement of this Covenant or seek any other remedy allowed at law or in equity such shall not create any liability for the recovery of damages for the failure to so act.

12. **Remedies Cumulative.** Every right and remedy provided in this Covenant is distinct from and cumulative to every other right or remedy under this Covenant or available at law or in equity. The provision of certain rights and remedies in this Covenant does not abrogate, limit or affect any rights or remedies as provided at law or in equity. Every right and remedy may be exercised concurrently, independently or successively.

13. **Exhibits Incorporated by Reference.** All exhibits referenced in this Covenant are incorporated herein as integral parts of this Covenant and shall be considered reiterated herein as fully as if such provisions had been set forth verbatim in this Covenant.

14. **Copies.** A photostatic or other reproduction of this document shall be as effective, valid and conclusive as the original.
15. **Modification.** The terms of this Covenant may be modified in whole or in part only by a written instrument signed by the Owner and consented to by the City. Any oral agreement to modify this Covenant shall be void and of no force and effect.
16. **Captions.** The captions and headings of the Paragraphs of this Covenant are for convenience only and may not be used to interpret or define the provisions of this Covenant.
17. **No Waiver.** No waiver of a breach of any of the covenants or promises of this Covenant shall be construed as a waiver of any succeeding breach of the same or other covenant or promise.
18. **Severability.** In the event that any provision or clause of this Covenant conflicts with any applicable law, the other provisions of this Covenant shall be given effect as fully as possible without the conflicting provision, and to this end the provisions of this Covenant are declared to be severable.
19. **References Herein.** Wherever appropriate, all words herein in the male gender shall be deemed to include the female or neuter gender, all singular words shall include the plural, and all plural words shall include the singular.
20. **Successors and Assigns.** The covenants and agreements contained in this Covenant and the obligations created hereunder shall ensure to the benefit of and be binding on the City, the Owner and all heirs, successors and assigns of the Owner to the Subject Property, or any part thereof.
21. **Governing Law and Forum.** The validity, construction and effect of this Covenant shall be governed by the laws of the State of South Carolina, and the Owner hereby consents to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of the State of South Carolina for resolution of any dispute arising hereunder
22. **Sealed Instrument.** Owner agrees that by signing below he intends to place his hands and seals upon this Covenant and that this Covenant shall be considered in every respect to be a sealed instrument.
23. **Effective Date.** This Covenant shall be effective upon the date of the last party affixing his signature.

[Remainder of Page Left Blank]

Exhibit A

Legal Description of Property/Copy of Deed