

The ABC's of Agency: Understanding Real Estate Brokerage Relationships in Georgia



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Real estate brokers are licensed professionals trained to help consumers buy, sell, or lease real property. They often perform their duties through affiliated licensees who are commonly referred to as real estate agents. Except where the context might indicate otherwise, in this brochure the term "broker" shall include broker's affiliated licensees. The business relationship between real estate brokers and consumers can take many forms, each of which is called a brokerage relationship. This brochure describes the types of brokerage relationships most commonly offered by real estate brokers. Hopefully, the brochure will make it easier for consumers to make informed choices on how best to work with a real estate broker. It should be noted that real estate brokers are not required to offer all of the brokerage relationships described in this brochure. Instead, each real estate broker is free to decide which of these relationships he or she will offer.

Real Estate Brokerage Generally. As a general rule, only licensed real estate brokers can be paid a fee to help consumers buy, sell, or lease property. Many brokers have licensed real estate salespersons, commonly known as real estate agents, who act on behalf of the broker in helping consumers buy, sell, or lease property. While real estate agents can be employees of the real estate broker, most act as independent contractors. Real estate brokers often incorporate or set themselves up as limited liability companies or partnerships. All brokerage firms, however, are required to have a qualifying broker. In the majority of real estate transactions, the consumer interacts only with his or her real estate agent and not the real estate broker. The real estate broker in those instances works behind the scenes to solve problems and support, supervise and assist his or her agents.

Clients vs. Customer. Customer in Brokerage Relationships. All brokerage relationships fall into one of two broad categories: (a) broker-client relationships; and (b) brokercustomer relationships. In a broker-client relationship, the real estate broker is representing the client and is acting as his or her legal agent in buying, selling, or leasing property. In Georgia, a broker-client relationship can only be formed by the parties entering into a written agreement. The agreement must explain, among other things, how the broker will be paid, the duty of the broker to keep client confidences, and the types of client or agency relationships offered by the broker.

The other type of brokerage relationship is known as a brokercustomer relationship. With this type of relationship, the broker is not representing the customer in a legal or agency capacity. However, the broker can still work with the customer and help him or her by performing what are known as ministerial acts. These include, for example, identifying property for sale or lease, providing pre-printed real estate form contracts, preparing real estate contracts at the direction of the customer, and locating lenders, inspectors, and closing attorneys on behalf of the customer. The different types of brokerage relationships within each of these categories are discussed below.

Broker-Client Relationships:

(a) Seller Agency/Landlord Agency: Seller agency occurs when the real estate broker is representing the seller in selling his or her property. This type of brokerage relationship is created by the seller and the broker entering into a written contract known as a seller brokerage engagement agreement also sometimes known as a listing agreement. The seller brokerage engagement agreement gives the broker, commonly referred to as the seller's broker the right to market the property for sale at a specific price and for a defined period of time. If the broker is successful in finding a buyer ready, willing, and able to purchase the property, the broker would normally be paid a fee or commission upon the closing of the transaction. This fee or commission is often shared with other real estate brokers, under what are known as cooperative brokerage agreements, if they or their agents find the buyer. Seller agency is also sometimes called listing agency. Landlord agency is different from seller agency in that the Manager or listing broker is assisting the property owner in leasing and/or managing rather than selling property.

(b) <u>Buyer Agency/Tenant Agency</u>: Buyer agency occurs when the real estate broker represents the buyer in locating and assisting the buyer in negotiating for the purchase of property suitable to the buyer. A buyer agency is created when the buyer enters into an agreement commonly known as a buyer brokerage engagement agreement. A real estate broker can be compensated by one party yet represent another party. Therefore, in some buyer brokerage engagement agreements, the fee or commission received by the buyer's broker is actually a portion of the fee or commission paid by the seller to the seller's broker. In these situations, the seller also agrees that the seller's broker will share the commission or fee with any buyer's broker who finds a buyer ready, willing and able to purchase the property. With some buyer brokerage engagement agreements, the buyer pays a fee or commission directly to his or her broker. Buyer agency is sometimes referred to as buyer brokerage. Tenant agency is different from buyer agency in that the broker is representing a consumer who is seeking to lease rather than purchase property.

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(c) Designated Agency: In some real estate transactions, the real estate agent representing the buyer and the real estate agent representing the seller both work for the same broker or brokerage firm. In such a transaction, the broker may allow each agent to exclusively represent their respective clients. This type of brokerage relationship is known as designated agency. In a designated agency transaction, the designated agent for the buyer owes the same duties to the buyer as if the agent was acting only as a buyer's agent. Similarly, the designated agent for the seller owes the same duties to the seller as if the agent was acting only as the seller's agent. With designated agency, each designated agent is prohibited from disclosing to anyone other than his or her broker any information requested to be kept confidential by the client unless the information is otherwise required to be disclosed by law. Therefore, designated agents may not disclose such confidential information to other agents in the company. The broker is also prohibited from revealing any confidential information he or she has received from one designated agent to the other designated agent, unless the information is otherwise required to be disclosed by law. Confidential information is defined as any information that could harm the client's negotiating position which information the client has not consented to be disclosed. In Georgia, designated agency is defined by state statute not to be dual agency.

(d) <u>Dual Agency</u>: Georgia law allows both parties to agree to have one agent or broker represent them in a real estate transaction at the same time. In other words, the agent or broker has a client relationship with all parties to the transaction without acting in a designated agency capacity. In these situations, neither party is exclusively represented by a designated real estate agent. This type of brokerage relationship is called "dual agency".

Georgia law allows real estate brokers to act as dual agents if they first get the written consent of both parties. The written consent must contain the following: (1) a description of the types of transactions in which the licensee will serve as a dual agent; (2) a statement that as a dual agent, the licensee represents two clients whose interests could be different or even adverse; (3) a statement that the dual agent will disclose all adverse material facts regarding the transaction known to the dual agent to all parties to the transaction except for information that is made confidential by request of another client and that is not allowed or required by law to be disclosed; (4) a statement that the licensee will disclose to each client in the transaction the nature of any material relationship the licensee or his or her broker have with other clients in the transaction other than incidental to the transaction; (5) a statement that the client does not have to consent to the dual agency; and (6) a statement that the client's consent has been given voluntarily and that the client has read and understood the brokerage engagement agreement. This special consent is required because of the potential for conflicts of interest in dual agency transactions.

(e) <u>Subagency</u>: Subagency occurs when one real estate broker is appointed by another real estate broker as a subagent to assist the broker in performing its duties. In a typical Subagency transaction, a seller's broker practicing Subagency might appoint the broker working with the buyer as his or her subagent. The broker acting as the subagent would work with the buyer but would represent the seller. The buyer then would be unrepresented in the transaction and both brokers (and their affiliated licensees) would be representing the seller. Subagency relationships between real estate brokers in Georgia, while once the norm, are much less common today.

Broker-Customer Relationships:

(a) <u>Transaction Brokerage</u>: A transaction brokerage relationship is one in which a real estate broker or brokers assists both parties in a real estate transaction but does not enter into a client relationship with, nor represents, either party. In a transaction brokerage relationship, the broker treats both parties as customers and can only perform ministerial acts for either party, including the following: (1) identifying property; (2) providing real estate statistics and information of property; (3) providing preprinted real estate form contracts; (4) acting as a scribe in the preparation of form contracts; (5) locating relevant professionals, such as architects, engineers, surveyors, inspectors, lenders, insurance agents, and attorneys; and (6) identifying facilities such as schools, shopping centers, and places of worship.

(b) <u>Brokers May Help Parties Other Than Their Clients</u>: Brokers who represent one party in a real estate transaction as a client can still help the other party in the transaction by performing ministerial duties for the other party (of the type described under transaction brokerage section). When a real estate broker works with a party as a customer or client, the broker may not knowingly give the party false information.

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This brochure was prepared courtesy of the Georgia Association of REALTORS® to help buyers with the process of purchasing real property. The recommendations herein are general in nature and are not intended to be exhaustive. Some of the recommendations may not apply to specific properties. Buyers are encouraged to consult with experts and professionals of their own choosing to ensure that they are protected in buying real property.

There are few things in life as exciting as buying a property. However, since purchasing real estate is one of the most expensive purchases many of us will ever make, buyers should take reasonable steps to protect themselves in the property buying process. This brochure contains some general suggestions on how buyers can do this.

Read and keep a copy of any signed contract. A purchase and sale agreement is a legally binding contract. It should be read in its entirety by the buyer before it is signed to ensure that it reflects the business agreement of the parties. Verbal promises not included in the contract are generally unenforceable. Buyers should comply with all time deadlines in a contract since missing a deadline can leave the buyer in breach of contract. Getting an early start on arranging such things as inspections and financing is the best way for buyers to avoid missing deadlines. The buyer should also keep a complete copy of any contract that he or she has signed in the event a dispute arises regarding the authenticity of the contract.

Have the property inspected by a professional property inspector. Property inspectors help buyers evaluate the condition of the property based upon one or more visual inspections of the property. Most properties have at least a few items that will need to be repaired and/or replaced. A professional property inspector can assist in identifying these items by performing an inspection of the property. Requests for repairs are normally received more favorably by sellers when the need for the repairs has been documented in the report of a professional property inspector. Many property inspectors are members of professional associations that, among other things, require their members to perform a standardized inspection of the property. Buyers are encouraged to ask inspectors about their qualifications and expertise in inspecting properties before selecting an inspector.

Thoroughly investigate the property. Sellers are required to disclose known latent defects in a property. Latent defects are those that a buyer could not discover as the result of a reasonable inspection. Before completing the purchase, buyers should use reasonable diligence to investigate the property. In addition to a professional property inspection, buyers should also check for issues of personal concern. Examples include, but are not limited to, floor condition when covered by area rugs, water staining under plants, missing window screens, and any area made physically or visually inaccessible by the seller.

There are many other tests and studies buyers can do in deciding whether to purchase a property. These include, for example, a radon test to determine if the property has elevated levels of radon, mold tests to determine if the property has high levels of certain kinds of dangerous mold, well water condition and capacity tests when the property is served by well water and septic systems inspections when the property is served by a septic system.

Properties should also be tested for lead-based paint. Normally, this is only an issue in properties built prior to 1978 (since after this time lead-based paint sales were prohibited). Ingestion of lead-based paint chips or particles can cause lead poisoning, a serious health condition, particularly in children. Buyers of an older home should read the EPA brochure entitled "Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home". Renovators of an older home should read the EPA's Renovate Right brochure and other related materials.

Websites exist that identify certain (but not necessarily all) properties which have been used to manufacture methamphetamine and/or certain other illegal substances. Websites also exists to help identify if a registered sex offender resides in the neighborhood.

Repairs to a property can range from simple cosmetic fixes to repairs done as the result of substantial damage. Some repairs require, and some do not require, a permit from the governmental jurisdiction in which the property is located. Major systems replacement, certain renovations, and/or structural additions to the main dwelling require a permit in Georgia. Permits are issued to ensure public safety and are sometimes completed with the issuing of a certificate of occupancy ("CO") or other documentation showing that the responsible governmental entity has inspected and approved the work. Specific information about permitting requirements for the property you are considering buying may be found online at <u>https://dca.ga.gov</u>.

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Many factors can affect the value of a property and the ability of an owner to use and enjoy it. These include, for example, the school district in which the property is located, whether the property is subject to flooding, the availability and cost of property insurance, whether the property is subject to recorded covenants and the nature of those covenants, quality of repairs and renovations, permitting issuance, the governmental jurisdiction in which the property is located and whether the property is on an historic registry or in a special tax or zoning district.

Sellers are required to disclose known latent defects in a property; but as a buyer, before completing the purchase of a property, you are encouraged to use reasonable diligence to investigate the property you are buying for issues of special concern to you.

If you are unable to view the property in person prior to your decision to purchase, you are encouraged to have another person (other than your REALTOR®) tour the property for you and attend subsequent inspections. Photos and videos are useful means of viewing a property, but typically will not convey the nuances traditionally associated with a property purchase decision. Because the decision to purchase a property can be highly subjective, the person you choose should be someone who is familiar with you and understands your needs.

Inspect the neighborhood in which the property is located. The neighborhood in which the property is located can be as important as the property itself. Buyers should familiarize themselves with the neighborhood in which the property they are considering buying is located to determine if there are any objectionable conditions nearby. If buyers go far enough away from any property, they will eventually discover some neighborhood condition that they wish were not there. What those conditions are and how far away they need to be from a house before they are no longer a concern is a decision that only the buyer can make. For example, a nearby grocery store may be a convenience for some buyers and a disruptive commercial use for others. Buyers can also contact local governmental planning officials to determine what changes, if any, are anticipated in a neighborhood over time.

Have the property inspected for termites and other wood destroying organisms and obtain an Official Georgia Wood Infestation Inspection Report that can only be prepared by a licensed pest control company. Buyers should have the property they are buying inspected by a licensed Georgia pest control company for evidence of termites and other wood destroying organisms (including powder post beetles, wood boring beetles, dry wood termites and wood decay fungi). In cases where a visual inspection of the entire property is not possible due to visual obstruction, such as, but not limited to, spray-foam and/or roll insulation, floor and walling coverings, and encapsulated spaces, the buyer should consult with a licensed pest control company about preventative treatment measures which may help prevent wood infestation and property damage.

The inspection should be done even if the property has a transferable termite warranty since these warranties normally contain exclusions. As a result, buyers can understand risks they may be assuming in this area by having an inspection performed. Obtaining an Official Georgia Wood Infestation Inspection Report will identify the areas in the house where there is evidence of both active and previous infestation from termites and other wood destroying organisms. Buyers should also review any termite warranty being transferred by the seller to determine what is covered and the cost of maintaining the warranty. Some termite warranties cover both retreatment and repair while others are limited only to re-treatment.

Get a survey of the property. Buyers are encouraged to get surveys of the properties they are considering buying so that they know where the exact boundary lines of the properties are located. Buyers should request that the survey identify the location of any easements of record, whether there are encroachments onto or off of the property and whether the property is in a flood plain. Surveys are not normally done in the sale of condominium units. However, a buyer can review the condominium plat to see the location of the property that is a part of the condominium.

Make sure that an undeveloped lot can be developed. In most parts of Georgia, lots cannot be developed for residential purposes unless they are properly zoned, have access to a public road and are served by water and sewer. If there is no ability to connect the lot to a public sewer, the buyer should verify that the lot can accommodate a septic system. This is done by having a licensed engineer perform a percolation test and evaluate whether the lot is sufficiently large for a septic tank and field to be installed. Similarly, if the lot is serviced by a well or private water system, the buyer should arrange to have the water tested to confirm that it is safe for drinking. Meeting with the local governmental department which issues building permits is a great way to get information about whether and how a vacant lot can be developed.

Buy an Owner's Title Insurance Policy. An owner's title insurance policy protects the buyer if a pre-existing title problem is discovered after the closing. Normally, a title insurance policy is purchased and issued at the closing by the closing attorney. A title problem can be as simple as a neighbor claiming to own a small portion of your property based upon a disputed fence line. However, it can also be a serious problem, such as a forged deed, where you could lose the title to your property. Mortgage lenders require the buyer to pay for title insurance covering the lender's interest in the property. However, in a world where there is an increasing amount of identity theft and the forging of documents, title insurance covering the owner is also recommended. There are different types of title insurance policies offered in Georgia. The most comprehensive are sometimes referred to as "enhanced title policies" and in some cases they protect buyers from title claims arising even after the closing date. Since the premium for title insurance is paid only once, it is recommended that buyers obtain the comprehensive policy.

Consider Purchasing a Home Warranty. Georgia law does not require the seller of either a new or existing home to provide the buyer with a home warranty. If the seller is not offering a warranty, buyers can purchase a limited warranty on both new and existing homes as a part of the purchase of the home. Buyers should review the terms of any warranty that is offered or purchased to understand what it covers and excludes and how to file a claim.

Beware of Cyber Fraud. Fraudulent e-mails attempting to get you to wire money to criminal computer hackers are increasingly common in real estate transactions. Under this scam, computer hackers fraudulently assume the online identity of the actual mortgage lender, closing attorney, and/or real estate broker with whom you are working in the real estate transaction. Posing as a legitimate company, they then direct you to wire money to them. In many cases, the fraudulent e-mail is sent from what appears to be the authentic webpage of the legitimate company responsible for sending the wiring instructions.

You should use great caution in sending or receiving funds based solely on wiring instructions sent to you by e-mail. Independently verifying the wiring instructions with someone from the company sending them is the best way to prevent fraud. In particular, you should treat as highly suspect any follow up e-mails you receive from a mortgage lender, closing attorney, and/or real estate broker directing you to wire funds to a revised account number. Never verify wiring instructions by calling a telephone number provided along with a second set of wiring instructions since you may end up receiving a fraudulent verification from the computer hackers trying to steal your money. Independently look up the telephone number of the company who is supposed to be sending you the wiring instructions to make sure you have the right one.

Be Careful to Avoid Needless Expenses. Some companies who can appear to the untrained eye to be conducting official government business also charge fees to obtain a recorded or certified copy of the deed. This is an unnecessary expense since the closing attorney normally provides a recorded copy of the deed to the buyer as part of the closing. However, it can take up to a month or two for the closing attorney to get the recorded deed back from the courthouse.

Assume the property you are viewing has audio/video surveillance devices in operation. Surveillance technology has advanced to the point where it cannot be seen and more properties have it than ever before. This means that when buyers tour a property they should act and speak in a manner which reflects that they are being recorded. Conversations should be kept to a minimum and should be of a nature which does not harm the buyer's negotiating position. The property is not the place to discuss the terms of the offer the buyer is considering. Buyers should not do or say anything that could jeopardize the buyer's negotiating position or alienate the seller. **Test Your Drinking Water for Lead.** Buyers should test their drinking water to confirm that it does not contain unhealthy levels of lead. Water service lines are sometimes constructed of lead or include lead solder which can leach into the water. Lead is a toxic metal, a strong poison and a serious health hazard, particularly for children. If buyers determine during a due diligence period that there are unhealthy levels of lead in the drinking water, buyers may negotiate for the replacement of water service lines which contain lead.

Choose a REALTOR®. Not all licensed real estate salespersons (or brokers) are REALTORS®. REALTORS® agree to abide by a Code of Ethics in their dealings with buyers and sellers. REALTORS® are members of the National Association of REALTORS® and participate in a local Board of REALTORS®. REALTORS® typically have valuable knowledge regarding the price at which other properties in a neighborhood sold, how to negotiate various terms in a purchase and sale agreement and the features of different properties. REALTORS® can also provide buyers with and help them fill out a pre-printed purchase and sale agreement form. REALTORS® routinely work with and, upon request, can provide buyers with the names of attorneys, mortgage lenders, property inspectors, termite companies and persons providing other services relating to real estate transactions. Therefore, when buyers need help in finding the right property, they should always choose a REALTOR® first!



What to Consider When Buying a Home in a Community with a Homeowners Association ("HOA")



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This brochure was prepared courtesy of the Georgia Association of REALTORS® to help buyers with the home buying process in a Homeowners Association ("HOA"). The recommendations herein are general in nature and are not intended to be exhaustive. Some of the recommendations may not apply to specific properties. Buyers are encouraged to consult with experts and professionals of their own choosing to ensure that they are protected in buying a home in a HOA.

Many homes are located in communities where the buyer, as part of purchasing the property, becomes a mandatory member of a Homeowners Association ("HOA"). This brochure will help educate buyers on some of the more important issues to consider in buying a home in this type of community.

What is a HOA? A HOA is usually a non-profit corporation the members of which are the owners of lots in the community. It is normally established by the developer of a subdivision to: (1) own, maintain and operate certain common properties within the community (such as a pool and other recreational amenities, entrance features and common landscaping); (2) enforce covenants designed to protect property values and preserve community standards; and (3) collect assessments to fund the obligations of the HOA. The legal document in which the covenants are contained is typically referred to as a Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions ("Declaration" or "CC&Rs"). The HOA is also required to have Bylaws in which the procedures for operating the HOA are described and an Articles of Incorporation which creates the HOA. In addition to covenants, members of a HOA are also typically required to comply with rules and regulations that are normally adopted by the Board of Directors and deal with specific issues within the community such as the use of the swimming pool. Most decisions in a HOA are made by its Board of Directors which is the governing body of the HOA. However, certain important decisions, such as amending the Declaration are usually reserved to the members. Most communities only have one HOA. However, some large communities, particularly master planned communities, will often have both master and subassociations.

How can a Buver Determine if the HOA is Well Run? There are a variety of ways to determine whether the HOA is well run and a community is one in which a buyer would want to live. These include the number of owners who are delinquent in paying their assessments to the HOA, whether the HOA has sufficient capital reserves, the frequency of special assessments, the amount and type of litigation between the HOA and its members and the general appearance of the community. Buyers are also encouraged to talk with other owners in any community with a HOA regarding their experiences and review at least some of the financial and corporate records of the HOA to learn more about the community. In particular, reviewing the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors for the last year or two can be quite revealing as to the collegiality and professionalism of the leadership of the HOA and the types of issues facing the community. Since these records can often only be obtained by a present member of the HOA, buyers may have to get their sellers to obtain these records for them.

Are there Special Costs or Fees Typically Paid by Buyers of Homes in a Community with a HOA? Yes. Some fees typically charged by HOA's to new owners include the following: a capital reserve contribution, an initiation fee, a transfer fee and/or a property management account establishment fee. There are not set rules on the type, amount or even the name of the fees charged to new owners by the HOA. Buyers should ask the HOA property manager, the seller or Declarant (if the community is still Declarant controlled) for confirmation of the fees a new buyer will be obligated to pay. Owners also typically pay ongoing assessments to the HOA. These are usually paid monthly, quarterly or annually. If the HOA has insufficient funds, the HOA also typically has the right to levy a special assessment. If an owner fails to pay his or her assessments a lien can be filed against the owner's lot and the owner's right to use the common areas can usually be suspended.

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What Kinds of Use Restrictions Typically Exist in a Community with a HOA? The covenants contained in a typical Declaration can be wide-ranging. The covenants normally establish maintenance standards for lots and regulate things like parking, pets, architectural changes to the exterior of homes, leasing, how many people can occupy a home and whether a home can be used for nonresidential purposes. The covenants contained in the Declaration can be as broad or as narrow as the Declarant chooses to make them in causing the initial Declaration to be drafted. Buyers are encouraged to carefully review the Declaration during any due diligence period to confirm that the lifestyle reflected in the covenants is one with which they are going to be comfortable.

How Do I Know What Property is Part of the HOA and Whether the HOA can be Expanded? The Declaration should include a legal description of the property that is subject to the Declaration. Just because the community may appear to be large physically does not necessarily mean that all of that property within the community is a part of the HOA. Again, the legal description of the property submitted to the Declaration that is the key. Any right to expand the community is normally contained in the Declaration. Of course, just because the community can be expanded does not mean that it will be expanded. Sometimes, property that can be added as a future phase to the community is not ultimately made a part of the community or is developed for a completely different use. There is also usually no guarantee that homes built in other parts of the community or in a future phase will be the same size, architectural style, housing type or even in the same price range as houses built in earlier phases.

Does the Developer Get to Control the HOA? When lots are being developed and sold, the developer or "Declarant" of a HOA normally controls the Association by having the right to appoint and remove its directors and officers. This period of Declarant control can last for years and its duration is set forth in the Declaration. When most or all of the lots have been sold, the Declarant normally loses this right to appoint and remove the officers and directors of the HOA Board of Directors and the owners thereafter elect a member controlled Board of Directors. This event is often referred to as the turnover of the Association.

Are the Covenants in the Declaration Enforceable? As a general rule, the covenants in the Declaration, even those pertaining to restrictions on the use of lots, are enforceable. The Declaration is in the nature of a private contract between all property owners that is recorded in the land records and the nature of these private restrictions often go well beyond the type of regulations adopted by local governments. In a HOA, the idea that a person's home is his castle gives way to the concept that all owners give up certain rights to enjoy the benefits of living in a community with a HOA. As a matter of Georgia law, owners are on constructive notice of and bound by the recorded Declaration whether or not they have actually read it. This is why it is important for buyers to confirm during any due diligence period that there is nothing objectionable in the

How Do I Tell Whether I am Buying into a Community with a HOA or a Condominium Association? Most detached single family home communities are organized as HOAs. Townhomes can either be organized as a HOA or a condominium. Most midrise and high-rise residential buildings are condominiums. Reviewing the legal documents for the community is the best way to tell whether it is a condominium or a HOA. If the community is a condominium, the Declaration is required to include the word "Condominium". Therefore, a Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions would normally refer to a HOA while a Declaration of Condominium would refer to a condominium. State law also requires that the name of the condominium association include the words "condominium association" or "unit owners' association". Therefore, if the name of the association in the Bylaws includes the words "homeowners' association", it is not normally a condominium. However, if it includes the words "condominium association" or "unit owner's association", it is normally a condominium.

How Do I Find Out if the Seller Owes Any Money to the HOA? Most HOAs will file a lien against any lot where the owner has not paid the monies owed to the HOA. Other HOA's have automatic lien rights where no lien needs to be filed in the land records office. A title search and assessment "clearance letter" from the association should reveal whether (and what monies, if any) are owed to the HOA. These are normally obtained by the attorney handling the closing. In many cases, the HOA will charge a fee for issuing the clearance letter.

A Final Word Concerning HOAs. The HOA lifestyle offers owners many benefits. Recreational amenities are often available that few owners could otherwise afford. Covenants tend to ensure a uniformity of exterior appearance in the community and prevent behaviors that are inconsistent with community standards. While this lifestyle is wonderful for most buyers, it is not for everyone. Reading the Declaration is the best way for buyers to decide whether they will be comfortable with the nature and scope of the regulations to which they will be subject.

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What to Consider When Buying a Home in a Condominium



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Condominium living is a great lifestyle choice for many buyers. Exterior maintenance is normally performed by the condominium association allowing owners the freedom to focus on other pursuits. Since owners can leave their homes for extended periods of time, condominiums are often referred to as "lock and leave" homes. Condominiums also typically offer recreational amenities not found in many single family homes and the opportunity for a built-in community of other owners. Many condominiums are located in high density residential areas where residents can enjoy a more "walkable" lifestyle. This brochure will answer some of the more commonly asked questions about condominiums so that buyers can make a more informed decision when purchasing a condominium unit.

What is a Condominium? A condominium is a form of property ownership rather than a particular type of housing. Townhomes, midrise, high-rise and mixed-use buildings are all regularly organized as condominiums. In a condominium, each owner owns his or her home or unit and a percentage of commonly owned property known as the common elements. The common elements consist of all parts of the condominium other than the units and typically includes things like recreational amenities, driveways, landscaping and building exteriors. The Condominium is normally created by filing certain legal documents in the land records office including a Declaration of Condominium, a condominium plat and floor plans.

What is a Condominium Association? A condominium association is a corporation composed of all of the owners of units in the condominium. All owners are required to be members of the condominium association. The association is typically responsible for the overall administration of the Condominium, the maintenance of the common elements and the enforcement of covenants designed to protect property values and preserve harmony within the community.

The Board of Directors is the governing body of a condominium association. This means that the Board is responsible for making all decisions on behalf of the condominium except for certain important decisions reserved to the members. So, for example, under the Georgia Condominium Act, the condominium Declaration can only be amended upon the approval of 2/3 of the total vote in the Association. Until a large percentage of units have been sold or a specified number of years, the developer or declarant of the condominium can appoint and remove the officers and directors of the association and thus control its affairs. After that time, the owners get to elect their own officers and directors. Every owner has a vote in the condominium association (except typically when the owner is delinquent in paying assessments to the condominium association). Many condominium associations hire professional property managers to manage the property and act as the "arms and legs" of the Board of Directors. In addition to the Declaration of Condominium, the legal documents for a condominium include a Bylaws (which sets out the procedures for the operation of the Association) and an Articles of Incorporation (which creates the condominium association). Most condominiums also have rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors. In some cases, the condominium association may also be a member of a master condominium association. A master condominium is typically how mixed-use developments are organized. Each of the major land uses in the development are typically one or more master condominium units.

What is it that a Buyer Owns when Buying a Condominium Home? The buyer of a condominium home owns his or her unit plus a pro rata interest in common elements serving all of the owners in the condominium. The boundaries of the unit are normally described three dimensionally with both vertical and horizontal boundaries. So, for example, the outer surface of the sheetrock walls enclosing the unit might be the vertical boundaries of the unit. Similarly, the outer surface of the sheetrock constituting the ceiling of the unit and the middle of a concrete slab constituting the floor of the unit might be the upper and lower horizontal boundaries of the unit. The unit itself is then also shown on recorded floor plans for the condominium. Since the developer has flexibility in defining the boundaries of the unit, the exact boundaries as set out in the Declaration of Condominium should be reviewed by the buyer.

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What are Limited Common Elements? A limited common element is a part of the common elements reserved for the exclusive use of one or less than all of the owners. So, for example, parking spaces, storage areas and balconies are often assigned as limited common elements to specific units the owners of which have an exclusive right to use them. Similarly, a hallway on a residential floor in a high-rise building may be assigned as a limited common element only to those owners on the floor with the hallway. Once a limited common element is assigned to a unit owner or owners, it cannot be reassigned or taken away from the owner or owners without their written consent. The limited common element also travels with the unit when it is sold. Therefore, while a limited common element is technically a part of the common elements, an owner assigned a limited common element enjoys many of the same benefits relative to the limited common element as if he or she owned it.

How Do Property Taxes Work in a Condominium? A condominium unit is taxed in the same way as any other piece of real estate. The only difference is that the unit being taxed includes a pro rata interest in the common elements. Since the fair market value of the unit includes the owner's interest in the common elements, the pro rata value of the common elements should not be separately calculated for tax purposes. The condominium association normally pays no property taxes since while it administers the condominium, it normally owns no real property.

What Type of Insurance Does a Buyer Need in Purchasing a Condominium? As one of its many functions, the condominium association is required under state law to insure the condominium (including the condominium units) against certain types of risks. In closing on the purchase of a condominium unit, most lenders will simply want to obtain a copy of the association's insurance policy or a certificate of insurance showing that the association has the required coverages in place. Of course, this does not mean that buyers should not also obtain their own insurance. Buyers of condominium units typically get what is known as a HO-6 policy covering the owner's personal property in the unit, improvements and betterments made to the unit not covered under the association's policy and liability insurance to protect owners against personal injury claims arising in the unit. Buyers should contact their insurance agent for advice regarding their specific condominium insurance needs.

What are Condominium Assessments? In order for the association to maintain the common elements, insure the property and pay for its other expenses, each unit owner pays monetary assessments to the association. Typically, each owner pays a pro rata portion of the total cost of operating the condominium based upon a formula set forth in the Declaration of Condominium. In most cases, assessments are paid on a monthly basis. In addition to assessments, it is common for owners buying the unit the first time it is put into use to pay a capital contribution to the association. This amount is often equal to two months of regular assessments. In the event an Association has an unexpected or costly expense not covered by financial reserves, condominium associations normally have a right to specially assess each member a portion of that expense. This one-time charge raises the funds necessary for a specific purpose or improvement within the complex. If a special assessment is being considered, reference to it is often found in the minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors. Condominium associations have strong legal rights to collect unpaid regular and special assessments from unit owners.

What is a Condominium "Clearance Letter"? Under the Georgia Condominium Act, a condominium association has an automatic lien against any unit the owner of which owes money to the association. Since this lien is not typically filed in the land records of the county in which the property is located, the attorney closing the sale of the unit must check with the association to see if any monies are owed. The closing attorney will also normally obtain from the association what is commonly referred to as a unit clearance letter stating if any monies are owed. Buyers have a right to rely on the information contained in these letters. So, for example, if the unit clearance letter states that \$100 is owed through a particular date the association cannot go back against the new buyer and claim that \$1,000 in assessments is owed for the same time period.

Do Buyers of Condominium Homes Have a Right to Rescind or Cancel Their Purchase and Sale Agreement? Georgia law gives the first buyer of a condominium unit a seven day right to rescind or terminate his or her purchase and sale agreement without penalty. The seven-day period begins to run when the buyer acknowledges receipt of a condominium disclosure package provided by the declarant which contains, among other things, the condominium legal documents, the budget of the condominium association and the floor plan of the unit being purchased by the buyer. This rescission right is unique in Georgia law and is designed to protect buyers by giving them the opportunity to review all of the various legal documents relating to the condominium. The right of rescission only applies to the first sale of the condominium unit. Buyers do not have a right of rescission when they purchase a resale condominium.

What is the Difference between a Condominium Conversion and a New Construction Condominium? A condominium conversion is one where all or part of the building being sold as a condominium was previously occupied by persons for some other use. Many condominium conversions were previously apartments. One benefit of a condominium conversion is that buildings with historic character or architectural interest can often be adaptively reused for residential purposes. In some cases, units in a condominium conversion may be sold at a lower price because they were not necessarily built at today's construction prices. The first buyer of a unit in a condominium conversion receives certain additional disclosures from the developer including a report on the condition of the major systems and components in the building.

Is It Common for Buyers to Contract to Buy a Condominium Home Before It Is Actually Built? The answer to this question is yes. Most construction lenders will only lend money to a developer to build a new condominium if the developer has presold a sufficient number of units to confirm that the condominium development will likely be a success. The purchase and sale agreement is made contingent upon a certain number of other units also being sold by a particular date. During the presale period, the earnest money of the buyer should be held in escrow. If the presale contingency is met, the condominium development goes forward. If it is not met, the buyer's earnest money is typically returned. Most construction lenders now require buyers to deposit larger amounts of earnest money than in the past to discourage buyers from walking away from their contracts if they change their minds about buying before the condominium is finished. Buying prior to the construction of the condominium has both risks and advantages for the buyer. First, the price of the unit prior to construction is often less than what the developer intends to charge for the unit upon the completion of the condominium. Second, there is sometimes the opportunity to customize the layout of a unit since construction has not yet begun. Of course, if the condominium is not successful, the value of the buyer's unit could go down.

Are There any Potential Issues in Obtaining a Mortgage Loan on a Condominium Home? Obtaining a mortgage loan on a condominium unit can be more difficult than obtaining financing on a detached single family home. With a new condominium development or a condominium conversion, the developer will often arrange for financing with particular lenders to make it easier for buyers to purchase units. With an existing condominium, buyers are encouraged to work with a mortgage lender with experience in making condominium loans. Even if the buyer is wellqualified to buy the unit, it can sometimes be difficult to obtain a mortgage loan on a condominium unit if, for example, the condominium has too many leased units or units where owners have not paid their assessments. Buyers are encouraged to meet with a mortgage lender with condominium expertise early in the process to learn more about financing options and limitations.

How Does a Buyer Learn More About a Particular Condominium? If the condominium is an existing development, asking residents about their experiences in living in the condominium is a good way to learn more about the community and any issues it may be facing. Similarly, reviewing minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors and the members of the association and financial records is another good way to learn about the condominium. In this regard, determining whether the association has had a capital reserve study done and is building up sufficient capital reserves to eventually replace items maintained by the association can be a good predictor of whether or not there will be a future special assessment. Finally, reading the condominium legal documents is a great way for a buver to better understand his or her rights and obligations as a unit owner. Since buyers cannot normally obtain financial or corporate records of a condominium association, buyers may have to get this information from their sellers.

Put All Builder Promises in the Contract. In the event of a contractual dispute, courts will generally only look at the contract in deciding the rights of the parties. Therefore, all builder promises should be written into the contract. So, for example, if the house is going to be served by a septic system, have the builder warrant in the purchase and sale agreement that the system will be designed to serve the number of bedrooms in the house and ask for the warranty to survive the closing. Additionally, if the contract does not state that promises will survive the closing, then the buyer's right to insist that promises be honored usually ends at the closing itself.

Use the Right Contract. REALTORS® recommend that a special new construction purchase and sale agreement be used when a buyer is having a builder construct a new home for the buyer. This is because the contract needs to include or incorporate by reference the plans and specifications describing the scope of work involved in building the house. New construction purchase and sale agreements also typically address other issues unique to building a new home such as what rights the buyer will have to inspect the construction, whether and what type of warranty the builder will provide to the buyer procedures for change orders, delays in construction and the closing date and who will be responsible for obtaining permits and a of occupancy. The GAR New Construction certificate Purchase and Sale Agreement is generally intended to be used in situations where the builder is building a new house and retaining ownership of the property until the house is finished and the closing has occurred. If the house is already completely constructed when the buyer puts it under contract, most REALTORS® recommend that a regular GAR Purchase and Sale Agreement be used in the transaction.

EXCLUSIVE BUYER BROKERAGE ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT



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State law prohibits Broker from representing Buyer as a client without first entering into a written agreement with Buyer under O.C.G.A. § 10-6A-1 et. seq.	
KEY TERMS AND CONDITIONS	
Exclusive Buyer Brokerage Engagement Agreement. For and in consideration of the mutual promises contained herein and other good and valuable consideration, the undersigned buyer(s) ("Buyer") and the undersigned broker ("Broker") do hereby enter into this Exclusive Buyer Brokerage Engagement Agreement ("Agreement") on the terms and conditions set forth herein.	
Term. The term of this Agreement shall begin on the date of (Starting Date	÷")
<u>Term</u> . The term of this Agreement shall begin on the date of, as the same may be extended by writte agreement of the parties or as provided for herein ("Ending Date").	эn
Agency and Brokerage. a. The following are types of agency relationship(s) NOT offered by Broker: □ seller agency □ buyer agency □ designated agency □ dual agency □ sub-agency □ tenant agency □ landlord agency b. If Broker offers dual agency capacity, as that agency relationship is explained in Section B.3(b) below and in the CB01 ABCs of Agency Buyer expressly consents to Broker acting in any other agency relationship offered by Broker. Commission.	g in
 a. <u>Buyer's Commission Obligations in Purchasing Real Property</u>: Buyer agrees to pay broker the commission set forth bell ("Commission") at the closing of a Contract to Purchase (as that term is hereinafter defined) entered into during the term of the Agreement minus any commission paid to Broker by either the seller's broker or the seller. Buyer acknowledges that the Commission, if any, being offered by the seller's broker is usually set forth in the multiple listing service in which the proper may be listed. b. <u>Commission</u>: percent (%) of the sales price; (other) 	his the
c. <u>Separate Commission on Lease</u> . If Buyer leases property or enters into a lease/purchase contract or a lease with an option purchase agreement during this Agreement, Buyer shall also pay Broker a separate leasing commission (except where t commission is paid by the Landlord) in the amount of \$ and as follow	the ws:
. Notwithstanding any provis	
to the contrary contained herein, the payment of a leasing Commission (including in lease/purchase transactions or lease w	/ith

an option to purchase transactions) shall not relieve Buyer from paying the Commission at the closing of a Contract to Purchase, as provided elsewhere in this Agreement.

d. Protected Period: The length of the Protected Period, as that term is hereinafter defined, shall be davs ("Protected Period").

B. FURTHER EXPLANATIONS TO CORRESPONDING PARAGRAPHS IN SECTION A.

Exclusive Buyer Brokerage Engagement Agreement. Buyer hereby agrees to hire Broker to act as Buyer's exclusive real estate broker in locating, and to the extent requested by Buyer, negotiating the purchase or exchange of real property on behalf of Buyer and filing out a pre-printed form contract for Buyer's review and approval. Buyer is not a party to any other current exclusive buyer brokerage engagement agreement and all such previous agreements, if any, have expired and not been renewed. Buyer acknowledges that Buyer may have to bay previous broker a real estate commission if Buyer is: a) subject to a current buyer brokerage engagement agreement; b) terminated a previous buyer brokerage agreement without the consent of the previous broker and enters into a Contract to Purchase, as that term is defined herein, or lease during what would have been the term of a previous exclusive brokerage engagement agreement had it not been terminated by buyer; or c) enters into a Contract to Purchase or lease on a Protected Properties during the Protected Period.

Term.

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The term of this Agreement shall begin on the Starting Date and shall continue through the Ending Date as the same may be extended upon the written agreement of the parties or as provided for herein. If Buyer is a party to a Contract to Purchase, as that term is hereinafter defined, but the term expires prior to the closing, then the term of this Agreement shall be automatically extended through the closing of the Contract to Purchase.

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b. Extension: If during the term of this Agreement, Buyer and a prospective seller enter into a real estate purchase and sale agreement, option to purchase real property, agreement to exchange real property or contract to purchase the shares, partnership or membership interests in a legal entity owning real property (hereinafter, collectively, "Contract to Purchase") which is not closed or consummated for any reason whatsoever, then the original expiration date of this Agreement may be extended for the number of days that Buyer was under contract ("Extension Period") by Broker providing written notice of the same to Buyer within five (5) days of the date the Contract to Purchase not being consummated but in no event later than prior to the expiration of this Agreement (hereinafter "Notification Period"). If such written notice is not given before the end of the Notification Period, then the Extension Period for that transaction shall be deemed to have been waived by Broker.

3. Agency and Brokerage.

- a. Broker's Policy on Agency: Unless Broker has indicated elsewhere herein that Broker is not offering a specific agency relationship, the types of agency relationships offered by Broker are: seller agency, buyer agency, designated agency, dual agency, sub-agency, landlord agency, and tenant agency.
- b. Dual Agency Disclosure: [Applicable only if Broker's agency policy is to practice dual agency and Buyer has consented to Broker acting in a dual agency capacity.] If Buyer and a prospective seller are both being represented by the same Broker and the Broker is not acting in a designated agency capacity, Buyer is aware that Broker is acting as a dual agent in this transaction and hereby consents to the same. Buyer has been advised that:
 - (1) In serving as a dual agent, Broker is representing two parties, Buyer and the seller, as clients whose interests are or at times could be different or even adverse;
 - (2) Broker will disclose all adverse, material facts relevant to the transaction and actually known to the dual agent to all parties in the transaction except for information made confidential by request or instructions from either party which is not otherwise required to be disclosed by law;
 - (3) Buyer does not have to consent to dual agency. The consent of the Buyer to dual agency has been given voluntarily in Section A and the Buyer has read and understands this Agreement.
 - (4) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary contained herein, Buyer hereby directs Broker, while acting as a dual agent, to keep confidential and not reveal to the other party any information which could materially and adversely affect their negotiating position except as required by law.
 - (5) Broker or Broker's affiliated licensees will timely disclose to each party the nature of any material relationship with other party other than that incidental to the transaction. A material relationship shall mean any actually known personal, familial, or business relationship between Broker and a party which would impair the ability of Broker to exercise fair and independent judgment relative to another client. The other party whom Broker may represent in the event of dual agency may not be identified at the time Buyer enters into this Agreement. If any party is identified after the Agreement and has a material relationship with Broker, then Broker shall timely provide to Buyer a disclosure of the nature of such relationship.
 - (6) Upon signing this brokerage engagement with the dual agency disclosures contained herein, Buyer's consent to dual agency is conclusively deemed to have been given and informed in accordance with state law, provided that Buyer has consented to Broker acting in a dual agency capacity in Section A(3) above.
- c. Designated Agency Disclosure: [Applicable only if Broker's agency policy is to practice designated agency.] Buyer does hereby consent to Broker acting in a designated agency capacity in transactions in which Broker is representing Buyer and a prospective seller, but where Broker assigns one or more of its affiliated licensees exclusively to represent the Buyer and one or more of its other affiliated licensees exclusively to represent the prospective seller.
- d. No Other Adverse Agency Relationships: Unless specified herein, Broker has no other known agency relationships with other parties which would conflict with any interests of Buyer (except that Broker may represent other buyers, sellers, landlords, and tenants in buying, selling or leasing property).

4. Commission.

- a. Buyer's Commission Obligation in Purchasing Real Property: The obligation of Buyer to pay Broker the Commission shall be offset by any commission paid to Broker by either seller's broker or seller. Buyer's Commission obligation shall exist even if the closing of the transaction occurs after the term of this Agreement has expired. Buyer shall additionally be responsible for paying the Commission if Buyer defaults under this Agreement or if Buyer enters into a Contract to Purchase during the Protected Period on certain properties as explained in the Protected Period section below. Nothing herein shall prevent Broker from being paid a commission in excess of the commission reflected herein, or from being paid a bonus, if the same is offered by the seller or seller's broker. Buyer agrees that any commission to be paid by the Buyer shall be shown on the settlement statement and collected by the closing attorney as a pre-condition to Buyer closing on the purchase of real property so long as the same is permitted by Buyer's mortgage lender, if any. Buyer and Broker agree that the closing attorney may rely on this provision to collect and disburse any commission to be paid by Buyer.
- b. Commission on Property Sold For Sale By Owner ("FSBO"): In the event Buyer purchases, leases, leases to purchase or leases with an option to purchase property that is being sold or leased by owner ("FSBO") without a broker and the owner is unvilling to pay Broker its Commission at or before the closing, Buyer agrees to pay Broker the Commission set forth herein at or before the closing or the Leasing Commission, if applicable, prior to the commencement of the lease.
- c. Separate Commission on Lease: Notwithstanding the above, if Buyer leases real property or enters into a lease/purchase or lease with an option to purchase contract during this Agreement, Buyer shall also pay Broker a separate Leasing Commission (except where the commission is paid by the Landlord) in the amount as indicated elsewhere in this Agreement. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary contained herein, the payment of a leasing commission (including in lease purchase and lease with an option to purchase transactions) shall not relieve Buyer from paying the Commission at the closing of a Contract to Purchase, as provided elsewhere in this Agreement.

d. Protected Period: The Protected Period shall be the period of time set forth in this Agreement commencing upon the expiration of this Agreement or what would have been the expiration of this Agreement had it not been unilaterally terminated by Buyer during which Broker shall be protected for its Commission and/or Leasing Commission, as applicable. There shall be no Protected Period if Buyer and Broker mutually terminate this Agreement. In the event Buyer enters into a Contract to Purchase or lease, lease to purchase or lease with an option to purchase of real property which, during the term of this Agreement or what would have been the term of this Agreement had it not been unilaterally terminated by Buyer, was shown to Buyer by Broker, either virtually or in person, or which Buyer otherwise visited ("Protected Properties"), then Buyer shall pay Broker at closing or prior to the commencement of the lease the Commission and/or Leasing Commission, as applicable, set forth above.

C. OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 1. Broker's Duties to Buyer. Broker's sole duties to Buyer shall be to:
 - **a.** make all disclosures required by law;
 - **b.** attempt to locate property suitable to Buyer for purchase;
 - c. comply with all applicable laws in performing its duties hereunder including the Brokerage Relationships in Real Estate Transactions Act, O.C.G.A. § 10-6A-1 et. seq; and
 - d. assist, to the extent requested by Buyer, in negotiating the terms of and filling out a pre-printed real estate purchase and sale agreement.

2. Buyer's Duties. Buyer agrees to:

- a. be reasonably available to see property with Broker or property for which Broker has arranged Buyerto see;
- b. timely respond to communications from Broker;
- **c.** provide Broker with accurate and complete information;
- **d.** inspect and become familiar with any property that Buyer Contracts to Purchase, including, but not limited to, potentially adverse conditions and conditions of special concern to Buyer relating to the physical condition of any property in which Buyer becomes interested, any improvements located thereon and the neighborhood surrounding such property;
- e. carefully read the terms of all disclosures, reports and Contracts to Purchase and comply with the duties and deadlines contained therein;
- f. work exclusively with Broker (and not with any other real estate broker or licensee) in identifying, previewing and seeing property for purchase by Buyer since if Buyer identifies, previews or sees property with another broker or fails to disclose to the seller's broker that Buyer is working with Broker a Commission will likely not be paid to Broker by the seller's broker and Buyer shall be responsible for the same;
- g. disclose to Broker at the commencement of this Agreement whether Buyer previously worked with any other real estate broker and the addresses of the properties, if any, Buyer made an offer to purchase or for which Buyer may owe a commission to another broker if Buyer now purchases; and
- h. not contact or see a property listed For Sale By Owner ("FSBO") without first giving Broker a reasonable opportunity to contact the owner thereof and attempt to enter into an agreement with the owner to pay Broker a commission should Buyer purchase the owner's property.
- 3. Limits on Broker's Authority and Responsibility. Buyer acknowledges and agrees that Broker:
 - a. may show property in which Buyer is interested to other prospective buyers;
 - b. shall have no duty to inspect the Property or advise Buyer or seller on any matter relating to the Property which could have been revealed through a survey, appraisal, title search, Official Georgia Wood Infestation Report, utility bill review, septic system inspection, well water test, tests for radon, asbestos, mold, and lead-based paint; inspection of the Property by a licensed home inspector, construction expert, structural engineer, or environmental engineer; review of this Agreement and transaction by an attorney, financial planner, mortgage consultant, or tax consultant; and consulting appropriate governmental officials to determine, among other things and without limitation, the zoning of the Property, the propensity of the Property to flood, flood zone certifications, whether any condemnation action is pending or has been filed or other nearby governmental improvements are planned. Buyer acknowledges that Broker does not perform or have expertise in any of the above tests, inspections, and reviews or in any of the matters handled by the professionals referenced above. Buyer should seek independent expert advice regarding any matter of concern to Buyer relative to the Property and this Agreement. Buyer acknowledges that Broker shall not be responsible to monitor or supervise or inspect any portion of any construction or repairs to Property and that such tasks fall outside the scope of real estate brokerages services;
 - c. shall owe no duties to Buyer nor have any authority on behalf of Buyer other than what is set forth in this Agreement;
 - **d.** shall not be responsible for ensuring that Buyer complies with the duties and deadlines contained in any purchase agreement entered into by Buyer and that Buyer shall be solely responsible for the same; and
 - e. shall be held harmless by Buyer from any and all claims, causes of action, or damages arising out of or relating to:
 - (1) inaccurate and/or incomplete information provided by Buyer to Broker;
 - (2) earnest money handled by anyone other than Broker; or
 - (3) any injury to persons and/or loss of or damage to property.

shall have no authority to bind Buyer to any contract or agreement or to give notices on behalf of Buyer other than to forward, if requested by Buyer, a notice signed by Buyer pertaining to a real estate transaction. Under the standard GAR Purchase and Sale Agreement Forms, notice received by the Broker is deemed to be notice received by the Buyer.

4. <u>LIMIT ON BROKER'S LIABILITY</u>. BUYER ACKNOWLEDGES THAT BROKER:

- a. SHALL, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES, HAVE ANY LIABILITY GREATER THAN THE AMOUNT OF THE REAL ESTATE COMMISSION PAID HEREUNDER TO BROKER (EXCLUDING ANY COMMISSION AMOUNT PAID TO A COOPERATING REAL ESTATE BROKER, IF ANY) OR, IF NO REAL ESTATE COMMISSION IS PAID TO BROKER, THEN THE SUM OF \$100;
- BROKER SHALL HAVE NO LIABILITY FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION THAT LATER TURNS OUT TO BE INCORRECT OR FALSE; PROVIDED THAT, BROKER DID NOT HAVE ACTUAL KNOWLEDGE THAT THE INFORMATION WAS FALSE AND DISCLOSES TO BUYER THE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION; AND
- c. NOTWITHSTANDING THE ABOVE, SHALL HAVE NO LIABILITY IN EXCESS OF\$100 FOR ANY LOSS OF FUNDS AS THE RESULT OF WIRE OR CYBER FRAUD.

5. Disclosures.

- a. Broker agrees to keep confidential all information which Buyer asks to be kept confidential by express request or instruction unless the Buyer permits such disclosure by subsequent word or conduct or such disclosure is required by law. Buyer acknowledges, however, that Seller and Seller's broker may possibly not treat any offer made by Buyer (including its existence, terms and conditions) as confidential unless those parties have entered into a Confidentiality Agreement with Buyer.
- **b.** Broker may not knowingly give false information.
- c. In the event of a conflict between Broker's duty not to give false information and the duty to keep the confidences of Buyer, the duty not to give false information shall prevail.
- d. Unless specified below, Broker has no other known agency relationships with other parties that would conflict with any interests of Buyer (except that Broker may represent other buyers, sellers, tenants and landlords in buying, selling or leasing property.)
- 6. <u>Disclosure of Potentially Fraudulent Activities</u> as required by the Georgia Residential Mortgage Fraud Act (O.C.G.A. § 16-8-100 et seq.)
 - a. To help prevent fraud in real estate transactions, Buyer does hereby give Broker permission to report any suspicious, unusual and/or potentially illegal or fraudulent activity (including but not limited to mortgage fraud) to:
 - (1) Governmental officials, agencies and/or authorities and/or
 - (2) Any mortgage lender, mortgage insurer, mortgage investor and/or title insurance company (and/or their agents and representatives) could potentially be harmed if the activity was in fact fraudulent or illegal.
 - **b.** Buyer acknowledges that Broker does not have special expertise with respect to detecting fraud in real estate transactions. Therefore, Buyer acknowledges that:
 - (1) Activities which are fraudulent or illegal may be undetected by Broker; and
 - (2) Activities which are lawful and/or routine may be reported by Broker as being suspicious, unusual or potentially illegal or fraudulent.

7. Miscellaneous.

- Arbitration. All claims arising out of or relating to this Agreement and the alleged acts or omissions of any or all the parties а. hereunder shall be resolved by arbitration in accordance with the Federal Arbitration Act 9 U.S.C. § 1 et. seq. and the rules and procedures of the arbitration company selected to administer the arbitration. Upon making or receiving a demand for arbitration, the parties shall work together in good faith to select a mutually acceptable arbitration company with offices in Georgia to administer and conduct the arbitration. If the parties cannot mutually agree on an arbitration company, the company shall be selected as follows. Each party shall simultaneously exchange with the other party a list of three arbitration companies with offices in Georgia acceptable to that party to administer and conduct the arbitration. If there is only one (1) arbitration company that is common to both lists, that company shall administer and conduct the arbitration. If there is more than one arbitration company that is common to both lists, the parties shall either mutually agree on which arbitration company shall be selected or flip a coin to select the arbitration company. If there is not initially a common arbitration company on the lists, the parties shall repeat the process by expanding their lists by two each time until there is a common name on the lists selected by the parties. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and the arbitrator shall have authority to award attorneys' fees and allocate the costs of arbitration as part of any final award. All claims shall be brought by a party in his or her individual capacity and not as a plaintiff or class member in any purported class or representative proceeding. The arbitrator may not consolidate more than one person's claims, and may not otherwise preside over any form of a representative or class proceeding. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, this agreement to arbitrate shall not apply to: (1) any claim regarding the handling and disbursement of earnest money; and (2) any claim of Broker regarding the entitlement to or the non-payment of a real estate commission hereunder.
- b. Assignability. As part of a sale of all or substantially all of the assets of Broker to another firm, Buyer consents to this Agreement being assigned by Broker to the other brokerage firm. In such event, the assignee, upon consenting to the assignment, shall: 1) thereafter be responsible for performing all of the duties of the assignor under this Agreement; and 2) have all the rights of the assignor including the right to receive the commission under this Agreement.
- Attorney's Fees: In the event this Agreement, or any provision therein, is enforced through or is the subject of a dispute resulting in litigation or arbitration, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover its actual attorney's fees, reasonably incurred.
 Broker: Where the context indicates the term "Broker" shall include Broker's affiliated licensees.
- e. Buyer Buying Property Sight Unseen: Broker hereby advises Buyer that there are significant risks in buying property sight unseen since pictures, videos and other information about the property may not accurately reflect the true nature and condition of the property or area in which the property is located. Therefore, if Buyer purchases the property sight unseen, Buyer agrees to indemnify and hold Broker harmless from any and all claims, suits and damages arising out of or relating to any issue that Buyer and Buyer's representatives (other than Buyer's Broker) would have reasonably observed had Buyer visited the property and surrounding area.

- f. Definition of Buyer and Seller: For the purpose of determining whether Buyer has purchased real property herein, thus triggering Buyer's obligation to pay the Commission, the term "Buyer" shall include Buyer, all members of Buyer's immediate family, any legal entity in which buyer or any member of Buyer's immediate family owns or controls, directly or indirectly, more than ten percent (10%) of the share or interests therein, and any third-party who is acting under the direction or control of any of the above parties. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "seller" shall include seller, all members of the seller's immediate family, any legal entity in which seller or any member of seller's immediate family owns or controls, directly or indirectly, more than ten percent (10%) of the shares or interests therein, and any third-party who is acting under the direction or control of any of the above parties. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "seller" shall include seller, all members of the seller's immediate family, any legal entity in which seller or any member of seller's immediate family owns or controls, directly or indirectly, more than ten percent (10%) of the shares or interests therein, and any third-party who is acting under the direction or control of any of the above parties.
- g. Entire Agreement: This Agreement represents the entire agreement of the parties. No representation, promise, or inducement not included in this Agreement shall be binding upon any party hereto. This Agreement and the terms and conditions herein may not be amended or waived except by the written agreement of Buyer and Broker. The failure of the parties to adhere strictly to the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall not constitute a waiver of the right of the parties later to insist on such strict adherence.
- h. Fair Housing Disclosure: Buyer acknowledges that Broker is committed to providing equal housing opportunities to all persons. While Broker may show Buyer properties of a type or in any specific geographical area requested by Buyer, Broker may not steer buyers to or away from particular areas based upon race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity and may not answer questions based upon the demographics of different neighborhoods.
- i. GAR Forms: The Georgia Association of REALTORS®, Inc. ("GAR") issues certain standard real estate forms. These GAR forms are frequently provided to the parties in real estate transactions. No party is required to use any GAR form. Since these forms are generic and written with the interests of multiple parties in mind, they may need to be modified to meet the specific needs of the parties using them. If any party has any questions about his or her rights and obligations under any GAR form, he or she should consult an attorney. Provisions in the GAR Forms are subject to differing interpretations by our courts other than what the parties may have intended. At times, our courts may strike down or not enforce provisions in our GAR Forms, as written. No representation is made that the GAR forms will protect the interests of any particular party or will be fit for any specific purpose. The parties hereto agree that the GAR forms may only be used in accordance with the licensing agreement of GAR. While GAR forms may be modified by the parties, no GAR form may be reproduced with sections removed, altered or modified unless the changes are visible on the form itself or in a stipulation, addendum, exhibit or amendment thereto.
- j. Governing Law and Interpretation: This Agreement may be signed in multiple counterparts each of which shall be deemed to be an original and shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of Georgia. No provision herein, by virtue of the party who drafted it, shall be interpreted less favorably against one party than another. All references to time shall mean the time in Georgia. If any provision herein is held to be unenforceable, it shall be severed from this Agreement while the remainder of the Agreement shall, to the fullest extent permitted by law, continue to have full force and effect as a binding contract.
- k. Independent Contractor Relationship: This Agreement shall create an independent contractor relationship between Broker and Buyer. Broker shall at no time be considered an employee of Buyer. Unless otherwise stipulated, all affiliated licensees of Broker are independent contractors of Broker.
- I. No Imputed Knowledge: Buyer acknowledges and agrees that with regard to any property in which Buyer develops an interest, there shall be no knowledge imputed between Broker and Broker's licensees or between the different licensees of Broker. Broker and each of Broker's licensees shall be deemed to have only actual knowledge of such properties.
- m. Notices between Buyer and Broker:
 - (1) Communications Regarding Real Estate Transactions: Buyer acknowledges that many communications and notices in real estate transactions are of a time sensitive nature and that the failure to be available to receive such notices and communications can have adverse legal, business and financial consequences. During the term of this Agreement, Buyer agrees to remain reasonably available to receive communications from Broker.
 - (2) Notices between Broker and Buyer Regarding this Agreement: Buyer and Broker agree that communications and notices between them regarding the terms of this Agreement shall be in writing, signed by the party giving the notice, and may be delivered in person or to any address, e-mail address and/or facsimile number to the person to whom the communication or notice is being given specifically set forth in this Agreement. It is the intent of the parties that those means of transmitting notices for which a party has not provided an address or number shall not be used for receiving notices and communications. For example, if a party has not provided an e-mail address in this Agreement, it shall mean that the party is not accepting notices or communications sent by this means.
- n. Referrals: Should Buyer seek to purchase real property in an area with which Broker is unfamiliar or for the sale of Buyer's property, Buyer hereby authorizes Broker to refer Buyer to another broker or licensee for brokerage or relocation services, or to a builder. Buyer acknowledges and agrees that Broker may receive a valuable consideration for the referral.
- o. Statute of Limitations: All claims of any nature whatsoever against Broker and/or their affiliated licensees, whether asserted in litigation or arbitration and sounding in breach of contract and/or tort, must be brought within two (2) years from the date any claim or cause of action arises. Such actions shall thereafter be time-barred.
- p. Survival: The rights and obligations of Broker to a commission subsequent to the termination or expiration of this Agreement as set forth herein, the limitation of liability, the obligation to arbitrate and indemnify Broker and other similar provisions that by their terms are mean to protect Broker shall survive the termination of this Agreement.
- **g.** Third Party Vendors: Broker may provide Buyer with the names of vendors to perform services on behalf of Buyer relative to real estate transactions involving Buyer. Broker does not warrant or endorse the performance of any such vendor and the names of vendors are provided solely as a courtesy and starting point for Buyer to identify possible vendors to perform services on behalf of Buyer. Buyer. Buyer agrees to do his or her own due diligence regarding the skills, expertise and reputation of all such vendors performing services for Buyer and the terms of all contracts with vendors (including whether there is a limitation of liability in such contracts). All decisions regarding which vendor to hire shall be solely that of Buyer.
- r. Time of Essence: Time is of the essence of this Agreement.
- 8. <u>Buyer Default</u>. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary herein, Buyer agrees to immediately pay Broker its Commission (or unpaid portion thereof) in the event any of the following occur:
 - a. Buyer defaults under a Contract to Purchase real estate under which Broker would have been paid its Commission had the transaction closed;

- b. Buyer agrees with a seller to mutually terminate a Contract to Purchase under which Broker would have been paid its Commission had the transaction closed without the prior consent of Broker, except if such mutual termination is entered into during a due diligence or other period during which Buyer may terminate the Contract to Purchase without penalty for any reason or for no reason;
- c. Buyer unilaterally terminates this Agreement and then enters into a Contract to Purchase property, lease, lease to purchase, or lease with an option to purchase of property, as applicable, either during what would have been the remaining term of this Agreement had the Agreement not been unilaterally terminated, or during the Protected Period, as provided for in the Protected Period section of this Agreement; or
- d. Buyer enters into a Contract to Purchase real property during the term of this Agreement and later closes on the same (even if the closing is after the expiration of this Agreement) where Broker is not paid its entire Commission.
- 9. WARNING TO BUYERS AND SELLERS: BEWARE OF CYBER-FRAUD. Fraudulent e-mails attempting to get the buyer and/or seller to wire money to criminal computer hackers are increasingly common in real estate transactions. Specifically, criminals are impersonating the online identity of the actual mortgage lender, closing attorney, real estate broker or other person or companies involved in the real estate transaction. In that role, the criminals send fake wiring instructions attempting to trick buyers and/or sellers into wiring them money related to the real estate transaction, including, for example, the buyer's earnest money, the cash needed for the buyer to close, and/or the seller's proceeds from the closing. These instructions, if followed, will result in the money being wired to the criminals. In many cases, the fraudulent email is believable because it is sent from what appears to be the email at dress/domain of the legitimate company or person responsible for sending the buyer or seller wiring instructions. The buyer and or seller should verify wiring instructions sent by email by independently looking up and calling the telephone number of the company or person purporting to have sent them. Buyers and sellers should never call the telephone number provided with wiring instructions sent by email since they may end up receiving a fake verification from the criminals. Buyer and sellers should be on special alert for: 1) emails directing the buyer and/or seller to wire money to a bank or bank account in a state other than Georgia; and 2) emails from a person or company involved in the real estate transaction that are slightly different (often by one letter, number, or character) from the actual email address of the person or company.
- 10. <u>Brochures</u>. Brochures referenced herein are prepared courtesy of GAR. The recommendations are general in nature and may not be applicable to the transaction reflected in this Agreement, and are not intended to either be exhaustive or specific advice that Buyer should rely on without Buyer first consulting with independent experts and professionals of Buyer's own choosing to ensure that Buyer is protected.

The following Brochures and/or Exhibits have been received by the Buyer(s):

- GAR CB01 The ABC's of Agency
- GAR CB04 Lead Based Paint Pamphlet
- GAR CB07 Mold Pamphlet
- GAR CB08 EPA Home Buyer's and Seller's Guide to Radon Pamphlet
- GAR CB13 Protect Yourself When Buying Real Property.
- GAR CB16 What to Consider When Buying a Home in a Community with a Homeowners Association (HOA)
- GAR CB19 What to Consider When Buying a Home in a Condominium
- GAR CB22 Protect Yourself When Buying a Home to be Constructed
- GAR CB25 What Buyers Should Know About Flood Hazard Areas and Flood Insurance
- GAR CB28 What Buyers and Sellers Should Know About Short Sales and Distressed Properties
- GAR F149 Retainer Fee Exhibit

SPECIAL STIPULATIONS: The following Special Stipulations, if conflicting with any exhibit, addendum, or preceding paragraph, shall control:

Additional Special Stipulations (F246) are attached.

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BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, BUYER ACKNOWLEDGES THAT: (1) BUYER HAS READ ALL PROVISIONS AND DISCLOSURES MADE HEREIN; (2) BUYER UNDERSTANDS ALL SUCH PROVISIONS AND DISCLOSURES AND HAS ENTERED INTO THIS AGREEMENT VOLUNTARILY; AND (3) BUYER IS NOT SUBJECT TO A CURRENT BUYER BROKERAGE ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH ANY OTHER BROKER.					
BUYER'S ACCEPTANCE AND CO	NTACT INFORMATION				
1 Buyer's Signature	2 Buyer's Signature				
Print or Type Name Date	Print or Type Name Date				
Buyer's Address for Receiving Notice	Buyer's Address for Receiving Notice				
	• • •				
Buyer's Phone Number:	Buyer's Phone Number: Cell Home Work				
Buyer's E-mail Address	Buyer's E-mail Address				
☐ Additional Signature Page (F146) is attached.					
BROKER / BROKER'S AFFILIATED LICEN	SEE CONTACT INFORMATION				
PalmerHouse Properties Brokerage Firm	PHPA02H-62466MLS Office CodeBrokerage Firm License Number				
	(404) 876-4901 (404) 478-8495				
Broker/Affiliated Licensee Signature	Broker's Phone Number Fax Number				
THOMAS ABBOTT Print or Type Name	<u>2911 Piedmont Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30305</u> Broker's Address				
(770) 713-1505 Licensee's Phone Number Fax Number					
Licensee's E-mail Address					
272617 GA Real Estate License Number					
Atlanta Board REALTOR® Membership					
RECEIPT OF A COPY OF THIS AGREEMENT IS HEREBY ACKNOWLE	EDGED BY BUYER.				
The above Agreement is hereby accepted, o'clockm.,	on the date of				

PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT

Offer Date: ____



2022 Printing

Α.	KEY	TERMS	AND	COND	TIONS
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property describe in this Agreement	d below including all fixtures, improvements	ee to buy and the undersigned seller(s) ("Seller") agree to sell the re and landscaping therein ("Property") on the terms and conditions set fo		
	tification: Address:			
City	, County	, Georgia, Zip Code Tax Parcel I.D. Number:		
MLS Number:		Tax Parcel I.D. Number:		
·	otion: The legal description of the Property	is [select one of the following below]:		
. ,	d as an exhibit hereto;			
_ ()	ninium (attach F204 Condominium Resale l			
		Page, et. seq., of the land records of the above county; C		
🗖 (4) Land L	ot(s)of the	District,Section/GN		
Lot	, Block, Unit _	, Phase/Section		
OT		age, et. seq., of the land records of the above county.		
	of Property to be Paid by Buyer.	3. Closing Costs.		
2. Furchase Frice (\$	or Property to be Paid by Buyer.	Seller's Contribution at Closing: \$		
4. Closing Date and				
		with possession of the Property transferred to Buyer		
		k ☐ AM		
5. Closing Law Firr	n.	Phone Number:		
6. Holder of Earnes signed by Closing		ttorney, F510 must be attached as an exhibit hereto, and F511 must		
-		CH Cash or Owire transfer of immediately available funds as follow		
-	as of the Offer D			
	as of the order of the ord			
□ b. ͽ				
8. Inspection and D				
a. Due Diligence b. Option Payme (1) has paid (2) shall pay immediate additional	Period: Property is being sold subject to a ent for Due Diligence Period: In considerat Seller \$10.00 in nonrefundable option mone directly to Seller additional option money of ely available funds either as of the Offer option money paid by Buyer to Seller as	Due Diligence Period of days from the Binding Agreement Da ion of Seller granting Buyer the option to terminate this Agreement, Buy y, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged; plus \$ by □ check □ ACH or □ wire transfer Date; OR □ within days from the Binding Agreement Date. A shall (subject to lender approval) or □ shall not be applied toward t to Buyer unless the closing fails to occur due to the default of the Selle		
-		esidential dwelling(s) on the Property (including any portion thereof		
		nt Exhibit) OR was not built prior to 1978.		
	ionships in this Transaction.			
a. Buyer' <mark>s Brok</mark>	er is <u>PalmerHouse Properties</u> and	l is: b. Seller's Broker isand		
(1) 🛛 represe	nting Buyer as a client.	(1) Tepresenting Seller as a client.		
(2) 🛛 working	with Buyer as a customer.	(2) \Box working with Seller as a customer.		
(3) 🗖 acting a	is a dual agent representing Buyer and Sell	er. (3) 🗖 acting as a dual agent representing Buyer and Selle		
	is a designated agent where:	(4) \Box acting as a designated agent where:		
	ssigned to exclusively represent Buyer.	has been assigned to exclusively represent Seller.		
	• • • •			
c. Material Rela	tionship Disclosure: The material relations	ships required to be disclosed by either Broker are as follows:		
11. Time Limit of Off	er. The Offer set forth herein expires at	o'clockm. on the date		
Buyer(s) Initials		Seller(s) Initials		
THIS FORM IS COPYRIGHTED AND MAY ONLY BE USED IN REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS IN WHICH <u>IHOMAS Abbott</u> is involved as a real estate licensee. Unauthorized use of the form may result in legal sanctions being brought against the user and should be reported to				
	ON OF REALTORS® AT (770) 451-1831. A Association of REALTORS®, Inc.	F201, Purchase and Sale Agreement, Page 1 of 9, 05/0		

B. FURTHER EXPLANATIONS TO CORRESPONDING PARAGRAPHS IN SECTION A.

1. Purchase and Sale.

- a. Warranty: Seller warrants that at the time of closing Seller will convey good and marketable title to said Property by limited warranty deed subject only to: (1) zoning; (2) general utility, sewer, and drainage easements of record as of the Binding Agreement Date and upon which the improvements (other than any driveway or walkway) do not encroach; (3) declarations of condominium and declarations of covenants, conditions and restrictions of record on the Binding Agreement Date; and (4) leases and other encumbrances specified in this Agreement. Buyer agrees to assume Seller's responsibilities in any leases specified in this Agreement.
- b. Examination: Buyer may examine title and/or obtain a survey of the Property and furnish Seller with a written statement of title objections at or prior to the closing. If Seller fails or is unable to satisfy valid title objections at or prior to the closing or any unilateral extension thereof, which would prevent the Seller from conveying good and marketable title to the Property, then Buyer, among its other remedies, may terminate the Agreement without penalty upon written notice to Seller. Good and marketable title as used herein shall mean title which a title insurance company licensed to do business in Georgia will insure at its regular rates, subject only to standard exceptions.
- c. Title Insurance: Buyer hereby directs any mortgage lender involved in this transaction to quote the cost of title insurance based upon the presumption that Buyer will be obtaining an enhanced title insurance policy since such a policy affords Buyer greater coverage.
- 2. <u>Purchase Price to be Paid by Buyer</u>. The Purchase Price shall be paid in U.S. Dollars at closing by vire transfer of immediately available funds, or such other form of payment acceptable to the closing attorney.

3. Closing Costs.

- a. Seller's Contribution at Closing: At closing, Seller shall make the referenced Seller's Monetary Contribution which Buyer may use to pay any cost or expense of Buyer related to this transaction, including without limitation, any commission obligations of Buyer. Buyer acknowledges that Buyer's mortgage lender(s) may not allow the Seller's Monetary Contribution, or the full amount thereof, to be used for some costs or expenses. In such event, any unused portion of the Seller's Monetary Contribution shall remain the property of the Seller. The Seller shall pay the fees and costs of the closing attorney: (1) to prepare and record title curative documents and (2) for Seller not attending the closing in person.
- b. Items Paid by Buyer: At closing, Buyer shall pay: (1) Georgia property transfer tax; (2) the cost to search title and tax records and prepare the limited warranty deed; and (3) all other costs, fees and charges to close this transaction, except as otherwise provided herein.
- c. Prorations: Ad valorem property taxes, community association fees, solid waste and governmental fees and utility bills for which service cannot be terminated as of the date of closing shall be prorated as of the date of closing. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, in the event ad valorem property taxes are based upon an estimated tax bill or tax bill under appeal, Buyer and Seller shall, upon the issuance of the actual tax bill or the appeal being resolved, promptly make such financial adjustments between themselves as are necessary to correctly prorate the tax bill. In the event there are tax savings resulting from a tax appeal, third party professional costs to handle the appeal may be deducted from the savings for that tax year before re-prorating. Any pending tax appeal for the year in which the Property is sold shall be deemed assigned to Buyer at closing. The liability to the county and if applicable, city, in which the Property is located for ad valorem real property taxes for the year in which the Property is sold shall be deemed assigned to Buyer and all claims of the county and if applicable, city, for unpaid ad valorem real property taxes for the year in which the Property is sold shall be assumed by Buyer upon the Closing of the Property. Buyer agrees to indemnify Seller against any and all claims of the county and if applicable, city, for unpaid ad valorem real property taxes for the year in which the Property is sold.

4. Closing Date and Possession.

- a. Right to Extend the Closing Date: Buyer or Seller may unilaterally extend the closing date for eight (8) days upon notice to the other party given prior to or on the date of closing if: (1) Seller cannot satisfy valid title objections (excluding title objections that: (a) can be satisfied through the payment of money or by bonding off the same; and (b) do not prevent Seller from conveying good and marketable title, as that term is defined herein, to the Property); (2) Buyer's mortgage lender (even in "all cash" transactions where Buyer is obtaining a mortgage loan) or the closing attorney is delayed and cannot fulfill their respective obligations by the date of closing, provided that the delay is not caused by Buyer; or (3) Buyer has not received required estimates or disclosures and Buyer is prohibited from closing under federal regulations. The party unilaterally extending the closing date shall state the basis for the delay in the notice of extension. If the right to unilaterally extend the closing date is exercised once by either the Buyer or Seller, the right shall thereafter terminate.
- b. Keys and Openers: At Closing, Seller shall provide Buyer with all keys, door openers, codes and other similar equipment pertaining to the Property.
- 5. <u>Closing Law Firm</u>. Buyer shall have the right to select the closing attorney to close this transaction, and hereby selects the closing attorney referenced herein. In all cases where an individual closing attorney is named in this Agreement but the closing attorney is employed by or an owner, shareholder, or member in a law firm, the law firm shall be deemed to be the closing attorney. If Buyer's mortgage lender refuses to allow that closing attorney to close this transaction, Buyer shall select a different closing attorney acceptable to the mortgage lender. The closing attorney shall represent the mortgage lender in any transaction in which the Buyer obtains mortgage financing (including transactions where the method of payment referenced herein is "all cash"). In transactions where the Buyer does not obtain mortgage financing, the closing attorney shall represent the Buyer.

6. <u>Holder of Earnest Money</u>. The earnest money will be paid to Holder in a method of payment acceptable to the Holder. Holder has the right to charge Buyer for any cost associated with receiving of earnest money. Such charge shall be collected separately from the payment of earnest money. The earnest money will be deposited into Holder's escrow/trust account (with Holder being permitted to retain the interest if the account is interest bearing) not later than: (a) five (5) banking days after the Binding Agreement Date hereunder or (b) five (5) banking days after the date it is actually received if it is received after the Binding Agreement Date. If Buyer writes a check or pays with an ACH for earnest money and the same is deposited into Holder's escrow/trust account, Holder shall not return the earnest money until the check or ACH has cleared the account on which the check was written or from which the ACH was sent. In the event any earnest money check is dishonored by the bank upon which it is drawn, or earnest money is not timely paid, Holder shall promptly give notice of the same to Buyer and Seller. Buyer shall have three (3) banking days from the date of receiving the notice to cure the default and if Buyer does not do so, Seller may within seven (7) days thereafter terminate this Agreement upon notice to Buyer. If Seller fails to terminate the Agreement timely, Seller's right to terminate based on the default shall be waived.

7. Earnest Money.

- a. Entitlement to Earnest Money: Subject to the paragraph below, Buyer shall be entitled to the earnest money upon the. (1) failure of the parties to enter into a binding agreement; (2) failure of any unexpired contingency or condition to which this Agreement is subject; (3) termination of this Agreement due to the default of Seller; or (4) termination of this Agreement in accordance with a specific right to terminate set forth in the Agreement. Otherwise, the earnest money shall be applied towards the purchase price of the Property at closing or if other funds are used to pay the purchase price then the earnest money shall be returned to Buyer.
- b. Disbursement of Earnest Money: Holder shall disburse the earnest money upon: (1) the closing of Property; (2) a subsequent written agreement of Buyer and Seller; (3) an order of a court or arbitrator having jurisdiction over any dispute involving the earnest money; or (4) the failure of the parties to enter into a binding agreement (where there is no dispute over the formation or enforceability of the Agreement). In addition, Holder may disburse the earnest money upon a reasonable interpretation of the Agreement, provided that Holder first gives all parties at least ten (10) days notice stating to whom and why the disbursement will be made. Any party may object to the proposed disbursement by giving written notice of the same to Holder within the ten (10) day notice period. Objections not timely made in writing shall be deemed waived. If Holder receives an objection and, after considering it, decides to disburse the earnest money as originally proposed, Holder may do so and send notice to the parties of Holder's action. If Holder decides to modify its proposed disbursement will now be made. Holder shall disburse the earnest money to Seller by check in the event Holder: (1) makes a reasonable interpretation of the Agreement that the Agreement has been terminated due to Buyer's default; and (2) sends the required ten (10) day notice of the proposed disbursement to Buyer and Seller. The above-referenced check shall constitute liquidated damages in full settlement of all claims of Seller against Buyer and the Brokers in this transaction. Holder may require Seller to sign a W-9 before issuing a check to Seller for liquidated damages of \$600 or more. Such liquidated damages are a reasonable pre-estimate of Seller's actual damages, which damages the parties agree are difficult to ascertain and are not a penalty.
- c. Interpleader: If an earnest money dispute cannot be resolved after a reasonable time, Holder may interplead the earnest money into a court of competent jurisdiction if Holder is unsure who is entitled to the earnest money. Holder shall be reimbursed for and may deduct its costs, expenses and reasonable attorney's fees from any funds interpleaded. The prevailing defendant in the interpleader lawsuit shall be entitled to collect its attorney's fees, court costs and the amount deducted by Holder to cover Holder's costs and expenses from the non-prevailing defendant.
- d. Hold Harmless: All parties hereby covenant and agree to (1) indemnify and hold Holder harmless from and against all claims, injuries, suits and damages (collectively, "Claims") arising out of the performance by Holder of its duties, including Claims caused, in whole or in part, by the negligence of the Holder; (2) not to sue Holder for any decision of Holder to disburse earnest money in accordance with this Agreement.

8. Inspection and Due Diligence.

- a. Right to Inspect Property: Upon prior notice to Seller, Buyer and/or Buyer's representatives shall have the right to enter the Property at Buyer's expense and at reasonable times (including immediately prior to closing) to inspect, examine, test, appraise and survey Property. If any portion of the Property was built prior to 1978, the Lead-Based Paint Exhibit (F316) is hereby attached an Exhibit to the Agreement. Buyer shall have the right to conduct a lead hazard evaluation within ten (10) days from the Binding Agreement Date (or other mutually agreed upon time period) and to terminate this Agreement without penalty upon notice to Seller if lead-based paint and/or lead hazards are found (unless these rights are waived by Buyer in the Lead-Based Paint Exhibit (F316)). If the Lead-Based Paint Exhibit (F316) gives Buyer the right to terminate this Agreement if lead-based paint or lead hazards are found and such notice of termination is not given within ten (10) days from Binding Agreement Date (or other mutually agreed upon time period), the right to terminate for lead-based paint and/or lead hazards shall be waived. The above right to enter the Property shall include the time period after the end of any Due Diligence Period to, among other things, and without limitation, conduct inspections, surveys and evaluations, meet contractors and vendors, measure for renovations and confirm that any agreed upon repairs have been made and the Property otherwise remains in the same condition. Seller shall cause all utilities, systems and equipment to be on so that Buyer may complete all inspections. Buyer agrees to hold Seller and all Brokers harmless from all claims, injuries and damages relating to the exercise of these rights and shall promptly restore any portion of the Property damaged or disturbed from testing or other evaluations to a condition equal to or better than the condition it was in prior to such testing or evaluation. If Buyer is concerned that the Property may have been used as a laboratory for the production of methamphetamine, or as a dumpsite for the same, Buyer should review the National Clandestine Laboratory Register – Georgia at www.dea.gov.
- b. Duty to Inspect Neighborhood: In every neighborhood there are conditions which different buyers may find objectionable. Buyer shall have the sole duty to become familiar with neighborhood conditions that could affect the Property such as landfills, quarries, power lines, airports, cemeteries, prisons, stadiums, odor and noise producing activities, crime and school, land use, government and transportation maps and plans. It shall be Buyer's sole duty to become familiar with neighborhood conditions of concern to Buyer. If Buyer is concerned about the possibility of a registered sex offender residing in a neighborhood in which Buyer is interested, Buyer should review the Georgia Violent Sex Offender Registry available on the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Website at www.gbi.georgia.gov.

- c. Warranties Transfer: Seller agrees to transfer to Buyer, at closing, subject to Buyer's acceptance thereof (and at Buyer's expense, if there is any cost associated with said transfer), Seller's interest in any existing manufacturer's warranties, service contracts, termite treatment and/or repair guarantee and/or other similar warranties which, by their terms, may be transferable to Buyer.
- d. Property Sold "As-Is" Unless this Agreement is Subject to Due Diligence Period:
 - (1) General: Unless the Property is being sold subject to a Due Diligence Period referenced herein, the Property shall be sold "as-is" with all faults. Even if the Property is sold "as-is" Seller is required under Georgia law to disclose to the Buyer latent or hidden defects in the Property which Seller is aware and which could not have been discovered by the Buyer upon a reasonable inspection of the property. The inclusion of a Due Diligence Period herein shall: (a) during its term make this Agreement an option contract in which Buyer may decide to proceed or not proceed with the purchase of the Property for any or no reason; and (b) be an acknowledgement by Seller that Buyer has paid separate valuable consideration of \$10 for the granting of the option.
 - (2) Purpose of Due Diligence Period: During the Due Diligence Period, Buyer shall determine whether or not to exercise Buyer's option to proceed or not proceed with the purchase of the Property. If Buyer has concerns with the Property, Buyer may during the Due Diligence Period seek to negotiate an amendment to this Agreement to address such concerns.
 - (3) Notice of Decision Not To Proceed: Buyer shall have elected to exercise Buyer's option to purchase the Property unless prior to the end of any Due Diligence Period, Buyer notifies Seller of Buyer's decision not to proceed by delivering to Seller a notice of termination of this Agreement. In the event Buyer does not terminate this Agreement prior to the end of the Due Diligence Period, then: (a) Buyer shall have accepted the Property "as-is" subject to the terms of this Agreement; and (b) Buyer shall no longer have any right to terminate this Agreement based upon the Due Diligence Period.
- e. Repairs: All agreed upon repairs and replacements shall be performed in a good and workmanlike manner prior to closing.
- 9. Lead-Based Paint. If any portion of a residential dwelling on the Property was built prior to 1978, the Lead-Based Paint Exhibit (F316) is hereby attached as an exhibit to this Agreement. The term "residential dwelling" includes any painted fixture or material used therein that was built or manufactured prior to 1978.

10. Brokerage Relationships in this Transaction.

- a. Agency Disclosure: No Broker in this transaction shall owe any duty to Buyer or Seller greater than what is set forth in their brokerage engagements and the Brokerage Relationships in Real Estate Transactions Act, O.C.G.A. § 10-6A-1 et. seq.;
 - (1) No Agency Relationship: Buyer and Seller acknowledge that, if they are not represented by Brokers in a client relationship, they are each solely responsible for protecting their own interests, and that Broker's role is limited to performing ministerial acts for that party.
 - (2) Consent to Dual Agency: If Broker is acting as dual agent in this transaction, Buyer and Seller consent to the same and acknowledge having been advised of the following:
 - i. Dual Agency Disclosure: [Applicable only if Broker is acting as a dual agent in this transaction.]
 - (a) As a dual agent, Broker is representing two clients whose interests are or at times could be different or even adverse;
 - (b) Broker will disclose all adverse material facts relevant to the transaction and actually known to the dual agent to all parties in the transaction except for information made confidential by request or instructions from each client which is not otherwise required to be disclosed by law;
 - (c) Buyer and Seller do not have to consent to dual agency and the consent of Buyer and Seller to dual agency has been given voluntarily and the parties have read and understand their brokerage engagement agreements.
 - (d) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary contained herein Buyer and Seller each hereby direct Broker while acting as a dual agent to keep confidential and not reveal to the other party any information which could materially and adversely affect their negotiating position.
 - ii. Designated Agency Disclosure: If Broker in this transaction is acting as a designated agent, Buyer and Seller consent to the same and acknowledge that each designated agent shall exclusively represent the party to whom each has been assigned as a client and shall not represent in this transaction the client assigned to the other designated agent.
- b. Brokerage: Unless otherwise specified herein, the real estate commissions owing to the Seller's Broker and Buyer's Broker, if any, are being paid pursuant to separate brokerage engagement agreements. Buyer and Seller agree that any commissions to be paid to Broker(s) shall be shown on the settlement statement and collected by closing attorney as a pre-condition to Buyer and Seller closing on the Property so long as the same is permitted by Buyer's mortgage lender, if any. The closing attorney is hereby authorized and directed to pay the Broker(s) at closing, their respective commissions pursuant to written instructions from the Broker(s) at closing, their respective commissions pursuant to written instructions from the Broker(s) of a partial real estate commission, the party owing the commission shall pay any shortfall at closing. The acceptance by the Broker(s) of a partial real estate commission at the closing shall not relieve the party owing the same from paying the remainder after the closing (unless the Broker(s) have expressly agreed in writing to accept the amount paid in full satisfaction of the Broker(s) claim to a commission). The Brokers herein are signing this Agreement to reflect their role in this transaction and consent to act as Holder if either of them is named as such. This Agreement and any amendment thereto shall be enforceable even without the signature of any Broker referenced herein. The broker(s) are express third-party beneficiaries to this Agreement.

- c. Disclaimer: Buyer and Seller have not relied upon any advice or representations of Brokers other than what is included in this Agreement. Brokers shall have no duty to inspect the Property or to advise Buyer or Seller on any matter relating to the Property which could have been revealed through a survey, appraisal, title search, Official Georgia Wood Infestation Report, utility bill review, septic system inspection, well water test, tests for radon, asbestos, mold, methamphetamine, and lead-based paint; moisture test of stucco or synthetic stucco, inspection of the Property by a professional, construction expert, structural engineer or environmental engineer; review of this Agreement and transaction by an attorney, financial planner, mortgage consultant or tax consultant; and consulting appropriate governmental officials to determine, among other things and without limitation, the zoning of Property, the propensity of the Property to flood, flood zone certifications, whether any condemnation action is pending or has been filed or other nearby governmental improvements are planned. Buyer and Seller acknowledge that Broker does not perform or have expertise in any of the above tests, inspections, and reviews or in any of the matters handled by the professionals referenced above. Buyer and Seller should seek independent expert advice regarding any matter of concern to them relative to the Property and this Agreement. Buyer and Seller acknowledge that Broker shall not be responsible to monitor, supervise, or inspect any construction or repairs to Property and such tasks clearly fall outside the scope of real estate brokerage services. If Broker has written any special stipulations herein, the party for whom such special stipulations were written: a) confirms that each such stipulation reflects the party's complete understanding as to the substance and form of the special stipulations; b) hereby adopts each special stipulation as the original work of the party; and c) hereby agrees to indemnify and hold Broker who prepared the stipulation harmless from any and all claims, causes of action, suits, and damages arising out of or relating to such special stipulation. Buyer acknowledges that when and if Broker answers a question of Buyer or otherwise describes some aspect of the Property or the transaction, Broker is doing so based upon information provided by Seller rather than the independent knowledge of Broker (unless Broker makes an independent written disclosure to the contrary).
- 11. <u>Time Limit of Offer</u>. The Time Limit of the Offer shall be the date and time referenced herein when the Offer expires unless prior to that date and time both of the following have occurred: (a) the Offer has been accepted by the party to whom the Offer was made; and (b) notice of acceptance of the Offer has been delivered to the party who made the Offer.

C. OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Notices.

- a. Generally: All notices given hereunder shall be in writing, legible and signed by the party giving the notice. In the event of a dispute regarding notice, the burden shall be on the party giving notice to prove delivery. The requirements of this notice paragraph shall apply even prior to this Agreement becoming binding. Notices shall only be delivered: (1) in person; (2) by courier, overnight delivery service or by certified or registered U.S. mail (hereinafter collectively "Delivery Service"); or (3) by e-mail or facsimile. The person delivering or sending the written notice signed by a party may be someone other than that party.
- **b.** Delivery of Notice: A notice to a party shall be deemed to have been delivered and received upon the earliest of the following to occur: (1) the actual receipt of the written notice by a party; (2) in the case of delivery by a Delivery Service, when the written notice is delivered to an address of a party set forth herein (or subsequently provided by the party following the notice provisions herein), provided that a record of the delivery is created; (3) in the case of delivery electronically, on the date and time the written notice is electronically sent to an e-mail address or facsimile number of a party herein (or subsequently provided by the party following the notice is sent to an address, facsimile number or e-mail address of the party set forth herein (or subsequently provided by the party following the notice provisions herein).
- c. When Broker Is Authorized to Accept Notice for Client: Except where the Broker is acting in a dual agency capacity, the Broker and any affiliated licensee of the Broker representing a party in a client relationship shall be authorized agents of the party for the limited purpose of receiving notice and such notice to any of them shall for all purposes herein be deemed to be notice to the party. Notice to an authorized agent shall not be effective unless the written notice is sent to an address, facsimile number or e-mail address of the authorized agent set forth herein (or subsequently provided by the authorized agent following the notice provisions herein) even if it is not opened by the recipient. Except as provided for herein, the Broker's staff at a physical address set forth herein of the Broker or the Broker's affiliated licensees are authorized to receive notices delivered by a Delivery Service. The Broker, the Broker's staff and the affiliated licensees of the Broker shall not be authorized to receive notice on behalf of a party in any transaction in which a brokerage engagement has not been entered into with the party or in which the Broker is acting in a dual agency capacity. In the event the Broker is practicing designated agency, only the designated agent of a client shall be an authorized agent of the client for the purposes of receiving notice.

2. Default.

- a. Remedies of Seller. In the event this Agreement fails to close due to the default of Buyer, Seller's sole remedy shall be to retain the earnest money as full liquidated damages. Seller expressly waives any right to assert a claim for specific performance. The parties expressly agree that the earnest money is a reasonable pre-estimate of Seller's actual damages, which damages the parties agree are difficult to ascertain. The parties expressly intend for the earnest money to serve as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
- b. Remedies of Buyer: In the event this Agreement fails to close due to the default of Seller, Buyer may either seek the specific performance of this Agreement or terminate this Agreement upon notice to Seller and Holder, in which case all earnest money deposits and other payments Buyer has paid towards the purchase of the Property shall be returned to Buyer following the procedures set forth elsewhere herein.
- c. Rights of Broker: In the event this Agreement is terminated or fails to close due to the default of a party hereto, the defaulting party shall bay as liquidated damages to every broker involved in this Agreement the commission the broker would have received had the transaction closed. For purposes of determining the amount of liquidated damages to be paid by the defaulting party, all written agreements establishing the amount of commission to be paid to any broker involved in this transaction are incorporated herein by reference. The liquidated damages referenced above are a reasonable pre-estimate of the Broker(s) actual damages and are not a penalty.
- d. Attorney's Fees: In any litigation or arbitration arising out of this Agreement, including but not limited to breach of contract claims between Buyer and Seller and commission claims brought by a broker, the non-prevailing party shall be liable to the prevailing party for its reasonable attorney's fees and expenses.

3. <u>Risk of Damage to Property</u>. Seller warrants that at the time of closing the Property and all items remaining with the Property, if any, will be in substantially the same condition (including conditions disclosed in the Seller's Property Disclosure Statement or Seller's Disclosure of Latent Defects and Fixtures Checklist) as of the Offer Date, except for changes made to the condition of Property pursuant to the written agreement of Buyer and Seller. At time of possession, Seller shall deliver Property clean and free of trash, debris, and personal property of Seller not identified as remaining with the Property. Notwithstanding the above, if the Property is destroyed or substantially destroyed prior to closing, Seller shall promptly give notice to Buyer of the same and provide Buyer with whatever information Seller has regarding the availability of insurance and the disposition of any insurance claim. Buyer or Seller may terminate this Agreement, seller shall cause Property to be restored to substantially the same condition as on the Offer Date. The date of closing shall be extended until the earlier of one year from the original date of closing, or seven (7) days from the date that Property has been restored to substantially the same condition as on the Offer Date and a new certificate of occupancy (if required) is issued.

4. Other Provisions.

- a. Condemnation: Seller shall: (1) immediately notify Buyer if the Property becomes subject to a condemnation proceeding; and (2) provide Buyer with the details of the same. Upon receipt of such notice, Buyer shall have the right, but not the obligation for 7 days thereafter, to terminate this Agreement upon notice to Seller in which event Buyer shall be entitled to a refund of all earnest money and other monies paid by Buyer toward the Property without deduction or penalty. If Buyer does not terminate the Agreement within this time frame, Buyer agrees to accept the Property less any portion taken by the condemnation and if Buyer closes, Buyer shall be entitled to receive any condemnation award or negotiated payment for all or a portion of the Property transferred or conveyed in lieu of condemnation.
- b. Consent to Share Non-Public Information: Buyer and Seller hereby consent to the closing attorney preparing and distributing an American Land Title Association ("ALTA") Estimated Settlement Statement-Combined or other combined settlement statement to Buyer, Seller, Brokers and Brokers' affiliated licensees working on the transaction reflected in this Agreement for their various uses.
- c. Duty to Cooperate: All parties agree to do all things reasonably necessary to timely and in good faith fulfill the terms of this Agreement. Buyer and Seller shall execute and deliver such certifications, affidavits, and statements required by law or reasonably requested by the closing attorney, mortgage lender and/or the title insurance company to meet their respective requirements.
- **d.** Electronic Signatures: For all purposes herein, an electronic or facsimile signature shall be deemed the same as an original signature; provided, however, that all parties agree to promptly re-execute a conformed copy of this Agreement with original signatures if requested to do so by, the buyer's mortgage lender or the other party.
- e. Entire Agreement, Modification and Assignment: This Agreement constitutes the sole and entire agreement between all of the parties, supersedes all of their prior written and verbal agreements and shall be binding upon the parties and their successors, heirs and permitted assigns. No representation, promise or inducement not included in this Agreement shall be binding upon any party hereto. This Agreement may not be amended or waived except upon the written agreement of Buyer and Seller. Any agreement to terminate this Agreement or any other subsequent agreement of the parties relating to the Property must be in writing and signed by the parties. This Agreement may not be assigned by Buyer except with the written approval of Seller which may be withheld for any reason or no reason. Any assignee shall fulfill all the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- f. Extension of Deadlines: No time deadline under this Agreement shall be extended by virtue of it falling on a Saturday, Sunday or federal holiday except for the date of closing.
- g. GAR Forms: The Georgia Association of REALTORS®, Inc. ("GAR") issues certain standard real estate forms. These GAR forms are frequently provided to the parties in real estate transactions. No party is required to use any GAR form. Since these forms are generic and written with the interests of multiple parties in mind, they may need to be modified to meet the specific needs of the parties using them. If any party has any questions about his or her rights and obligations under any GAR form, he or she should consult an attorney. Provisions in the GAR Forms are subject to differing interpretations by our courts other than what the parties may have intended. At times, our courts may strike down or not enforce provisions in our GAR Forms, as written. No representation is made that the GAR Forms will protect the interests of any particular party or will be fit for any specific purpose. The parties hereto agree that the GAR forms may only be used in accordance with the licensing agreement of GAR. While GAR forms may be modified by the parties, no GAR form may be reproduced with sections removed, altered or modified unless the changes are visible on the form itself or in a stipulation, addendum, exhibit or amendment thereto.
- h. Governing Law and Interpretation: This Agreement may be signed in multiple counterparts each of which shall be deemed to be an original and shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of Georgia. No provision herein, by virtue of the party who drafted it, shall be interpreted less favorably against one party than another. All references to time shall mean the time in Georgia. If any provision herein is held to be unenforceable, it shall be severed from this Agreement while the remainder of the Agreement shall, to the fullest extent permitted by law, continue to have full force and effect as a binding contract.
- i. No Authority to Bind: No Broker or affiliated licensee of Broker, by virtue of this status, shall have any authority to bind any party hereto to any contract, provisions therein, amendments thereto, termination thereof or to notices signed by Broker but not the party. However, if authorized in this Agreement, Broker shall have the right to accept notices on behalf of a party (but not send notices from Broker on behalf of a party unless they are signed by the party). Additionally, any Broker or real estate licensee involved in this transaction may perform the ministerial act of filling in the Binding Agreement Date. In the event of a dispute over the Binding Agreement Date, it shall be resolved by a court or arbitrator having jurisdiction over the dispute, by the written agreement of the Buyer and Seller, or by the Holder but only in making a reasonable interpretation of the Agreement in disbursing earnest money.
- . Notice of Binding Agreement Date: The Binding Agreement Date shall be the date when a party to this transaction who has accepted an offer or counteroffer to buy or sell real property delivers notice of that acceptance to the party who made the offer or counteroffer in accordance with the Notices section of the Agreement. Notice of the Binding Agreement Date may be delivered by either party (or the Broker working with or representing such party) to the other party. If notice of accurate Binding Agreement Date is delivered, the party receiving notice shall sign the same and immediately return it to the other party. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary contained in this Agreement, it is the express intent of this section that (1) a broker or licensee involved in the real estate transaction may perform the ministerial task of filling in the Binding Agreement Date and (2) sending a fully signed purchase and sale agreement with a specific Binding Agreement Date included, that one of the parties has agreed to, constitutes notice of the Binding Agreement Date to the other party.

- k. Objection to Binding Agreement Date: If the Buyer or Seller objects to the date entered as the Binding Agreement Date, then within one (1) day from receiving notice of Binding Agreement Date, the party objecting shall send notice of the objection to the other party. The objection shall be resolved by the written amendment between the Buyer and Seller by executing a binding agreement date confirmation (F733). The absence of an agreement on the Binding Agreement Date shall not render this Agreement unenforceable. The failure of a party to timely object will result in the parties accepting the Binding Agreement Date as entered.
- I. Rules for Interpreting This Agreement: In the event of internal conflicts or inconsistencies in this Agreement, the following rules for how those conflicts or inconsistencies shall be resolved will apply:
 - (1) Handwritten changes shall control over pre-printed or typed provisions;
 - (2) Exhibits shall control over the main body of the Agreement;
 - (3) Special Stipulations shall control over both exhibits and the main body of the Agreement;
 - (4) Notwithstanding the above, any amendatory clause in an FHA or VA exhibit shall control over inconsistent or conflicting provisions contained in a special stipulation, another exhibit or the main body of the Agreement.
- m. Statute of Limitations: All claims of any nature whatsoever against Broker(s) and/or their affiliated licensees, whether asserted in litigation or arbitration and sounding in breach of contract and/or tort, must be brought within two (2) years from the date any claim or cause of action arises. Such actions shall thereafter be time-barred.
- n. Survival of Agreement: The following shall survive the closing of this Agreement: (1) the obligation of a party to pay a real estate commission; (2) any warranty of title; (3) all written representations of Seller in this Agreement regarding the Property or neighborhood in which the Property is located; (4) the section on condemnation; (5) the section on attorney's fees; (6) the obligations of the parties regarding ad valorem real property taxes; and (7) any obligations which the parties herein agree shall survive the closing or may be performed or fulfilled after the Closing.
- o. Terminology: As the context may require in this Agreement: (1) the singular shall mean the plural and vice versa; and (2) all pronouns shall mean and include the person, entity, firm, or corporation to which they relate. The letters "N.A." or "N/A", if used in this Agreement, shall mean "Not Applicable", except where the context would indicate otherwise.
- **p. Time of Essence:** Time is of the essence of this Agreement.

5. Definitions.

- a. Banking Day: A "Banking Day" shall mean a day on which a bank is open to the public for carrying out substantially all of its banking functions. For purposes herein, a "Banking Day" shall mean Monday through Friday excluding federal holidays.
- b. Binding Agreement Date: The "Binding Agreement Date" shall be the date when a party to this transaction who has accepted an offer or counteroffer to buy or sell real property delivers notice of that acceptance to the party who made the offer or counteroffer in accordance with the Notices section of the Agreement. Once that occurs, this Agreement shall be deemed a Binding Agreement.
- c. Broker: In this Agreement, the term "Broker" shall mean a licensed Georgia real estate broker or brokerage firm and its affiliated licensees unless the context would indicate otherwise.
- **d.** Business Day: A "Business Day" shall mean a day on which substantially all businesses are open for business. For all purposes herein, a "Business Day" shall mean Monday through Friday excluding federal holidays.
- e. Day: For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "Day" shall mean a full calendar day ending at 11:59 p.m., except as may be provided for elsewhere herein. For the purposes of counting days for determining deadlines, the specific date referenced as either the Binding Agreement Date or the date from which the deadline shall be counted will be day zero.
- f. Material Relationship: A material relationship shall mean any actually known personal, familial, social, or business relationship between the broker or the broker's affiliated licensees and any other party to this transaction which could impair the ability of the broker or affiliated licensees to exercise fair and independent judgment relative to their client.
- 6. WARNING TO BUYERS AND SELLERS: BEWARE OF CYBER-FRAUD. Fraudulent e-mails attempting to get the buyer and/or seller to wire money to criminal computer hackers are increasingly common in real estate transactions. Specifically, criminals are impersonating the online identity of the actual mortgage lender, closing attorney, real estate broker or other person or companies involved in the real estate transaction. In that role, the criminals send fake wiring instructions attempting to trick buyers and/or sellers into wiring them money related to the real estate transaction, including, for example, the buyer's earnest money, the cash needed for the buyer to close, and/or the seller's proceeds from the closing. These instructions, if followed, will result in the money being wired to the criminals. In many cases, the fraudulent email is believable because it is sent from what appears to be the email address/domain of the legitimate company or person responsible for sending the buyer or seller wiring instructions. The buyer and/or seller should verify wiring instructions sent by email by independently looking up and calling the telephone number of the company or person purporting to have sent them. Buyers and sellers should never call the telephone number provided with wiring instructions sent by email since they may end up receiving a fake verification from the criminals. Buyer and sellers should be on special alert for: 1) emails directing the buyer and/or seller to wire money to a bank or bank account in a state other than Georgia; and 2) emails from a person or company involved in the real estate transaction that are slightly different (often by one letter, number, or character) from the actual email address of the person or company.

7. LIMIT ON BROKER'S LIABILITY. BUYER AND SELLER ACKNOWLEDGE THAT BROKER(S):

a. SHALL, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES, HAVE ANY LIABILITY GREATER THAN THE AMOUNT OF THE REAL ESTATE COMMISSION PAID HEREUNDER TO BROKER (EXCLUDING ANY COMMISSION AMOUNT PAID TO A COOPERATING REAL ESTATE BROKER, IF ANY) OR, IF NO REAL ESTATE COMMISSION IS PAID TO BROKER, THEN THE SUM OF \$100; AND b NOTWITHSTANDING THE ABOVE, SHALL HAVE NO LIABILITY IN EXCESS OF \$100 FOR ANY LOSS OF FUNDS AS THE RESULT OF WIRE OR CYBER FRAUD.

8.	Exhibits and Addenda. All exhibits and/or addenda attached hereto, listed below, or referenced herein are made a part of this Agreement.
	\square All Cash Sale Exhibit (F401) " "
	□ Back-up Agreement Contingency Exhibit (F604) ""
	□ Closing Attorney Acting as Holder of Earnest Money Exhibit (F510) ""
	Community Association Disclosure Exhibit (F322) ""
	□ Condominium Resale Purchase and Sale Exhibit (F204) ""
	Conventional Loan Contingency Exhibit (F404) ""
	□ FHA Loan Contingency Exhibit (F407) ""
	□ Lead-Based Paint Exhibit (F316) ""
	□ Lease Purchase and Sale Exhibit (F207) (to be used with F916) ""
	□ Lease for Lease/Purchase Agreement (F916) (to be used with F916)"
	Legal Description Exhibit (F807 or other) ""
	□ Loan Assumption Exhibit (F416) "" □ Sale or Lease of Buyer's Property Contingency Exhibit (F601) " "
	Seller's Property Disclosure Statement Exhibit (F301, F302, F304, F307 or F310) ""
	Survey of Property as Exhibit ""
	Temporary Occupancy Agreement for Seller after Closing Exhibit (F219) ""
	USDA-RD Loan Contingency Exhibit (F413) ""
	□ VA Loan Contingency Exhibit (F410) ""
	Other
SI	ECIAL STIPULATIONS: The following Special Stipulations are made a part of this Agreement.
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Additional Special Stipulations (F246) are attached.

By signing this Agreement, Buyer and Seller acknowledge that they have each read and understood this Agreement and agree to its terms.

Buyer's Signature	1 Seller's Signature
Print or Type Name Date	Print or Type Name Date
Buyer's Address for Receiving Notice	Seller's Address for Receiving Notice
Buyer's Phone Number: Cell Home Work	Seller's Phone Number: 🗆 Cell 🛛 Home 🖵 Work
Buyer's E-mail Address	Seller's E-mail Address
Buyer's Signature	2 Seller's Signature
Print or Type Name Date	Print or Type Name Date
Buyer's Address for Receiving Notice	Seller's Address for Receiving Notice
Buyer's Phone Number: Cell Home Work	Seller's Phone Number: Cell Home Work
Buyer's E-mail Address Additional Signature Page (F267) is attached.	Seller's E-mail Address Additional Signature Page (F267) is attached.
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Buyer's E-mail Address Additional Signature Page (F267) is attached. uyer's Broker/Affiliated Licensee Contact Information PalmerHouse Properties Buyer Brokerage Firm Broker/Affiliated Licensee Signature Date THOMAS ABBOTT Print or Type Name (770) 713-1505 Licensee's Phone Number Fax Number	Seller's E-mail Address Additional Signature Page (F267) is attached. Seller's Broker/Affiliated Licensee Contact Informat Seller Brokerage Firm Broker/Affiliated Licensee Signature Date Print or Type Name GA Real Estate License
Buyer's E-mail Address Additional Signature Page (F267) is attached. uyer's Broker/Affiliated Licensee Contact Information PalmerHouse Properties Buyer Brokerage Firm Broker/Affiliated Licensee Signature Date THOMAS ABBOTT Print or Type Name (770) 713-1505 Licensee's Phone Number Licensee's E-mail Address Atlanta Board REALTOR® Membership	Seller's E-mail Address Additional Signature Page (F267) is attached. Seller's Broker/Affiliated Licensee Contact Informat Seller Brokerage Firm Broker/Affiliated Licensee Signature Date Print or Type Name GA Real Estate Licensee Licensee's Phone Number
Buyer's E-mail Address Additional Signature Page (F267) is attached. Suyer's Broker/Affiliated Licensee Contact Information PalmerHouse Properties Buyer Brokerage Firm Broker/Affiliated Licensee Signature Date THOMAS ABBOTT Print or Type Name (770) 713-1505 Licensee's Phone Number Fax Number Licensee's E-mail Address Atlanta Board REALTOR® Membership 2911 Piedmont Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30305 Broker's Address	Seller's E-mail Address Additional Signature Page (F267) is attached. Seller's Broker/Affiliated Licensee Contact Informat Seller Brokerage Firm Broker/Affiliated Licensee Signature Date Print or Type Name GA Real Estate Licensee Licensee's Phone Number Fax Number Licensee's Email Address
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CONDOMINIUM RESALE PURCHASE AND SALE "

EXHIBIT "

(not to be used on initial sale of unit)



2022 Printing

This Exhibit is part of the Agreement with an Offer Date of	for the purchase and sale of that certain
Property known as:,,	, Georgia
1. Legal Description. The full legal description of the Property is: Unit of	ts assigned to the unit ("Unit"). The Condominium on"), recorded in Deed Book, Page plat of survey filed in Condominium Plat Book
2. Common Expense Assessments. Seller shall pay his or her share of assessments and owing on Unit, as provided for in the Declaration. Such assessments and other commo the closing. Buyer shall pay all common expenses assessed against and owning on the the terms and provisions of the Declaration.	nexpenses shall be prorated through the date of
3. Common Elements Sold "As-Is." Since the seller of a condominium Unit cannot norm elements of the condominium, the common elements of the Condominium, including an Declaration, are being sold "as is" with all faults including but not limited to lead-based p termites and other wood-destroying organisms. Seller shall have no obligation to Condominium. Buyer acknowledges that Buyer has evaluated the condition of the comm into this Agreement. The term "Unit" as used in this Inspections Paragraph (notwithstand Agreement to the contrary) shall mean the Unit excluding the common elements and an	y limited common elements assigned to Unit in the aint, lead-based paint hazards and damage from make repairs to the common elements of the non elements of the Condominium prior to entering ding and other definition of "Unit" contained in the

Declaration.

Buyer's Initials:

Seller's Initials:

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SELLER'S PROPERTY DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (CONDOMINIUM) EXHIBIT "____"



2022 Printing

This Seller's Property Disclosure Statement ("Statement") is an exhibit to the Purchase and Sale Agreement with an Offer Date of for the Property known as and located at:

____, Georgia, __

_____. This Statement is intended

to make it easier for Seller to fulfill Seller's legal duty to disclose hidden defects in the Property of which Seller is aware. Seller is obligated to disclose such defects even when the Property is being sold "as-is."

A. INSTRUCTIONS TO SELLER IN COMPLETING THIS STATEMENT.

In completing this Statement, Seller agrees to:

- (1) answer all questions in reference to the Unit and the improvements thereon;
- (2) answer all questions fully, accurately and to the actual knowledge and belief of all Sellers;
- (3) provide additional explanations to all "yes" answers in the corresponding Explanation section below each group of questions (including providing to Buyer any additional documentation in Seller's possession), unless the "yes" answer is self-evident;
- (4) promptly revise the Statement if there are any material changes in the answers to any of the questions prior to closing and provide a copy of the same to the Buyer and any Broker involved in the transaction;
- (5) also complete F322, Community Association Disclosure Exhibit.
- B. HOW THIS STATEMENT SHOULD BE USED BY BUYER. Caveat emptor or "buyer beware" is the law in Georgia. Buyer should conduct a thorough inspection of the Property. If Seller has not occupied the Property recently. Seller's knowledge of the Property's condition may be limited. Buyer is expected to use reasonable care to inspect the Property and confirm that is suitable for Buyer's purposes. If an inspection of the Property reveals problems or areas of concern that would cause a reasonable Buyer to investigate further, Buyer should investigate further. A "yes" or "no" answer to a question means "yes" or "no" to the actual knowledge and belief of all Sellers of the Property.

For the purposes of this Disclosure Statement, the term "Unit" shall not include any interest in the common elements (including limited common elements) assigned to Unit in the Declaration. The term "Association" shall mean the condominium or Unit owners' association for the above referenced condominiums. The term "Property" shall refer to all property made a part of the condominium in which Unit is located.

C. SELLER DISCLOSURES.

1.	GENERAL:	YES	NO
	(a) Is the Unit vacant?		
	If yes, how long has it been since the Unit has been occupied?		
	(b) Is the Unit or any portion thereof leased?		
EX	PLANATION:		

2.	LEAD-BASED PAINT:	YES	NO
	(a) Was any part of the residential dwelling on the Property or any painted component, fixture, or		
	material used therein constructed or manufacture prior to 1978? IF YES, THE "LEAD-BASED		
	PAINT EXHIBIT" GAR F316 MUST BE EXECUTED BY THE PARTIES AND THE "LEAD-		
	BASED PAINT PAMPHLET" GAR CB04 MUST BE PROVIDED TO THE BUYER.		

THIS FORM IS COPYRIGHTED AND MAY ONLY BE USED IN REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS IN WHICH <u>Ihomas Abbott</u> IS INVOLVED AS A REAL ESTATE LICENSEE. UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THE FORM MAY RESULT IN LEGAL SANCTIONS BEING BROUGHT AGAINST THE USER AND SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® AT (770) 451-1831. Copyright© 2022 by Georgia Association of REALTORS®, Inc. F304, Seller's Property Disclosure Statement (Condominium) Exhibit, Page 1 of 6, 01/01/22

3.	ST	RUCTURAL ITEMS, ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS:	YES	NO
	(a)	What year was Unit constructed?		
	(b)	Is the condominium a condominium conversion?		
		If yes, what year was it converted?		
	(c)	Has there been any settling, movement, cracking or breakage of the foundations or structural supports of the improvements?		
	(d)	Have there been any additions, structural changes, or any other major alterations to the Unit subsequent to the time the Unit was submitted to the condominium form of ownership?		
	(e)	Has any work been done where a required building permit was not obtained?		
	(f)	Are there violations of building codes, housing codes, or zoning regulations (not otherwise grandfathered)?		
	(g)	Are any additions or modification of Unit in violation of CCRs, HOA Rules or By-Laws?		
EXF	PLAN	ATION:		

4.	SYSTEMS and COMPONENTS:	YES	NO
	(a) Has any part of the HVAC system(s) been replaced during Seller's ownership?		
	(b) Date of last HVAC system(s) service:		
-	(c) Is any heated and cooled portion of the Unit not served by a central heating and cooling system?		
_	(d) Is any portion of the heating and cooling system in need of repair or replacement?		
	(e) Does the Unit have aluminum wiring other than in the primary service line?		
	(f) Are any fireplaces decorative only or in need of repair?		
	(g) Have there been any reports of damaging moisture behind exterior walls constructed of synthetic stucco?		
	(h) Is any heating or cooling system shared by one or more units in the condominium?		
	 (i) Are any systems/components subject to a lease or rental payment plan (i.e. HVAC, security system, appliances, alternate energy source systems, etc.)? 		
EXP	PLANATION:		

5.	SEWER/PLUMBING RELATED ITEMS:	YES	NO
	(a) Approximate age of water heater(s)		
	(b) What is the drinking water source: 🖸 public 🛛 private 🔲 well		
	(c) If the drinking water is from a well, give the date of last service:		
	(d) If the drinking water is from a well, has there ever been a test the results of which indicate that the water is not safe to drink? If yes, date of testing:		
	(e) What is the sewer system: 🖸 public 🛛 private 🔲 septic tank		
	(f) If the Unit is served by a septic system, how many bedrooms was the septic system approved for by local government authorities?		
	(g) Is the Unit served by a sewage pump?		
	(h) Has any septic tank or cesspool on Property ever been professionally serviced?		
	If yes, give the date of last service:		
	(i) Are there any leaks, backups, or other similar problems with any portion of the plumbing, water, or sewage systems or damage therefrom?		
	(j) Is there presently any polybutylene plumbing, other than the primary service line?		
	(k) Has there ever been any damage from a frozen water line, spigot, or fixture?		
EX	PLANATION:		

6.	ROOFS, GUTTERS, and DOWNSPOUTS:	YES	NO			
	(a) Approximate age of roof on main dwelling:years.					
	(b) Has any part of the roof been repaired during Seller's ownership?					
(c) Are there any roof leaks or other problems with the roof, roof flashing, gutters, or downspouts?						
ΕX	PLANATION:					
7.	FLOODING, DRAINING, MOISTURE, and SPRINGS:	YES	NO			
	 (a) Is there now or has there been anywater leakage, accumulation, or dampness within Unit or damage therefrom? 					
	(b) Have any repairs been made to control any water or dampness problems in the Unit?					
	(c) Is any part of the Unit or any improvements thereon presently located in a 100-year Special Flood Hazard Area?					
	(d) Has there ever been any flooding?					
	(e) Are there any streams that do not flow year round or underground springs?					
(f) Does mold appear on interior portions of the Unit other than on the walls, floors or ceilings of showers/bathtubs or within common element walls adjacent to Unit?						
ΕX	PLANATION:	•	•			
8.	SOIL AND BOUNDARIES:	YES	NO			
	 (a) Are there any landfills (other than foundation backfill), graves, burial pits, caves, mine shafts, trash dumps or wells (in use or abandoned)? 					
	(b) Is there now or has there ever been any visible soil settlement or movement?					
(c) Are there presently any encroachments, unrecorded easements or boundary line disputes with a neighboring property owner?						
	(d) Do any of the improvements encroach onto a neighboring property?					
	(e) Is there a shared driveway, alleyway, or private road servicing the Unit?					
EX	PLANATION:					

9.	TERMITES, DRY ROT, PESTS, and WOOD DESTROYING ORGANISMS:	YES	NO
	(a) Are you aware of any wild if accessing the attic or other interior portions of the residence?		
	(b) Is there any damage or hazardous condition resulting from such wildlife intrusion; from insects (such as termites, bees and ants); or by fungi or dry rot?		
_	(c) Is there presently a bond, warranty or service contract for termites or other wood destroying organisms by a licensed pest control company?		
	If yes, what is the cost to transfer? \$ What is the annual cost?		
	If yes, company name/contact:		
-	Coverage: Dire-treatment and repair Dire-treatment Diperiodic inspections only		
	Expiration Date Renewal Date		
EXP	ANATION:		

10.	ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH, and SAFETY CONCERNS:	YES	NO
	(a) Are there any underground tanks or toxic or hazardous substances such as asbestos?		
-	(b) Has Methamphetamine ("Meth") ever been produced in the Unit?		
-	(c) Have there ever been adverse test results for radon, lead, mold or any other potentially toxic or environmentally hazardous substances?		
XP	LANATION:		
1	PARKING AND STORAGE:	YES	NO
••	 (a) Are there any limited common element parking spaces assigned to the Unit and reserved for the Owner's exclusive use? 		
-	If yes, please identify the number and location of the same:		
	(b) Are there any limited common element storage rooms, lockers or bins assigned to the Unit and reserved for the Owner's exclusive use?		
-	If yes, please identify the number and location of the same:		
XP	LANATION:		
2	LITIGATION and INSURANCE:	YES	NO
Z	(a) Is there now or has there been any litigation therein alleging negligent construction or		
-	defective building products? (b) Has there been any award or payment of money in lieu of repairs for defective building		
-	products or poor construction? (c) Has any release been signed regarding defective products or poor construction that would limit a future sum of form making any slains?		
	 limit a future owner from making any claims? (d) During Seller's ownership have there been any insurance claims for more than 10% of the value of the Unit? 		
-	(e) Is the Property subject to a threatened or pending condemnation action?		
-	(f) How many insurance claims have been filed during Seller's ownership?		
ΞΧΡ	LANATION:		
		VEC	NO
13.	OTHER HIDDEN DEFECTS:	YES	NO
	(a) Are there any other hidden defects that have not otherwise been disclosed?		
EXP	LANATION:		
			1
14.	AGRICULTURAL DISCLOSURE: (a) ds the Property within, partially within, or adjacent to any property zoned or identified on an	YES	NO
	(a) is the property within, partially within, or adjacent to any property zoned or identified on an approved county land use plan as agricultural or forestry use?		
	(b) Is the Property receiving preferential tax treatment as an agricultural property?		
	It is the policy of this state and this community to conserve, protect, and encourage the development and and forest land for the production of food, fiber, and other products, and also for its natural and envir notice is to inform prospective property owners or other persons or entities leasing or acquiring an inter-	ronmental va	alue. Th
	property in which they are about to acquire an interest lies within, partially within, or adjacent to an		
	identified for farm and forest activities and that farm and forest activities occur in the area. Such farm ar	nd forest acti	vities ma
	include intensive operations that cause discomfort and inconveniences that involve, but are not limit		

fumes, dust, smoke, insects, operations of machinery during any 24-hour period, storage and disposal of manure, and the application by spraying or otherwise of chemical fertilizers, soil amendments, herbicides, and pesticides. One or more of these inconveniences may occur as the result of farm or forest activities which are in conformance with existing laws and regulations and accepted customs and standards.

□ Additional pages are attached.

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D. FIXTURES CHECKLIST

Directions on HOW TO USE: It is often unclear what constitutes a fixture which remains with the Unit versus personal property which does not remain with the Unit. To avoid disputes, Seller shall have the right to remove all items on the checklist below that are left blank. THE ITEMS ON THE CHECKLIST BELOW THAT ARE CHECKED OR MARKED SHALL REMAIN WITH THE UNIT. All items remaining with Unit shall include remotes and/or all accessories necessary for use. Unless otherwise indicated, if an item is left blank, the Seller may remove all of that item from the Property. For example, if "Refrigerator" is left blank, Seller may remove all Refrigerators on the Property. This checklist is intended to supersede the common law of fixtures with regard to the items below. The common law of fixtures shall apply to all items not on this checklist. Seller shall remove all items left blank below prior to closing or the transfer of possession, whichever is later. Seller shall lose the right to remove those items not timely removed but shall remain liable for the cost of Buyer having to dispose of such items provided that Buyer disposes of them within 30 days after Closing. In removing tems, Seller shall use reasonable care to prevent and repair damage to the area where the item was removed.

Items identified as remaining with the Property shall mean those specific items as they existed in the Property as of the Offer Date. No such item shall be removed from the Property unless it is broken or destroyed. In the event such an item is removed, it shall be replaced with a substantially identical item, if reasonably available. If not reasonably available, it shall be replaced with a substantially identical item, if reasonably available. If not reasonably available, it shall be replaced with a substantially similar item of equal quality and value, or better. The same or newer model of the item being replaced in the same color and size and with the same functions or better shall be considered substantially identical. This section entitled "Fixtures Checklist" shall survive Closing.

Appliances	Television (TV)	Birdhouses	Fire Sprinkler System			
Clothes Dryer	TV Antenna	🗖 Boat Dock	□ Gate			
Clothes Washing	TV Mounts/Brackets	🗆 Fence - Invisible	■ Safe (Built-In)			
Machine	TV Wiring	🗆 Dog House	Smoke Detector			
Dishwasher	C C	🗆 Flag Pole	Window Screens			
Garage Door	Interior Fixtures	🗆 Gazebo				
Opener	Ceiling Fan	□ Irrigation System	Systems			
Garbage Disposal	Chandelier	Landscaping Lights	A/C Window Unit			
Ice Maker	Closet System	🗆 Mailbox 🔨 🔪 👘	🖊 🗖 Air Purifier			
Microwave Oven	☐ Fireplace (FP)	□ Out/Storage Building	Whole House Fan			
🗖 Oven	□ FP Gas Logs	Porch Swing	Attic Ventilator Fan			
Refrigerator w/o Freezer	FP Screen/Door	□ Statuary	Ventilator Fan			
Refrigerator/Freezer	FP Wood Burning Insert	□ Stepping Stones	Car Charging Station			
Free Standing Freezer	Light Bulbs	Swing Set	Dehumidifier			
□ Stove	Light Fixtures	Tree House	Generator			
Surface Cook Top	☐ Mirrors		Humidifier			
Trash Compactor	🛛 Wall Mirrors	Weather Vane	Propane Tank			
Vacuum System	🛛 Vanity (hanging) 🛛 🥄		Propane Fuel in Tank			
Vent Hood	Mirrors	Recreation	🗖 Fuel Oil Tank			
Warming Drawer	Shelving Unit & System	Aboveground Pool	Fuel Oil in Tank			
Wine Cooler	□ Shower Head/ <mark>S</mark> prayer	Gas Grill	□ Sewage Pump			
	□ Storage Unit/System	🗖 Hot Tub	□ Solar Panel			
Home Media	Window Blinds (and	Outdoor Furniture	Sump Pump			
Amplifier	Hardware)	Outdoor Playhouse	☐ Thermostat			
Cable Jacks	Window Shutters (and	Pool Equipment	Water Purification			
Cable Receiver	Ha <mark>rd</mark> ware)	Pool Chemicals	System			
□ Cable Remotes	│ │ Window Draperies (and	🗖 Sauna	Water Softener			
Intercom System	Hardware)		System			
□ Internet HUB	Unused Paint	Safety	□ Well Pump			
Internet Wiring		🗖 Alarm System (Burglar)				
□ Satellite Dish	Landscaping / Yard	□ Alarm System (Smoke/Fire)	Other			
Satellite Receiver		Security Camera	□			
Speakers		Carbon Monoxide Detector	□			
□ Speaker Wiring	Basketball Post					
Switch Plate Covers	and Goal	Door & Window Hardware	□			
		s remaining with Property where Se				
		r" is marked as staying with the Pro				
efrigerator in the basement, the extra refrigerator and its location shall be described below. This section shall control over any conflicting or						

Items Needing Repair. The following items remaining with Property are in need of repair or replacement:

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inconsistent provisions contained elsewhere herein.

RECEIPT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY BUYER	SELLER'S REPRESENTATION REGARDING THIS STATEMENT
Buyer acknowledges receipt of this Seller's Property Disclosure Statement.	Seller represents that the questions in this Statement have been answered to the actual knowledge and belief of all Sellers of the Property
1 Buyer's Signature	1 Seller's Signature
Print or Type Name	Print or Type Name
Date	Date
2 Buyer's Signature	2 Seller's Signature
Print or Type Name	Print or Type Name
Date	Date
Additional Signature Page (F267) is attached.	Additional Signature Page (F267) is attached.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION DISCLOSURE EXHIBIT "_____"



		2022 Printing
Thi	is Exhibit is part of the Agreement with an Offer Date of	for the purchase and sale of that certain
		,, Georgia("Property").
Dir cor Bu Dis ("A	rections for Filling Out This Community Association Disclose mpletely. If new information is learned by Seller which materially cl yer with a revised copy of this Disclosure up until Closing (see Se sclosures). Seller should ensure the disclosures being made and association") and/or Association Manager(s).	ure ("Disclosure"). Seller must fill out this Disclosure accurately and hanges the answers herein, Seller must immediately update and provide ection B for Seller's payment obligations related to initial and updated e accurate by confirming the same with the Community Association we the Buyer basic information about the community in which Buyer is
		ents for the community ("Covenants") to fully understand Buyer's rights
ano As	d obligations therein. This Disclosure does not address all issues	e. The Covenants can normally be amended to reflect the changing
~ <i>v</i>	KEY TERMS AND CONDITIONS	
1.		COME A MEMBER (Select all that apply. The boxes not selected shall
	not be a part of this Exhibit)	
	Mandatory Membership Condominium Association	Mandatory Membership Age Restricted Community
	Mandatory Membership Community Association	All units are occupied by person 62 or older.
	Mandatory Membership Master Association	At least 80% of the occupied units are occupied by at least one person who is 55 years of age or older
2.	CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ASSOCIATION(S)	
	a. Name of Association:	
	Contact Person / Title:	
	Association Management Company:	
	Telephone Number:	Email Address:
	Mailing Address:	Website:
	h Nama afMantas Association:	
	b. Name of Master Association: Contact Person / Title:	
	Association Management Company.	
		Email Address:
		Website:
3.	ASSESSMENTS	
	The total annual assessments paid to all the above selected Asso	per year and
	paid as follows: (Select all of that apply. The boxes not selected	I shall not be a part of this Agreement)
	Monthly Quarterly Semi-Annually Annually	□ Other:
4.	SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS a Buyer's total portion of all special assessments Under Conside	eration is \$
	b_Buyer's total portion of all approved special assessments is \$	
((lect all of that apply. The boxes not selected shall not be a part of this
V	Agreement) Annually Quarterly Semi-Annually	Annually Other:
		all special assessment(s) that are passed or Under Consideration after
		more, Buyer shall have the right, but not the obligation to terminate the
		tes the Agreement within five (5) days from being notified of the above,
	after which Buyer's right to terminate shall be deemed waive	d.
TU	IS FORM IS COPYRIGHTED AND MAY ONLY BE USED IN REAL ESTATE TRA	NSACTIONS IN WHICH THOMAS Abbott is involved as a real
		L SANCTIONS BEING BROUGHT AGAINST THE USER AND SHOULD BE REPORTED

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PALMERHOUSE

5.	5. TRANSFER, INITIATION, AND ADMINISTRATIVE FEES							
	To the extent Transfer, Initiation, and Administrative Fees are fully and accurately disclosed by Seller, Buyer shall pay							
	\$ for all Transfer, Initiation, and Administrative Fees.							
6.	6. <u>UTILITY EXPENSES</u>							
	Buyer is required to pay for utilities which are billed separately by the Association and are in addition to any other Association							
	assessments. The Association	n bills separately for: 🖵 Elec	tric Ll Water/Sewer L	Natural Gas 🛛 Cable TV 🗍 Internet				
	Other:							
7.	ASSESSMENTS PAY FOR F	OLLOWING SERVICES, AN	<u>MENITIES, AND COSTS</u> . ⊤	he following services, amenities, and costs are				
	part of this Agreement).	nual assessment. (Select all v	vnich apply. Items not selec	ted in Section 7.a. and/or Section 7.b. shall not be				
	a. For Property costs inclu	-						
		□ Natural Gas		Other:				
		□ Water						
	Heating	Hazard Insurance	Dwelling Exterior					
	Internet Service	Flood Insurance	Yard Maintenance	Other:				
	b. <u>Common Area / Element</u>		e the following:					
			Hazard Insurance	Road Maintenance				
	Gate Attendant	Tennis Court	Flood Insurance	Other:				
	All Common Area	Golf Course	Pest Control	Other:				
	Utilities	Playground	Termite Control	Other:				
	All Common Area	Exercise Facility	Dwelling Exterior	Other:				
	Maintenance	Equestrian Facility		Other:				
	Internet Service	Marina/Boat Storage	Trash Pick-Up	Other:				
			visting literation valuting to a	alleged construction defects in the Association in				
0.				alleged construction defects in the Association in association in association in association in association in a				
			ou on ontoing migation, proc					
	Check if additional pages	are attached.						
9.				e Association(s) referenced herein alleging that as received such a notice of violation or lawsuit,				
	summarize the same below a							
		· · · · ·						
	Check if additional pages	are attached.						
B.	FURTHER EXPLANATIONS	CORRESPONDING PAR	AGRAPHS IN SECTION A					
5.								
1.	TYPE OF ASSOCIATION IN							
				munity, business, and governance aspects of the unity as provided in the deed, Covenants and				
		lations, declaration, and/or o						
	b. Examination: Buyer acknowledge	owledges that ownership of th	e Property is subject to decl	arations, certain restrictions (including the ability				
	to rent the Property), and Restrictions are subject to	by-laws, which may include change by actions of the Ass	additional costs as a men	nber of a mandatory membership Association.				
				ement(s) are the exclusive responsibility of the				
		the Property is unable to mak						
2.	2. CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ASSOCIATION(S)							
	a. Consent of Buyer to Reveal Information to Association(s). Buyer hereby authorizes closing attorney to reveal to the Association							
	from whom the closing attorney is seeking a Closing Letter the Buyer's name and any contact information the closing attorney has on the Buyer such as telephone numbers, e-mail address, etc. The closing attorney may rely on this authorization.							

3. ASSESSMENTS

- a. **Disclosure Regarding Fees.** Owners of property in communities where there is a Mandatory Membership Community Association are obligated to pay certain recurring fees, charges, and assessments (collectively "Fee") to the Association. Fees can and do increase over time and, on occasion, there may be the need for a special assessment. The risk of paying increased Fees is assumed by the Buyer in living in a community with a Mandatory Membership Community Association.
- b. Buyer shall pay a) any pre-paid regular assessment (excluding Special Assessments) due at Closing for a period of time after Closing; and b) move-in fees, including fees and security deposits to reserve an elevator as these fees are not considered Transfer, Initiation, and Administrative Fees.
- c. Seller shall pay a) all Fees owing on the Property which come due before the Closing so that the Property is sold free and clear of liens and monies owed to the Association; and b) any Seller move-out Fees, foreclosure Fees or other fees specifically intended by the Association to be paid by Seller.
- d. Account Statement or Clearance Letter. Seller shall pay the cost of any Association account statement or clearance letter ("Closing Letter") including all amounts required by the Association or management company to be pre-paid in order to obtain such Closing Letter. Seller shall not be reimbursed at Closing for any amounts prepaid in order to obtain the Closing Letter. Within two (2) days of notice from the closing attorney, Seller shall pay for the Closing Letter as instructed by the closing attorney. Seller's failure to follow the instructions of the closing attorney may cause a delay in Closing and/or result in additional fees being charged to Seller.

4. SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS

- a. Under Consideration: For all purposes herein, the term "Under Consideration" with reference to a special assessment shall mean that a notice of a meeting at which a special assessment will be voted upon, has been sent to the members of the Association. If a special assessment(s) has been voted upon and rejected by the members of the Association, it shall not be deemed to be Under Consideration by the Association. Seller warrants that Seller has accurately and fully disclosed all special assessment(s) passed or Under Consideration to Buyer. This warranty shall survive the Closing.
- b. Liability for Undisclosed Special Assessments: With respect to special assessment(s) Under Consideration or approved before Binding Agreement Date that are either not disclosed or are not disclosed accurately by Seller to Buyer, Seller shall be liable for and shall reimburse Buyer for that portion of the special assessment(s) that was either not disclosed or was not disclosed accurately.
- c. Who Pays for Disclosed Special Assessments: With respect to special assessments. Under Consideration or approved and accurately disclosed above, if an unpaid special assessment is due but may be paid in installments, it shall be deemed to be due in installments for purposes of determining whether it is to be paid by Buyer or Seller. If the special assessment(s) is adopted and due in whole or being paid by installment, installment payments due prior to or on Closing shall be paid by the Seller; and installment payments due subsequent to Closing shall be paid by the Buyer.
- d. Special Assessments Arising after Binding Agreement Date: With respect to special assessments that are only Under Consideration after the Binding Agreement Date and are promptly disclosed by Seller to Buyer:
 - i. If the special assessment(s) is adopted and due, in whole or in part, prior to or on Closing, that portion due prior to or on Closing shall be paid by the Seller; and
 - ii. If the special assessment(s) is adopted and due in whole or part subsequent to Closing, that portion due subsequent to Closing shall be paid by Buyer.

5. TRANSFER, INITIATION, AND ADMINISTRATIVE FEES

- a. Buyer Pays: Buyer shall pay any initial fee, capital contribution, new member fee, transfer fee, new account set-up fee, fees similar to the above but which are referenced by a different name, one-time fees associated with closing of the transaction and fees to transfer keys, gate openers, fobs and other similar equipment (collective, "Transfer, Initiation, and Administrative Fees) to the extent the total amount due is accurately disclosed above. Advance assessments due at Closing for a period of time after Closing, shall not be Transfer, Initiation, and Administrative Fees and shall be paid by Buyer.
- b. Seller Pays: Seller shall pay any amount in excess of the sum disclosed in Section A(5), even in the event of any later disclosures made by the Seller of increase in such Transfer, Initiation, and Administrative Fees. In the event Seller fills in the above blank with "N/A", or anything other than a dollar amount, or is left empty, it shall be the same as Seller filling in the above blank with \$0.00.
- c. Fees Defined: All Transfer, Initiation, and Administrative Fees paid by Seller pursuant to this section are considered actual Seller fees and are not a Seller concession or contribution to the Buyer's cost to close.

1 Buyer's Signature	1 Seller's Signature
Print or Type Name	Print or Type Name
Date	Date
2 Buyer's Signature	2 Seller's Signature
Print or Type Name	Print or Type Name
Date	Date
☐ Additional Signature Page (F267) is attached.	☐ Additional Signature Page (F267) is attached.
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CONVENTIONAL LOAN CONTINGENCY EXHIBIT "



2022 Printing

This Exhibit is part of the Agreement with an Offer Date of

_for the purchase and sale of that cer	tain
--	------

Property known as:

- - Georgia
- 1. Application. Buyer shall promptly apply for and in good faith seek to obtain the conventional loan or loans described below ("Loan(s)") such that Buyer can fulfill Buyer's obligations hereunder prior to the expiration of this Conventional Loan Contingency. [Select A. or A. and B. below. Any box not selected shall not be a part of this Agreement. All Loan terms must be filled in.]

ΔΑ.	FIRST	Loan Amount	Term	Interest Rate (at par)	Rate Type	Source Of Loans Term
	MORTGAGE	% of purchase price	years	% per annum (or initial rate on adjustable loan)	Fixed Adjustable Interest Only	 Institutional Seller Other
□ в.	SECOND MORTGAGE LOAN	% of purchase price	years	% per annum (or initial rate on adjustable loan)	Fixed Adjustable Interest Only	 Institutional Seller Other

2. Use of Particular Mortgage Lender. Unless an Approved Mortgage Lender is identified below, Buyer may apply for approval of the Loan(s) with any institutional mortgage lender licensed to do business in Georgia. If an Approved Mortgage Lender(s) is identified below, Buyer shall apply for approval of the Loan(s) with at least one such Approved Mortgage Lender. Nothing herein shall require Buyer to obtain mortgage financing from an Approved Mortgage Lender.



(hereinafter singularly "Approved Mortgage Lender" and collectively "Approved Mortgage Lender(s)")

- 3. Buyer May Apply for Different Loan(s). A Loan Denial Letter (as that term is defined below) must be for the Loan(s) described above. Buyer may also apply for different conventional loans than the Loan(s) described above. However, the denial of such other loans shall not be a basis for Buyer to terminate this Agreement. Notwithstanding the above, Buyer shall not have a right to apply for a FHA, VA, or USDA loan unless the parties agree to amend this Agreement to add a FHA, VA, or USDA loan contingency exhibit meeting FHA, VA or USDA requirements, as the case may be (in which event this Conventional Loan Contingency shall no longer be part of this Agreement). Nothing herein shall require the Seller to agree to amend this Agreement.
- 4. Buyer to Notify Seller of Intent to Proceed. When it is known, Buyer shall promptly notify seller of any mortgage lender to whom Buyer has sent a notice of intent to proceed with loan application and the name and contact information for the loan originator.
- 5. <u>Financing Contingency</u>. Buyer shall have _____ days from the Binding Agreement Date ("Financing Contingency Period") to determine If Buyer has the ability to obtain the Loan(s) described above ("Financing Contingency"). Buyer shall be deemed to have the ability to obtain the Loan(s) unless prior to the end of the Financing Contingency Period, Buyer: a) notifies Seller that Buyer is terminating the Agreement because Buyer has been turned down for the Loan(s) and b) provides Seller within seven (7) days from the date of such notice a letter of loan denial from a mortgage lender based upon the mortgage lender's customary and standard underwriting criteria ("Loan Denial Letter"). The Loan Denial Letter and mortgage lender issuing the Loan Denial Letter must meet all of the requirements set forth elsewhere in this Exhibit. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary contained herein, the Loan Denial Letter may be provided to Seller after the Financing Contingency Period has ended if the above-referenced seven (7) day period to provide the Loan Denial Letter falls outside of the Financing Contingency Period.

THIS FORM IS COPYRIGHTED AND MAY ONLY BE USED IN REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS IN WHICH Thomas Abbott IS INVOLVED AS A REAL ESTATE LICENSEE. UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THE FORM MAY RESULT IN LEGAL SANCTIONS BEING BROUGHT AGAINST THE USER AND SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® AT (770) 451-1831. F404, Conventional Loan Contingency Exhibit, Page 1 of 3, 01/01/22 Copyright© 2022 by Georgia Association of REALTORS®, Inc.

6. <u>Use of Approved Mortgage Lender and Loan Denial Letter</u>. If Buyer has agreed to apply for the Loan(s) with an Approved Mortgage Lender, the Loan Denial Letter must be from an Approved Mortgage Lender. If Buyer is not required to apply for the Loan(s) with an Approved Mortgage Lender, the Loan Denial Letter may be from any institutional mortgage lender licensed to do business in Georgia. A Loan Denial Letter from a non-institutional mortgage lender shall not be the basis for Buyer to terminate this Agreement.

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary contained herein, the Loan Denial Letter may not be based solely upon one or more of the following: (a) Buyer lacking sufficient funds other than the amount of the Loan(s) to close; (b) Buyer not having leased or sold other real property (unless such a contingency is expressly provided for in this Agreement); (c) Buyer not having provided the lender(s) in a timely fashion with all information required by lender, including but not limited to, loan documentation, Official Wood Infestation Reports, structural letters, well tests, septic system certifications, flood plain certifications and any other similar information required by lender (hereinafter collectively "Required Information"); (d) Buyer making purchases that adversely affect Buyer's debt to income ratio; (e) the Property not appraising for at least the purchase price unless this Agreement is subject to an appraisal contingency and an appraisal meeting the requirements of this Agreement has been performed; or (f) the lender not having completed underwriting the loan request.

Buyer may terminate this Agreement without penalty based upon an inability to obtain the Loan(s) only if Buyer fulfills all of the applicable requirements set forth in this Exhibit.

- 7. <u>Right of Seller to Request Evidence of Buyer's Ability to Close</u>. If the Financing Contingency ends without Buyer terminating this Agreement, Seller shall have the right, but not the obligation, to request that Buyer provide Seller with written evidence of Buyer's financial ability to purchase the Property ("Evidence"). A copy of a loan commitment from each institutional mortgage lender from whom Buyer is seeking mortgage financing to purchase the Property stating the type, amount and terms of the loan(s) and the conditions for funding the loan(s), shall be deemed sufficient Evidence. The provision of such Evidence is not a guarantee that the mortgage loan(s) will be funded or that Buyer will close on the purchase of the Property. Buyer shall have seven (7) days from the date Seller delivers notice to Buyer requesting such Evidence to produce the same. No request for such Evidence shall be made by Seller less than seven (7) days from the date of Closing.
- 8. <u>Seller's Right to Terminate</u>. In the event Buyer fails to provide Seller with the Evidence of Buyer's Ability to Close within the timeframe set forth above, Seller shall notify Buyer of the default and give Buyer three (3) days from the date of the delivery of the notice to cure the same. If Buyer does not timely cure the default, Seller may terminate this Agreement within seven (7) days thereafter due to Buyer's default upon notice to Buyer. In the event Seller does not terminate this Agreement within that timeframe, the right to terminate on this basis shall be waived.
- 9. <u>Authorization of Buyer to Release Information to Seller and Brokers</u>. Buyer does hereby authorize Seller and the Brokers identified herein to communicate with the lenders with whom Buyer is working to determine and receive from said lenders any or all of the following information: (a) the status of the loan application; (b) Buyer's financial ability to obtain the Loan(s) or other loans for which Buyer has applied; (c) whether and when Buyer provided the lenders with Required Information; (d) whether and what conditions may remain to complete the loan application process and issue of a loan commitment; and (e) the basis for any Loan Denial Letter.
- 10. <u>Miscellaneous</u>. For the purposes of this Exhibit, the term "mortgage loan" shall refer to a secured lending transaction where the loan or promissory note is secured by a deed to secure debt on the Property. Whether such mortgage loan is a first or second mortgage loan is a reference to the legal priorities of the deeds to secure debt relative to each other and other liens and encumbrances.
- 11. <u>Appraisal Contingency</u>. In addition to Buyer's other rights herein, this Agreement shall be subject to the following appraisal contingency. Buyer shall cause the Lender to: (a) select an appraiser to perform one or more appraisals of the Property and (b) provide Seller with a copy of any appraisal that is for less than the purchase price of the Property. If any such appraisal is for less than the purchase price, Buyer shall not later than _______ days from the Binding Agreement Date have the right to request that Seller reduce the sales price of the Property to a price not less than the appraised price by submitting an Amendment to Sales Price (F713) ("ATSP") to Seller along with a copy of the appraisal supporting the lower price. In the event that Buyer does not timely submit an ATSP to Seller, Buyer shall be deemed to have waived Buyer's right to do so and this Agreement shall no longer be subject to an appraisal contingency.

Seller shall, not later than three (3) days from the date of an ATSP is delivered to Seller (but not later than two (2) days prior to Closing), accept or reject the ATSP or seek to negotiate with Buyer a lesser reduction in the sales price of the Property than what is reflected in the ATSP. If, within the above time rame, an ATSP has not been signed and accepted by the Buyer and Seller and timely delivered to create a legally enforceable amendment, Buyer shall have an additional three (3) days (but not later than one (1) day prior to Closing) to terminate this Agreement without penalty. If Buyer does not terminate the Agreement within this timeframe, Buyer's right to terminate due to the failure to agree to an ATSP shall be waived and Buyer shall close on the Property for the purchase price set forth in this Agreement. Nothing herein shall require Buyer to seek a reduction in the sales price of the Property.

1 Buyer's Signature

Print or Type Name

2 Buyer's Signature

Print or Type Name

Additional Signature Page (F267) is attached.

Buyer Brokerage Firm

Broker/Affiliated Licensee Signature

Print or Type Name

REALTOR® Membership

1 Seller's Signature

Print or Type Name

2 Seller's Signature

Print or Type Name

Additional Signature Page (F267) is attached.

Seller Brokerage Firm

Broker/Affiliated Licensee Signature

Print or Type Name

REALTOR® Membership

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