

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Please keep this information with your governing documents

### **The Villas at Echo Lane Condominium Association, Inc.**

## **RULES ENFORCEMENT AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of The Villas at Echo Lane Condominium Association, Inc. (the "Association") has the authority to "adopt and publish rules and regulations governing the use of the Common Elements and facilities, and the personal conduct of the members and their guests thereon, and to establish penalties for the infraction thereof," pursuant to Article VIII, Section 1(c) of the Bylaws; and

WHEREAS there is a need to ensure that the members of the Association obey the Rules of the Association and that the Association provide due process while enforcing the rules contained in its governing documents;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Association adopt the following Rules Enforcement and Grievance Procedure, which shall replace any previously adopted Rules to the contrary:**

1. The following is a schedule of the fines that will be imposed for non-compliance with the law, the Declaration, Bylaws, rules, regulations, covenants, conditions or restrictions (herein collectively "Condominium Documents"):
  - a. **A WRITTEN WARNING for a Unit Owner or resident's first violation** of the Condominium Documents. In addition, a member of the Board may attempt to contact the offending party to explain the violation and the need that all residents and Unit owners comply with the Condominium Documents.
  - b. **FIFTY DOLLARS (\$50.00)** shall be assessed against a resident or Unit Owner for a second violation of the Condominium Documents (or for the violation that remains after the Unit Owner has received the warning letter discussed in 1.a). The second violation does not need to be the same violation as the first violation in order for the \$50 fine to be assessed.
  - c. **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00)** shall be assessed against a resident or Unit Owner for each successive violation of the Condominium Documents.
  - d. Notwithstanding paragraphs (a-c) immediately above, **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00) shall be assessed for each violation** of the Condominium Documents, when in the sole opinion of the Board of Directors the violation meets one or more of the following criteria:

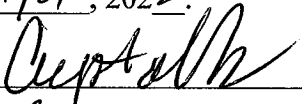
1. The violation is in direct defiance of a previous mandate from the Board of Directors.
  2. The violation was malicious in its intent.
  3. The violation is evidence of a pattern of the resident's or Unit Owner's non-compliance with the Condominium Documents.
  4. The violation is of such a nature that the violation cannot be corrected and/or that direct monetary restitution cannot be determined. *(i.e. if alterations are made that cannot be restored to their original state.)*
2. Each day that a violation exists shall be a new violation subject to fine at the discretion of the Board.
3. **Attorney Fees**
  - a. The Board may also assess a unit owner who has violated the Condominium Documents for the actual attorney fees incurred associated with reviewing the facts and Condominium Documents and advising the Board.
  - b. In the event that the Association retains an attorney to collect any funds due, enforce any rule within its governing documents, bring any claim against a unit owner or defend any claim or allegation by a unit owner, including any counterclaim, the Association shall, if it is the prevailing party in the claim or defense, be entitled to collect from the unit owner all of its costs and expenses, including reasonable attorney fees. In the event that the Association retains an attorney to represent the Association's interest in a suit filed by the unit owner's mortgage company in which the Association is a named defendant, the Association shall be entitled to collect from the unit owner all of its costs and expenses, including reasonable attorney fees. **This Rule does not apply to owners' fair housing complaints, neither State nor Federal.**
4. Any Unit Owner or resident who has been accused of violating the Condominium Documents or been fined may demand that the matter be heard by a Grievance Committee. Such demand must be in writing and provided to the Board of Directors within 14 calendar days of the notice of the violation or fine. If no demand is made within 14 calendar days, then the finding of a violation and/or fine shall be final and binding. If a demand is timely made, the matter shall be submitted to the Grievance Committee within seven (7) days.
5. **GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE RULES AND PROCEDURES:**
  - a. The Grievance Committee shall consist of three (3) members at large of the Association who are chosen by the Board. The members at large shall not be officers or members of the Board of Directors of the Association.

- b. The Grievance Committee may either be a standing committee, with each member serving for one (1) year, or the committee may be *ad hoc* and appointed on an as-needed basis by the Board of Directors.
- c. For any grievance hearing, a majority vote of the Committee will determine the action and decisions of the Committee.
- d. Members serving on any Grievance Committee must not be directly involved in the specific dispute at hand.
- e. Upon receipt by the Grievance Committee of a grievance, the matter shall proceed as follows:
  - 1. A letter shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, informing all parties:
    - a. Of the time, place and date of a hearing before the Grievance Committee.
    - b. Of the right to counsel.
    - c. That evidence shall be received and a record made whether or not the party complained against attends.
  - 2. The hearing shall be divided into two (2) sections:
    - a. The hearing.
    - b. The determination and decision.
  - 3. The Hearing Section shall be open to only the Grievance Committee, the parties involved, their attorneys and witnesses.
  - 4. The Determination and Decision Section of the meeting shall be open only to the Grievance Committee, and possibly the attorney for the Association if so requested by the Grievance Committee. The decision will be rendered in writing to all concerned parties within five (5) business days of the hearing.
  - 5. If the complainant, or their representative, fails to appear at the hearing without a valid excuse acceptable by the Grievance Committee, the grievance shall be dismissed without prejudice and reasonable and necessary costs incurred by the responding party assessed against the complaining party.

6. If the alleged offender fails to appear, the complainant must prove his/her grievance and no presumption shall be made against the alleged offender for non-appearance.
  7. The burden of proof shall be on the complainant to prove the grievance by a preponderance of the evidence.
- f. The decision of the Grievance Committee is final and binding. There shall be no appeal of the decision absent evidence that:
1. The award was procured by corruption, fraud or undue means;
  2. There was evident partiality or corruption on the part of the Grievance Committee, or any of them;
  3. The member of the Grievance Committee were guilty of misconduct in refusing to postpone the hearing, upon sufficient cause shown, or in refusing to hear evidence pertinent and material to the controversy; or of any other misbehavior by which the rights of any party have been prejudiced;
  4. The Grievance Committee exceeded its powers, or so imperfectly executed them that a mutual, final and definite award upon the subject matter submitted was not made.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to all homeowners at their last known addresses.

The Board of Directors adopted this resolution on 12/14, 2021, with the policy to take effect on 01/01, 2022.

President  Crystal Voss  
Secretary  Scott Carney