

**TIMBERGATE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**RESOLUTION ADOPTING A RECORDS RETENTION AND PRODUCTION POLICY**

WHEREAS, Texas Property Code § 209.005, § 209.005(i) and § 209.005(m) becomes effective January 1, 2012, requiring associations to develop record retention and record production policies and to file the same in the real property records of each county wherein the association is located, and

WHEREAS, the Association, desires to set forth its guidelines for record retention and record production to comply with the law.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association hereby adopts the following "**Document Retention Policy**" (the "Policy") effective January 1, 2012:

**I. Records of the Association shall be maintained in paper or electronic format as follows:**

<u>Record</u>	<u>Retention Period</u>
Certificate of Formation/Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Declarations and all amendments to those documents	Permanent
Association tax returns and tax audits	Seven (7) years
Financial books and records	Seven (7) years
Minutes of member meetings and Board meetings	Seven (7) years
Account records of current owners	Five (5) years
Contracts with a term of one year or more	Four (4) years after contract expires

Records not listed above are not subject to retention. Upon expiration of the retention date, the applicable record will be considered not maintained as a part of the Association books and records.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association hereby adopts the following "**Records Production and Copying Policy**" (the "Policy") effective January 1, 2012:

**II. Copies of Association records will be available to all Owners upon proper request and at their own expense. A proper request:**

- a. is sent certified mail to the Association's address as reflected in its most recent management certificate;
- b. is from an Owner, or the Owner's agent, attorney or certified public accountant; and
- c. contains sufficient detail to identify the records being requested.

**III. Owners may request to inspect the books and records or may request copies of specific records.**

a. If the owner makes a request to inspect the books and records, then the Association will respond within **10 business days** of the request, providing the dates and times the records will be made available and the location of the records. The Association and the owner shall arrange for a mutually agreeable time to conduct the inspection. The Association shall provide the owner with copies of specific documents upon the owner paying the Association the cost thereof.

b. If an owner makes a request for copies of specific records, and the Association can provide the records easily or with no cost, then the Association will provide the records to the owner within 10 business days of the owner's request.

c. If the owner makes a request for copies of specific records, the Association shall send a response

letter advising on the date that the records will be made available (within 15 business days) and the cost the owner must pay before the records will be provided. Upon paying the cost to provide the records, the Association shall provide the records to the owner.

**IV. The Association hereby adopts the following schedule of costs:**

(a) The charges in this section to recover costs associated with providing copies of public information are based on estimated average costs to governmental bodies across the state.

(b) Copy charge.

(1) Standard paper copy. The charge for standard paper copies reproduced by means of an office machine copier or a computer printer is \$.10 per page or part of a page. Each side that has recorded information is considered a page.

(2) Nonstandard copy. The charges in this subsection are to cover the materials onto which information is copied and do not reflect any additional charges, including labor, that may be associated with a particular request. The charges for nonstandard copies are:

(A) Diskette--\$1.00;

(B) Magnetic tape--actual cost

(C) Data cartridge--actual cost;

(D) Tape cartridge--actual cost;

(E) Rewritable CD (CD-RW)--\$1.00;

(F) Non-rewritable CD (CD-R)--\$1.00;

(G) Digital video disc (DVD)--\$3.00;

(H) JAZ drive--actual cost;

(I) Other electronic media--actual cost;

(J) VHS video cassette--\$2.50;

(K) Audio cassette--\$1.00;

(L) Oversize paper copy (e.g.: 11 inches by 17 inches, greenbar, bluebar, not including maps and photographs using specialty paper--See also §70.9 of this title)--\$.50;

(M) Specialty paper (e.g.: Mylar, blueprint, blue-line, map, photographic--actual cost.)

(c) Labor charge for programming. If a particular request requires the services of a programmer in order to execute an existing program or to create a new program so that requested information may be accessed and copied, the governmental body may charge for the programmer's time.

(1) The hourly charge for a programmer is \$28.50 an hour. Only programming services shall be charged at this hourly rate.

(2) Governmental bodies that do not have in-house programming capabilities shall comply with requests in accordance with §552.231 of the Texas Government Code.

(3) If the charge for providing a copy of public information includes costs of labor, a governmental body shall comply with the requirements of §552.261(b) of the Texas Government Code.

(d) Labor charge for locating, compiling, manipulating data, and reproducing public information.

(1) The charge for labor costs incurred in processing a request for public information is \$15 an hour. The labor charge includes the actual time to locate, compile, manipulate data, and reproduce the requested information.

(2) A labor charge shall not be billed in connection with complying with requests that are for 50 or fewer pages of paper records, unless the documents to be copied are located in:

(A) Two or more separate buildings that are not physically connected with each other; or

(B) A remote storage facility.

(3) A labor charge shall not be recovered for any time spent by an attorney, legal assistant, or any other person who reviews the requested information:

(A) To determine whether the governmental body will raise any exceptions to disclosure of the requested information under the Texas Government Code, Subchapter C, Chapter 552; or

(B) To research or prepare a request for a ruling by the attorney general's office pursuant to §552.301 of the Texas Government Code.

(4) When confidential information pursuant to a mandatory exception of the Act is mixed with public information in the same page, a labor charge may be recovered for time spent to redact, blackout, or otherwise obscure confidential information in order to release the public information. A labor charge shall not be made for redacting confidential information for requests of 50 or fewer pages, unless the request also qualifies for a labor charge pursuant to Texas Government Code, §552.261(a)(1) or (2).

(5) If the charge for providing a copy of public information includes costs of labor, a governmental body shall comply with the requirements of Texas Government Code, Chapter 552, §552.261(b).

(6) For purposes of paragraph (2)(A) of this subsection, two buildings connected by a covered or open sidewalk, an elevated or underground passageway, or a similar facility, are not considered to be separate buildings.

(e) Overhead charge.

(1) Whenever any labor charge is applicable to a request, a governmental body may include in the charges direct and indirect costs, in addition to the specific labor charge. This overhead charge would cover such costs as depreciation of capital assets, rent, maintenance and repair, utilities, and administrative overhead. If a governmental body chooses to recover such costs, a charge shall be made in accordance with the methodology described in paragraph (3) of this subsection. Although an exact calculation of costs will vary, the use of a standard charge will avoid complication in calculating such costs and will provide uniformity for charges made statewide.

(2) An overhead charge shall not be made for requests for copies of 50 or fewer pages of standard paper records unless the request also qualifies for a labor charge pursuant to Texas Government Code, §552.261(a)(1) or (2).

(3) The overhead charge shall be computed at 20% of the charge made to cover any labor costs associated with a particular request. Example: if one hour of labor is used for a particular request, the formula would be as follows: Labor charge for locating, compiling, and reproducing,  $\$15.00 \times .20 = \$3.00$ ; or Programming labor charge,  $\$28.50 \times .20 = \$5.70$ . If a request requires one hour of labor charge for locating, compiling, and reproducing information ( $\$15.00$  per hour); and one hour of programming labor charge ( $\$28.50$  per hour), the combined overhead would be:  $\$15.00 + \$28.50 = \$43.50 \times .20 = \$8.70$ .

(f) Microfiche and microfilm charge.

(1) If a governmental body already has information that exists on microfiche or microfilm and has copies available for sale or distribution, the charge for a copy must not exceed the cost of its reproduction. If no copies of the requested microfiche or microfilm are available and the information on the microfiche or microfilm can be released in its entirety, the governmental body should make a copy of the microfiche or microfilm. The charge for a copy shall not exceed the cost of its reproduction. The Texas State Library and Archives Commission has the capacity to reproduce microfiche and microfilm for governmental bodies. Governmental bodies that do not have in-house capability to reproduce microfiche or microfilm are encouraged to contact the Texas State Library before having the reproduction made commercially.

(2) If only a master copy of information in microfilm is maintained, the charge is \$.10 per page for standard size paper copies, plus any applicable labor and overhead charge for more than 50 copies.

(g) Remote document retrieval charge.

(1) Due to limited on-site capacity of storage documents, it is frequently necessary to store information that is not in current use in remote storage locations. Every effort should be made by governmental bodies to store current records on-site. State agencies are encouraged to store inactive or non-current records with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. To the extent that the retrieval of documents results in a charge to comply with a request, it is permissible to recover costs of such services for requests that qualify for labor charges under current law.

(2) If a governmental body has a contract with a commercial records storage company, whereby the private company charges a fee to locate, retrieve, deliver, and return to storage the needed record(s), no additional labor charge shall be factored in for time spent locating documents at the storage location by the private company's personnel. If after delivery to the governmental body, the boxes must still be searched for records that are responsive to the request, a labor charge is allowed according to subsection (d)(1) of this section.

(h) Computer resource charge.

(1) The computer resource charge is a utilization charge for computers based on the amortized cost of acquisition, lease, operation, and maintenance of computer resources, which might include, but is not limited to, some or all of the following: central processing units (CPUs), servers, disk drives, local area networks (LANs), printers, tape drives, other peripheral devices, communications devices, software, and system utilities.

(2) These computer resource charges are not intended to substitute for cost recovery methodologies or charges made for purposes other than responding to public information requests.

(3) The charges in this subsection are averages based on a survey of governmental bodies with a broad range of computer capabilities. Each governmental body using this cost recovery charge shall determine which category(ies) of computer system(s) used to fulfill the public information request most closely fits its existing system(s), and set its charge accordingly. Type of System--Rate: mainframe--\$10 per CPU minute; Midsize--\$1.50 per CPU minute; Client/Server--\$2.20 per clock hour; PC or LAN--\$1.00 per clock hour.

(4) The charge made to recover the computer utilization cost is the actual time the computer takes to execute a particular program times the applicable rate. The CPU charge is not meant to apply to programming or printing time; rather it is solely to recover costs associated with the actual time required by the computer to execute a program. This time, called CPU time, can be read directly from the CPU clock, and most frequently will be a matter of seconds. If programming is required to comply with a particular request, the appropriate charge that may be recovered for programming time is set forth in subsection (d) of this section. No charge should be made for computer print-out time. Example: If a mainframe computer is used, and the processing time is 20 seconds, the charges would be as follows:  $\$10 / 3 = \$3.33$ ; or  $\$10 / 60 \times 20 = \$3.33$ .

(5) A governmental body that does not have in-house computer capabilities shall comply with requests in accordance with the §552.231 of the Texas Government Code.

(i) Miscellaneous supplies. The actual cost of miscellaneous supplies, such as labels, boxes, and other supplies used to produce the requested information, may be added to the total charge for public information.

(j) Postal and shipping charges. Governmental bodies may add any related postal or shipping expenses which are necessary to transmit the reproduced information to the requesting party.

(k) Sales tax. Pursuant to Office of the Comptroller of Public Accounts' rules sales tax shall not be added on charges for public information (34 TAC, Part 1, Chapter 3, Subchapter O, §3.341 and §3.342).

(l) Miscellaneous charges: A governmental body that accepts payment by credit card for copies of public information and that is charged a "transaction fee" by the credit card company may recover that fee.

(m) These charges are subject to periodic reevaluation and update.

**V. The Association hereby adopts the following form of response to Owners who request to inspect the Association's Books and Records:**

**TIMBERGATE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**RESPONSE TO REQUEST TO INSPECT ASSOCIATION RECORDS**

\_\_\_\_ (date)

Dear Homeowner:

On \_\_\_\_\_, the Association received your request to inspect the books and records of the Association. The books and records of the Association are available for you to inspect on regular business days, between the ours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., at the office of \_\_\_\_\_, located at \_\_\_\_\_, Houston, Texas \_\_\_\_\_.

Please contact the Association's manager at \_\_\_\_\_ (phone number) to arrange for a mutually agreeable time for you to come and inspect the books and records. Please be advised that if you desire copies of specific records during or after the inspection, you must first pay the associated costs before the copies will be provided to you. A schedule of costs is included with this response.

Very truly yours,

\_\_\_\_\_ Homeowners Association, Inc.

**VI. The Association hereby adopts the following form of response to Owners who request copies of specific records:**

**TIMBERGATE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ASSOCIATION RECORDS**

\_\_\_\_\_ (date)

Dear Homeowner:

On \_\_\_\_\_, the Association received your request for copies of specific Association records. We are unable to provide you with the requested records within 10 business days of your request. However, the requested records will be available to you no later than 15 business days after the date of this response.

In order to obtain the records, you must first pay the Association the cost of providing the records to you. The estimated cost to obtain the records you requested is \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Upon receiving payment, the Association will mail the requested documents to you. You may also make payment and pick up the documents in person at the office of \_\_\_\_\_, located at \_\_\_\_\_, Houston, Texas \_\_\_\_\_.

Very truly yours,

Timbergate Homeowners Association, Inc.

**VII. If the estimated cost provided to the Owner is more or less than the actual cost of producing the documents, the Association shall, within 30 days after providing the records, submit to the owner either an invoice for additional amounts owed or a refund of the overages paid by the Owner.**

**VIII. Unless authorized in writing or by court order, the Association will not provide copies of any records that contain the personal information of an owner, including restriction violations, delinquent assessments, financial information and contact information (other than an owner's address); additionally, no privileged attorney-client communications or attorney work product documents will be provided; and no employee information (including personnel file) will be released.**

**IX. With regards to the inspection of ballots, only persons who tabulate ballots under 209.00594 (TPC) may be given access to the ballots cast in an election or vote.**

This resolution was passed by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors of the Association on the date set forth below to be effective January 1, 2012.

Executed this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of DECEMBER, 2011

By: [Signature]  
Title: PRESIDENT.

Name: FELIX AQUILLON  
(Print)

STATE OF TEXAS )  
COUNTY OF HARRIS

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, by the above-mentioned Affiant on this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011, to certify which witness my hand and seal of office

[Signature]  
Notary Public, State of Texas  
Sharlene Rhea  
Printed Name  
My commission expires: 2.27.13

