

**TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION ESTABLISHING THE GULLAH GEECHEE HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, ADOPTION OF BYLAWS FOR THE CORPORATION, AND SETTING FORTH STEPS NECESSARY TO COMMENCE OPERATIONS OF THE CORPORATION.**

**WHEREAS**, Hilton Head Island has many different historical and culturally sensitive communities that have existed for many decades with families within these areas going back many generations; and

**WHEREAS**, many of these neighborhoods are under threat due to the absence of viable economic opportunities, safe, respectable and quality affordable housing options, access to critical skills, training and education programs, and will continue to degrade and fade away until virtually nonexistent unless and until significant investments are made to ensure their long-term sustainability; and

**WHEREAS**, community development corporations are organized as nonprofit, community-based organizations focused on revitalizing targeted areas that typically include low-income, underserved neighborhoods that have experienced these periods of perpetual disinvestment; and

**WHEREAS**, community development corporations can perform varied and unique services in the pursuit of stabilizing, protecting, and promoting communities through programs such as economic development, affordable housing, streetscaping, neighborhood planning, targeted investment and financing services, and potentially even providing education and social service programs for neighborhood residents; and

**WHEREAS**, a successful community development corporation will play a key role in building generational wealth for successive generations of residents within these areas by serving as an anchor to capital investment, enhancing community conditions through neighborhood organizing and education, and a strengthening of the fabric within these communities that make them the invaluable cultural and historical resources that they are; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the many historic communities on Hilton Head Island is the Stoney Community which encompasses areas along William Hilton Parkway from the Island's causeway entrance at Jenkins Island to Spanish Wells Road; and

**WHEREAS**, in the early to mid-1900s the Stoney Community was a thriving commercial area that was once considered to be Hilton Head Island's "downtown" due to the number of entrepreneurs, businesses, community stores, the Island's post office and consolidated

elementary school that were located within this neighborhood; and

**WHEREAS**, over the years this area has experienced a substantial decline in the availability of economic opportunities for its residents and businesses which has directly led to an exodus of the Gullah families that have called this community home for seven or more generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued loss of these residents and their familial lands represents a direct threat to the sustainability of this community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town, Beaufort County, and the South Carolina Department of Transportation are currently refining plans for changes to the William Hilton Parkway corridor that will substantially impact the Stoney Community; and

**WHEREAS**, to mitigate impacts from this project, the South Carolina General assembly has budgeted \$5,000,000.00 in initial seed money to enable this corporation to become operational and begin providing these much-needed services to the Stoney Community as well as other historic and culturally important neighborhoods across Hilton Head Island; and

**WHEREAS**, to formally create the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation (the “Corporation”), it is necessary to file Articles of Incorporation (Exhibit “A”) with the South Carolina Secretary of State and adopt Bylaws (Exhibit “B”) outlining the organizational structure and planned governance of the Corporation; and

**WHEREAS**, upon the filing of the Articles of Incorporation and the Adoption of the Bylaws, it will be necessary to undertake such additional actions which includes the appointing of members to the Corporation’s Board of Directors, the hiring of an executive director and other staff members as may be necessary, the development of a strategic plan outlining desired goals and objectives of the Corporation, the adoption of an operating budget that lines up with the organization’s strategic plan, and the establishment of a continual reporting mechanism that will inform the public as to the organization’s achievements and successes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Council for the Town of Hilton Head Island does hereby approve the attached Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws for the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhood Community Development Corporation as attached to this Resolution and incorporated herein by reference.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Council for the Town of Hilton Head Island does hereby authorize its Town Manager to undertake such actions as may be necessary and appropriate to accomplish the following:

1. Filing of the initial Articles of Incorporation with the South Carolina Secretary of State
2. Filing of the appropriate non-profit designation until Section 501(c) of the United States Internal Revenues Services Code.

**3. Recording of the Bylaws for the Gullah Geechee Historic Neighborhood Community Development Corporation**

Following these actions, the Town Council shall work to appoint members to the Corporation's Board of Directors as identified within the adopted Bylaws. Once appointed, the Board shall work with the Town Manager to identify and select an executive director who shall assist in the creation of a strategic plan and operational budget for the Corporation.

**MOVED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED ON THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.**

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John J. McCann, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Krista Wiedmeyer, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Curtis Coltrane, Town Attorney

Introduced by Council Member: \_\_\_\_\_