

MERCHANTS
BONDING COMPANY

MERCHANTS BONDING COMPANY (MUTUAL) P.O. BOX 14498, DES MOINES, IA 50306-3498
PHONE: (800) 876-6827 FAX: (800) 833-1211

NOTARY PUBLIC BOND
STATE OF ALABAMA

20241018000327010 1/5 \$69.00
Shelby Cnty Judge of Probate, AL
10/18/2024 08:20:14 AM FILED/CERT

THE STATE OF ALABAMA

BOND No. 101288439

County of ALABAMA STATE AT LARGE

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS:

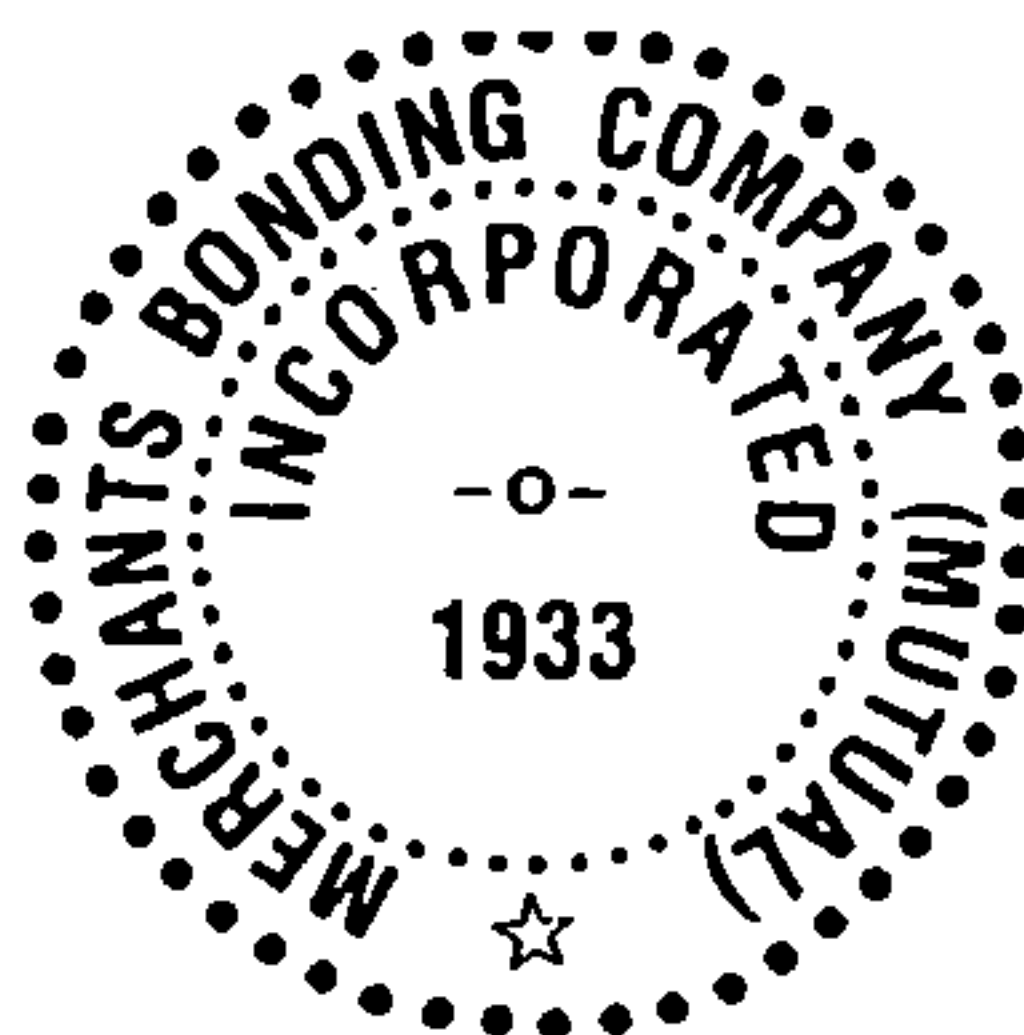
That JOEL E BEARDEN III, as Principal,
and MERCHANTS BONDING COMPANY (MUTUAL), a corporation duly licensed to do business in the State of Alabama,
as Surety, are held and firmly bound unto the State of Alabama
in the sum of \$50,000.00, for the payment of which well and truly to be made and done, we bind
ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, firmly by these presents.

WHEREAS, the above-named Principal has been duly appointed Notary Public for the term of four (4) years from the
date of Notary Commission.

exp 10-18-2028

NOW, THEREFORE, the condition of this bond is that if the named Principal shall faithfully discharge the duties of the
office of Notary Public during his/her continuance therein, then this obligation shall be null and void; otherwise, it shall
remain in full force and effect.

Sealed with our seals and dated this 18th day of October, 2024



Joel E. Bearden III
JOEL E BEARDEN III

Principal

Merchants Bonding Company (Mutual)

By:

Margie Perry
Margie Perry


Attorney-in-Fact

Approved and filed this 18th day of October, 2024

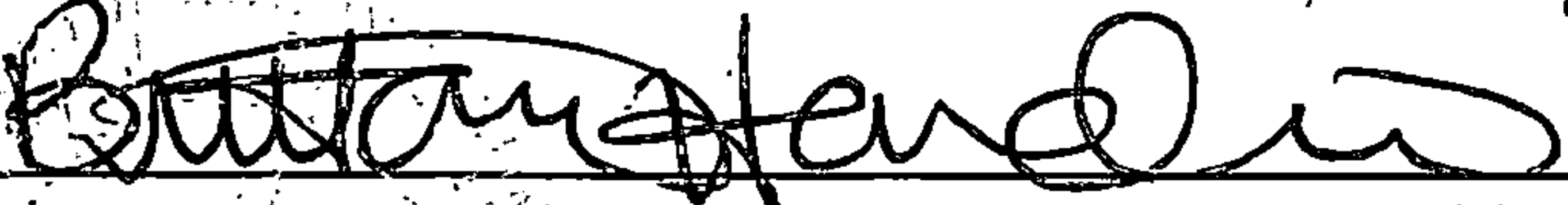
By:

THE STATE OF ALABAMA }
County of ALABAMA STATE AT LARGE }

OATH OF OFFICE


20241018000327010 2/5 \$69.00
Shelby Cnty Judge of Probate, AL
10/18/2024 08:20:14 AM FILED/CERT

I, JOEL E BEARDEN III, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Alabama, so long as I continue to be a citizen thereof, and that I will faithfully and honestly discharge the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter, to the best of my ability.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18th
day of October, 2024

Notary Public
7-14-2024
Commission Expiration Date


JOEL E BEARDEN III Principal

MERCHANTS
BONDING COMPANY™
POWER OF ATTORNEY



20241018000327010 3/5 \$69.00
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Know All Persons By These Presents, that MERCHANTS BONDING COMPANY (MUTUAL) and MERCHANTS NATIONAL BONDING, INC., both being corporations of the State of Iowa, d/b/a Merchants National Indemnity Company (in California only) (herein collectively called the "Companies") do hereby make, constitute and appoint, individually,

Margie Perry

their true and lawful Attorney(s)-in-Fact, to sign its name as surety(ies) and to execute, seal and acknowledge any and all bonds, undertakings, contracts and other written instruments in the nature thereof, on behalf of the Companies in their business of guaranteeing the fidelity of persons, guaranteeing the performance of contracts and executing or guaranteeing bonds and undertakings required or permitted in any actions or proceedings allowed by law.

This Power-of-Attorney is granted and is signed and sealed by facsimile under and by authority of the following By-Laws adopted by the Board of Directors of Merchants Bonding Company (Mutual) on April 23, 2011 and amended August 14, 2015 and April 27, 2024 and adopted by the Board of Directors of Merchants National Bonding, Inc., on October 16, 2015 and amended on April 27, 2024.

"The President, Secretary, Treasurer, or any Assistant Treasurer or any Assistant Secretary or any Vice President shall have power and authority to appoint Attorneys-in-Fact, and to authorize them to execute on behalf of the Company, and attach the seal of the Company thereto, bonds and undertakings, recognizances, contracts of indemnity and other writings obligatory in the nature thereof."

"The signature of any authorized officer and the seal of the Company may be affixed by facsimile or electronic transmission to any Power of Attorney or Certification thereof authorizing the execution and delivery of any bond, undertaking, recognizance, or other suretyship obligations of the Company, and such signature and seal when so used shall have the same force and effect as though manually fixed."

In connection with obligations in favor of the Florida Department of Transportation only, it is agreed that the power and authority hereby given to the Attorney-in-Fact includes any and all consents for the release of retained percentages and/or final estimates on engineering and construction contracts required by the State of Florida Department of Transportation. It is fully understood that consenting to the State of Florida Department of Transportation making payment of the final estimate to the Contractor and/or its assignee, shall not relieve this surety company of any of its obligations under its bond.

In connection with obligations in favor of the Kentucky Department of Highways only, it is agreed that the power and authority hereby given to the Attorney-in-Fact cannot be modified or revoked unless prior written personal notice of such intent has been given to the Commissioner-Department of Highways of the Commonwealth of Kentucky at least thirty (30) days prior to the modification or revocation.

In Witness Whereof, the Companies have caused this instrument to be signed and sealed this 3rd day of October, 2024.



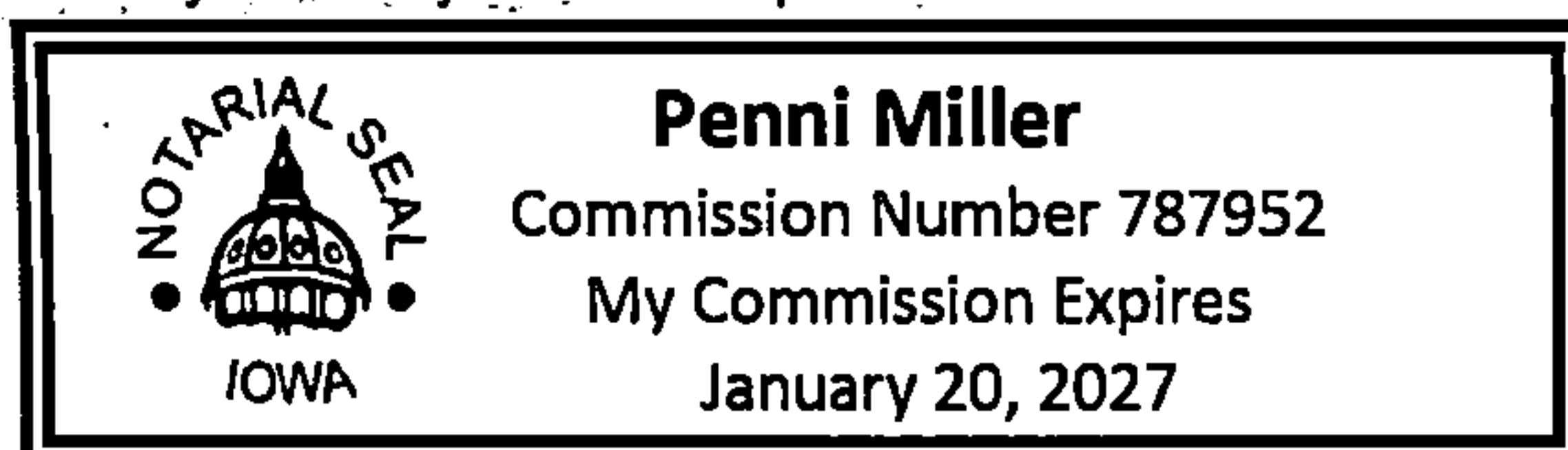
MERCHANTS BONDING COMPANY (MUTUAL)
MERCHANTS NATIONAL BONDING, INC.
d/b/a MERCHANTS NATIONAL INDEMNITY COMPANY

By

Larry Taylor
President

STATE OF IOWA
COUNTY OF DALLAS ss.

On this 3rd day of October, 2024, before me appeared Larry Taylor, to me personally known, who being by me duly sworn did say that he is President of MERCHANTS BONDING COMPANY (MUTUAL) and MERCHANTS NATIONAL BONDING, INC.; and that the seals affixed to the foregoing instrument are the Corporate Seals of the Companies; and that the said instrument was signed and sealed in behalf of the Companies by authority of their respective Boards of Directors.

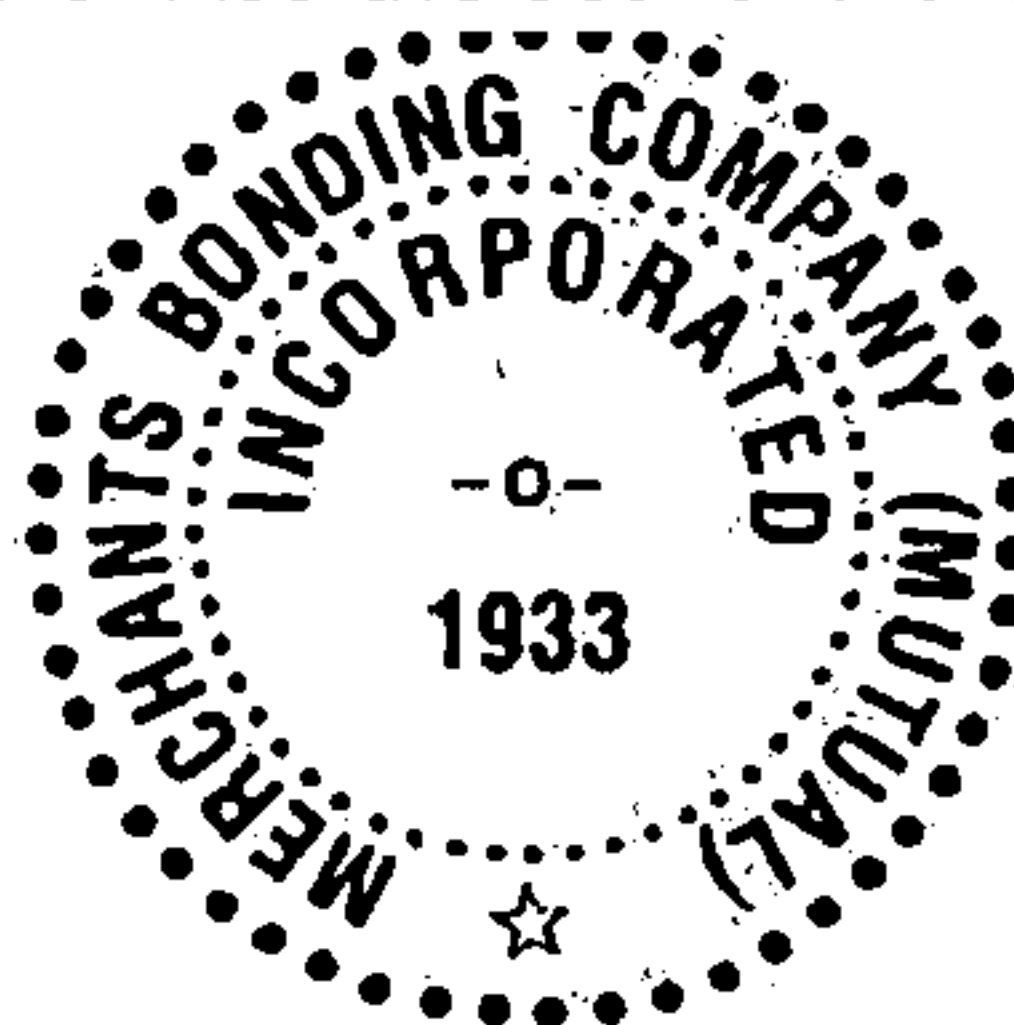


(Expiration of notary's commission
does not invalidate this instrument)

Penni Miller
Notary Public

I, Elisabeth Sandersfeld, Secretary of MERCHANTS BONDING COMPANY (MUTUAL) and MERCHANTS NATIONAL BONDING, INC., do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the POWER-OF-ATTORNEY executed by said Companies, which is still in full force and effect and has not been amended or revoked.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Companies on this 3rd day of October, 2024.



Elisabeth Sandersfeld
Secretary

Allison S. Boyd
Judge of Probate

Kimberly A. Melton
Chief Clerk



Judicial Division - (205) 670-5210
Recording Division - (205) 670-5220



20241018000327010 4/5 \$69.00
Shelby Cnty Judge of Probate, AL
10/18/2024 08:20:14 AM FILED/CERT

Probate Court of Shelby County, Alabama

Post Office Box 825 • Columbiana, Alabama 35051
website: www.shelbyal.com/285/Probate-Court

Below you will find your Commission as a Notary Public. Please detach the commission card and keep it in a secure place. If your commission is being renewed this card will replace any previously issued commission card. Note that your commission card indicates the term of your current commission and it is important that you begin the renewal process in advance of the expiration of your commission to ensure there is no break in service.

The office of Notary Public is a serious and responsible public office and should not be taken lightly. Abuse of the office or irresponsibility in the performance of notarial duties can result in grave consequences. If a Notary Public has doubts about the propriety of any action, he or she should seek competent professional advice before he or she acts.

A Notary Public is a public officer whose function it is:

1. To administer oaths; and
2. To attend and certify, by his signature and official seal, certain classes of documents, in order to give them credit and authenticity; and
3. To take acknowledgments of deeds and other conveyances and certify the same; and
4. To perform certain official acts, chiefly in commercial matters, such as the protesting of notes and bills, the notice of foreign drafts, and marine protests in cases of damage.

You will need to obtain your notarial seal prior to performing any official acts. It is required that your notarial seal reflect your name as stated in the below commission card.

NOTARY PUBLIC COMMISSION

In the name of the State of Alabama and pursuant to the authority granted me as Judge of Probate for Shelby County, I hereby commission **Joel E Bearden III** as Notary Public for the State at Large for the term beginning on **10/18/2024** and ending on **10/18/2028**.



Allison S. Boyd

ALLISON S. BOYD
JUDGE OF PROBATE





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Notary 24-729

State of Alabama	APPLICATION FOR NOTARY PUBLIC COMMISSION (MUST BE A RESIDENT OF COUNTY WHERE APPLICATION IS MADE)	In the Probate Court of <u>Shelby</u> County
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\$10.00* APPLICATION FEE IS DUE AT THE TIME APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED

Date: _____

1. Name: Joel Elyr Bearden, III
(Print your name as it appears on driver's license, non-driver ID, or other current valid photo ID)
2. Home Address: 2464 Oneal Way Apt/Suite #: _____
3. City/State/Zip: Hoover, AL 35242 County of Residence Shelby
4. Mailing Address (If Different): _____
5. Date Of Birth: 1/24/83 Email Address joeey bearden@gmail.com
6. Phone Numbers: Work 205-757-7909 Home 205-757-7909
7. Have you ever been convicted of a felony or crime of moral turpitude? ☐ YES ☒ NO (If YES, Please Provide Details On Page 2)
8. Are you currently a debtor in a bankruptcy proceeding? ☐ YES ☒ NO
9. Are you currently under an order adjudicating you incapacitated? ☐ YES ☒ NO
10. Are you currently or have you ever been a commissioned notary public in Alabama?
☒ YES (County Shelby Expiration Date: 6/29/28) ☐ NO
11. Joel E. Bearden, III
(Print Your Name Exactly As It Is To Appear On Notary Commission)

BY SIGNING BELOW I CERTIFY THAT ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN (PAGES ONE AND TWO) IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT I AM ABLE AND WILLING TO COMPLETE THE MANDATORY TRAINING FOR NOTARY PUBLICS (UNLESS EXEMPT BY LAW) WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS APPLICATION. I FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I UNDERSTAND THAT THE \$10.00* APPLICATION FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE AND TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE (I.E. TIME DEADLINES ARE STRICTLY ENFORCED.)

ALL STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN THIS APPLICATION ARE MADE UNDER THE FEAR OF THE PENALTY OF PERJURY. THE CRIME OF PERJURY IS PUNISHABLE BY FINE AND/OR IMPRISONMENT.

Signature: Joel E. Bearden, III
This should be your usual signature and match the name printed on Line 11.
THIS SHOULD BE THE SIGNATURE YOU USE WHEN NOTARIZING A DOCUMENT

* \$10.00 Application Fee PLUS any applicable county fees