

Record and return to:
EquiCredit Corp./Secondary Marketing Dept.
P.O. Box 44136/DOC. CONTROL DIV.
Jacksonville, FL 32231

Loan Number: 8514020208

STATE OF INDIANA
LAKE COUNTY
FILED FOR RECORD

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#9914236

HOLD FOR
Title Express, Inc.
8585 Broadway • Ste. 680
Merrillville, IN 46410

99084753

99 OCT 14 AM 10:19

(Space Above This Line for Recording Date)

MORTGAGE

MICHAEL W. CARTER
RECORDER

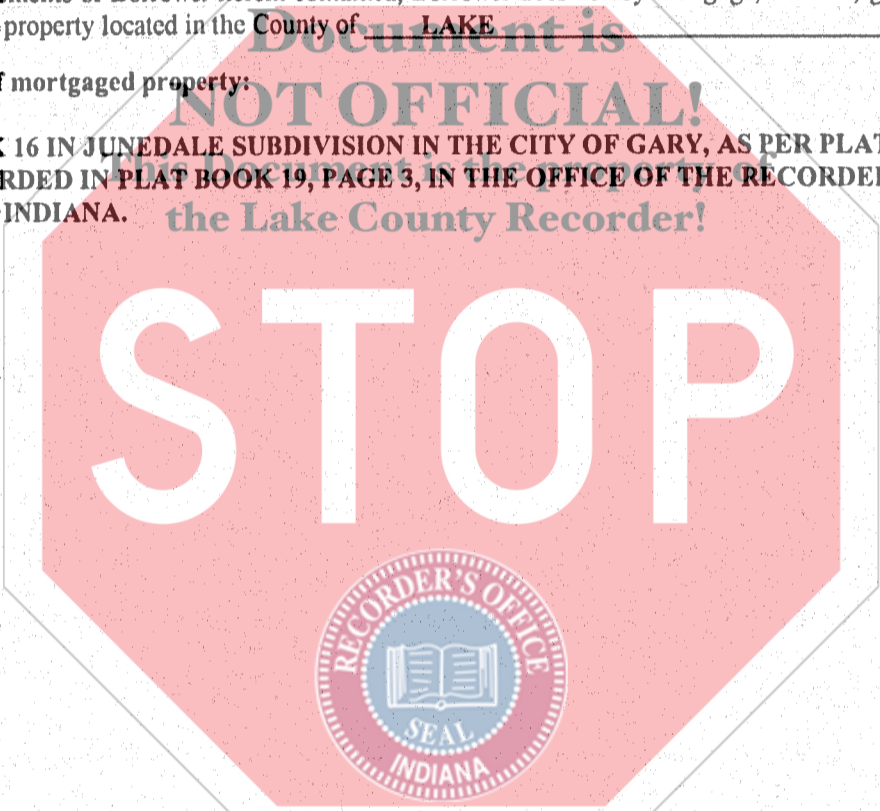
THIS MORTGAGE is made this 6th day of October, 1999, between the Mortgagor, BRADLEY L. HIGHTOWER, A MARRIED PERSON, (herein "Mortgagor" or "Borrower"), and the Mortgagee, EquiCredit Corporation of In., a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Indiana whose address is 2646 Highway Avenue, Suite 102 Highland, Indiana 46322-1613 (herein "Mortgagee" or "Lender").

WHEREAS, Borrower is indebted to Lender in the principal sum of NINETEEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED Dollars (U.S. \$ 19,400.00) which indebtedness is evidenced by Borrower's note dated October 6, 1999 extensions and renewals thereof (herein "Note"), providing for monthly installments of principal and interest, with the balance of indebtedness, if not sooner paid, due and payable on October 15, 2014;

TO SECURE to Lender the repayment of the indebtedness evidenced by the Note, with interest thereon; the payment of all other sums, with interest thereon, advanced in accordance herewith to protect the security of this Mortgage; and the performance of the covenants and agreements of Borrower herein contained, Borrower does hereby mortgage, warrant, grant and convey to Lender the following described property located in the County of LAKE, State of Indiana:

Legal description of mortgaged property:

LOT 14 IN BLOCK 16 IN JUNEDALE SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF GARY, AS PER PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 19, PAGE 3, IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF ALLEN COUNTY, INDIANA.



which has the address of 4785 WASHINGTON STREET GAY, IN 46408
[Street, City, State, Zip Code] [herein Property Address]

TOGETHER with all the improvements now or hereafter erected on the property, and all easements, rights, appurtenances, rents, all of which shall be deemed to be and remain a part of the property covered by this Mortgage; and all of the foregoing, together with said property (or the leasehold estate if this Mortgage is on a leasehold) are hereinafter referred to as the "Property."

Borrower covenants that Borrower is lawfully seised of the estate hereby conveyed and has the right to mortgage, warrant, grant and convey the Property, and that the Property is unencumbered, except for encumbrances of record. Borrower covenants that Borrower warrants and will defend generally the title to the Property against all claims and demands, subject to encumbrances of record.

THIS MORTGAGE combines uniform covenants for national use and non-uniform covenants with limited variations by jurisdiction to constitute a uniform Mortgage covering real property.

UNIFORM COVENANTS. Borrower and Lender covenant and agree as follows:

1. **Payment of Principal and Interest; Prepayment and Late Charges.** Borrower shall promptly pay when due the principal of and interest on the debt evidenced by the Note and any prepayment, late charges and other charges due under the Note.

2. **Funds for Taxes and Insurance.** Subject to applicable law or to a written waiver by Lender, Borrower shall pay to Lender on the day monthly payments of principal and interest are payable under the Note, until the Note is paid in full, a sum (herein "Funds") equal to one-twelfth of the yearly taxes and assessments (including condominium and planned unit development assessments, if any) which may attain priority over this Mortgage and ground rents on the Property, if any, plus one-twelfth of yearly premium installments for hazard insurance, plus one-twelfth of yearly premium installments for mortgage insurance, if any, all as reasonably estimated initially and from time to time by Lender on the basis of assessments and bills and reasonable estimates thereof. Borrower shall not be obligated to make such payments of Funds to Lender to the extent that Borrower makes such payments to the holder of a prior mortgage or deed of trust if such holder is an institutional lender.

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If Borrower pays Funds to Lender, the Funds shall be held in an institution the deposits or accounts of which are insured or guaranteed by a Federal or state agency (including Lender if Lender is such an institution). Lender shall apply the Funds to pay said taxes, assessments, insurance premiums and ground rents. Lender may not charge for so holding and applying the Funds, analyzing said account or verifying and compiling said assessments and bills, unless Lender pays Borrower interest on the Funds and applicable law permits Lender to make such a charge. Borrower and Lender may agree in writing at the time of execution of this Mortgage that interest on the Funds shall be paid to Borrower, and unless such agreement is made or applicable law requires such interest to be paid, Lender shall not be required to pay Borrower any interest or earnings on the Funds. Lender shall give to Borrower, without charge, an annual accounting of the Funds showing credits and debits to the Funds and the purpose for which each debit to the Funds was made. The Funds are pledged as additional security for the sums secured by this Mortgage.

If the amount of the Funds held by Lender, together with the future monthly installments of Funds payable prior to the due dates of taxes, assessments, insurance premiums and ground rents, shall exceed the amount required to pay said taxes, assessments, insurance premiums and ground rents as they fall due, such excess shall be, at Borrower's option, either promptly repaid to Borrower or credited to Borrower on monthly installments of Funds. If the amount of the Funds held by Lender shall not be sufficient to pay taxes, assessments, insurance premiums and ground rents as they fall due, Borrower shall pay to Lender any amount necessary to make up the deficiency in one or more payments as Lender may require.

Upon payment in full of all sums secured by this Mortgage, Lender shall promptly refund to Borrower any Funds held by Lender. If under paragraph 17 hereof the Property is sold or the Property is otherwise acquired by Lender, Lender shall apply, no later than immediately prior to the sale of the Property or its acquisition by Lender, any Funds held by Lender at the time of application as a credit against the sums secured by this Mortgage.

3. Application of Payments. Unless applicable law provides otherwise, all payments received by Lender under the Note and paragraphs 1 and 2 hereof shall be applied by Lender first in payment of amounts payable to Lender by Borrower under paragraph 2 hereof, then to interest payable on the Note, and then to the principal of the Note.

4. Prior Mortgages and Deeds of Trust; Charges; Liens. Borrower shall perform all of Borrower's obligations under any mortgage, deed of trust or other security agreement with a lien which has priority over this Mortgage, including Borrower's covenants to make payments when due. Borrower shall pay or cause to be paid all taxes, assessments and other charges, fines and impositions attributable to the Property ("Property Taxes") which may attain a priority over this Mortgage, and leasehold payments or ground rents, if any. In the event Borrower fails to pay any due and payable Property Taxes, Lender may, in its sole discretion, pay such charges and add the amounts thereof to the principal amount of the loan secured by the Security Instrument on which interest shall accrue at the contract rate set forth in the Note.

5. Hazard Insurance. Borrower shall keep the improvements now existing or hereafter erected on the Property insured against loss by fire, hazards included within the term "extended coverage", and such other hazards as Lender may require and in such amounts and for such periods as Lender may require.

The insurance carrier providing the insurance shall be chosen by Borrower subject to approval by Lender; provided, that such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. In the event Borrower fails to maintain hazard insurance (including any required flood insurance) in an amount sufficient to satisfy all indebtedness, fees, and charges owed Lender (in addition to payment of all liens and charges which may have priority over Lender's interest in the property), Lender may, in its sole discretion, obtain such insurance naming Lender as the sole mortgagee (single interest coverage). Lender may add any premiums paid for such insurance to the principal amount of the loan secured by this Security Instrument on which interest shall accrue at the contract rate set forth in the Note. All insurance policies and renewals thereof shall be in a form acceptable to Lender and shall include a standard mortgage clause in favor of and in a form acceptable to Lender. Lender shall have the right to hold the policies and renewals thereof, subject to the terms of any mortgage, deed of trust or other security agreement with a lien which has priority over this Mortgage.

In the event of loss, Borrower shall give prompt notice to the insurance carrier and Lender. Lender may make proof of loss if not made promptly by Borrower.

If the Property is abandoned by Borrower, or if Borrower fails to respond to Lender within 30 days from the date notice is mailed by Lender to Borrower that the insurance carrier offers to settle a claim for insurance benefits. Lender is authorized to collect and apply the insurance proceeds at Lender's option either to restoration or repair of the Property or to the sums secured by this Mortgage.

6. Preservation and Maintenance of Property; Leaseholds; Condominiums; Planned Unit Developments. Borrower shall keep the Property in good repair and shall not commit waste or permit impairment or deterioration of the Property and shall comply with the provisions of any lease if this Mortgage is on a leasehold. If this Mortgage is on a unit in a condominium or a planned unit development, Borrower shall perform all of Borrower's obligations under the declaration or covenants creating or governing the condominium or planned unit development, the by-laws and regulations of the condominium or planned unit development, and constituent documents.

7. Protection of Lender's Security. If Borrower fails to perform the covenants and agreements contained in this Mortgage, or if any action or proceeding is commenced which materially affects Lender's interest in the Property including without limitation, a proceeding in bankruptcy, probate, condemnation, or similar actions, then Lender, at Lender's option, upon notice to Borrower, may make such appearances, disburse such sums, including reasonable attorney's fees, and take such action as is necessary to protect Lender's interest. In addition, Mortgagor covenants at all times to do all things necessary to defend the title to all of the said property, but the Mortgagee shall have the right at any time to intervene in any suit affecting such title and to employ independent counsel in connection with any suit to which it may be a party by intervention or otherwise, and upon demand Mortgagor agrees either (1) to pay the Mortgagee all reasonable expenses paid or incurred by it in respect to any such suit affecting title to any such property, or affecting the Mortgagee's liens or rights hereunder, including, reasonable fees to the Mortgagee's attorneys or (2) to permit the addition of such expenses, costs, and attorney's fees to the principal balance of the Note(s) secured by this Mortgage on which interest shall accrue at the Note rate.

If Lender required mortgage insurance as a condition of making the loan secured by this Mortgage, Borrower shall pay the premiums required to maintain such insurance in effect until such time as the requirement for such insurance terminates in accordance with Borrower's and Lender's written agreement or applicable law.

Any amounts disbursed by Lender pursuant to this paragraph 7, with interest thereon, at the Note rate, shall become additional indebtedness of Borrower secured by this Mortgage. Unless Borrower and Lender agree to other terms of payment, such amounts shall be payable upon notice from Lender to Borrower requesting payment thereof. Nothing contained in this paragraph 7 shall require Lender to incur any expense or take any action hereunder.

8. Inspection. Lender may make or cause to be made reasonable entries upon and inspections of the Property, provided that Lender shall give Borrower notice prior to any such inspection specifying reasonable cause therefore related to Lender's interest in the Property.

9. **Condemnation.** The proceeds of any award or claim for damages, direct or consequential, in connection with any condemnation or other taking of the Property, or part thereof, or for conveyance in lieu of condemnation, are hereby assigned and shall be paid to Lender, subject to the terms of any mortgage, deed of trust or other security agreement with a lien which has priority over this Mortgage.

10. **Borrower Not Released; Forbearance By Lender Not a Waiver.** Extension of the time for payment or modification of amortization of the sums secured by this Mortgage granted by Lender to any successor in interest of Borrower shall not operate to release, in any manner, the liability of the original Borrower and Borrower's successors in interest, Lender shall not be required to commence proceedings against such successor or refuse to extend time for payment or otherwise modify amortization of the successor or refuse sums secured by this Mortgage by reason of any demand made by the original Borrower and Borrower's successors in interest. Any forbearance by Lender in exercising any right or remedy hereunder, or otherwise afforded by applicable law, shall not be a waiver of or preclude the exercise of any such right or remedy.

11. **Successors and Assigns Bound; Joint and Several Liability; Co-signers.** The covenants and agreements herein contained shall bind, and the rights hereunder shall inure to, the respective successors and assigns of Lender and Borrower, subject to the provisions of paragraph 16 hereof. All covenants and agreements of Borrower shall be joint and several. Any Borrower who co-signs this Mortgage, but does not execute the Note, (a) is co-signing this Mortgage only to mortgage, warrant, grant and convey that Borrower's interest in the Property to Lender under the terms of this Mortgage, (b) is not personally liable on the Note or under this Mortgage, and (c) agrees that Lender and any other Borrower hereunder may agree to extend, modify, forbear, or make any other accommodation with regard to the terms of this Mortgage or the Note without the Borrower's consent and without releasing that Borrower or modifying this Mortgage as to that Borrower's interest in the Property.

12. **Notice.** Except for any notice required under applicable law to be given in another manner, (a) any notice to Borrower provided for in this Mortgage shall be given by delivering it or by mailing such notice by certified mail addressed to Borrower at the Property Address or at such other address as Borrower may designate by notice to Lender as provided herein, and (b) any notice to Lender shall be given by certified mail to Lender's address stated herein or to such other address as Lender may designate by notice to Borrower as provided herein. Any notice provided for in this Mortgage shall be deemed to have been given to Borrower or Lender when given in the manner designated herein.

13. **Governing Law; Severability.** The state and local laws applicable to this Mortgage shall be the laws of the jurisdiction in which the Property is located. The foregoing sentence shall not limit the applicability of Federal law to this Mortgage. In the event that any provision or clause of this Mortgage or the Note conflicts with applicable law, such conflict shall not affect other provisions of this Mortgage or the Note which can be given effect without the conflicting provision, and to this end the provisions of this Mortgage and the Note are declared to be severable. As used herein, "costs", "expenses" and "attorneys fees" include all sums to the extent not prohibited by applicable law or limited herein.

14. **Borrower's Copy.** Borrower shall be furnished a conformed copy of the Note and of this Mortgage at the time of execution or after recordation hereof.

15. **Rehabilitation Loan Agreement.** Borrower shall fulfill all of Borrower's obligations under any home rehabilitation, improvement, repair, or other loan agreement which Borrower enters into with Lender. Lender, at Lender's option, may require Borrower to execute and deliver to Lender, in a form acceptable to Lender, an assignment of any rights, claims or defenses which Borrower may have against parties who supply labor, materials or services in connection with improvements made to the Property.

16. **Transfer of the Property or a Beneficial Interest in Borrower.** If all or any part of the Property or an interest therein is sold or transferred by Borrower (or if a beneficial interest in Borrower is sold or transferred and Borrower is not a natural person or persons but is a corporation, partnership, trust or other legal entity) without Lender's prior written consent, excluding (a) the creation of a lien or encumbrance subordinate to this Mortgage which does not relate to a transfer of rights of occupancy in the property, (b) the creation of a purchase money security interest for household appliances, (c) a transfer by devise, descent or by operation of law upon the death of a joint tenant or (d) the grant of any leasehold interest of three years or less not containing an option to purchase, Lender may, at Lender's option, declare all the sums secured by this Mortgage to be immediately due and payable.

If Lender exercises such option to accelerate, Lender shall mail Borrower notice of acceleration in accordance with paragraph 12 hereof. Such notice shall provide a period of not less than 30 days from the date the notice is mailed within which Borrower may pay the sums declared due. If Borrower fails to pay such sums prior to the expiration of such period, Lender may, without further notice or demand on Borrower, invoke any remedies permitted by paragraph 17 hereof. Lender may consent to a sale or transfer if: (1) Borrower causes to be submitted to Lender information required by Lender to evaluate the transferee as if a new loan were being made to the transferee; (2) Lender reasonably determines that Lender's security will not be impaired and that the risk of a breach of any covenant or agreement in this Mortgage is acceptable; (3) interest will be payable on the sums secured by this Mortgage at a rate acceptable to Lender; (4) changes in the terms of the Note and this Mortgage required by Lender are made, including, for example, periodic adjustment in the interest rate, a different final payment date for the loan, and addition of unpaid interest to principal; and (5) the transferee signs an assumption agreement that is acceptable to Lender and that obligates the transferee to keep all the promises and agreements made in the Note and in this Mortgage, as modified if required by Lender. To the extent permitted by applicable law, Lender also may charge a reasonable fee as a condition to Lender's consent to any sale or transfer.

Borrower will continue to be obligated under the Note and this Mortgage unless Lender releases Borrower in writing.

NON-UNIFORM COVENANTS. Borrower and Lender further covenant and agree as follows:

17. **Acceleration; Remedies.** Except as provided in paragraph 16 hereof, upon Borrower's breach of any covenant or agreement of Borrower in this Mortgage, including the covenants to pay when due any sums secured by this Mortgage, Lender prior to acceleration shall give notice to Borrower as provided in paragraph 12 hereof specifying: (1) the breach; (2) the action required to cure such breach; (3) a date, not less than 10 days from the date the notice is mailed to Borrower, by which such breach must be cured; and (4) that failure to cure such breach on or before the date specified in the notice may result in acceleration of the sums secured by this Mortgage, foreclosure by judicial proceeding, and sale of the Property. The notice shall further inform Borrower of the right to reinstate after acceleration and the right to assert in the foreclosure proceeding the nonexistence of a default or any other defense of Borrower to acceleration and foreclosure. If the breach is not cured on or before the date specified in the notice, Lender, at Lender's option, may declare all of the sums secured by this Mortgage to be immediately due and payable without further demand and may foreclose this Mortgage by judicial proceeding. Subject to applicable law, Lender shall be entitled to collect in such proceeding all expenses of foreclosure, including, but not limited to, a reasonable attorneys' fee, which fee shall be allowed and paid as part of the decree of judgment in such proceeding, and costs of abstracts, title report and documentary evidence.

18. **Borrower's Right to Reinstate.** Notwithstanding Lender's acceleration of the sums secured by this Mortgage due to Borrower's breach, Borrower shall have the right to have any proceedings begun by Lender to enforce this Mortgage discontinued at any time prior to entry of a judgment enforcing this Mortgage if: (a) Borrower pays Lender all sums which would be then due under this Mortgage and the Note had no acceleration occurred; (b) Borrower cures all breaches of any other covenants or agreements of Borrower contained in this Mortgage; (c) Borrower pays all reasonable expenses incurred by Lender in enforcing the covenants and agreements of Borrower contained in this Mortgage, and in enforcing Lender's remedies as provided in paragraph 17 hereof, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees; and (d) Borrower takes such action as Lender may reasonably require to assure that the lien of this Mortgage, Lender's interest in the Property and Borrower's obligation to pay the sums secured by this Mortgage shall continue unimpaired. Upon such payment and cure by Borrower, this Mortgage and the obligations secured hereby shall remain in full force and effect as if no acceleration has occurred.

19. **Assignment of Rents; Appointment of Receiver.** As additional security hereunder, Borrower hereby assigns to Lender the rents of the Property, provided that Borrower shall, prior to acceleration under paragraph 17 hereof or abandonment of the Property, have the right to collect and retain such rents as they become due and payable.

Upon acceleration under paragraph 17 hereof or abandonment of the Property, Lender shall be entitled to have a receiver appointed by a court to enter upon, take possession of and manage the Property and to collect the rents of the Property including those past due. All rents collected by the receiver shall be applied first to payment of the costs of management of the Property and collection of rents, including, but not limited to, receiver's fees, premiums on receiver's bonds and reasonable attorneys' fees, and then to the sums secured by this Mortgage. The receiver shall be liable to account only for those rents actually received.

20. **Release.** Upon payment of all sums secured by this Mortgage, Lender shall release this Mortgage without charge to Borrower.

21. **Waiver of Valuation and Appraisement.** Borrower hereby waives all right of valuation and appraisement.

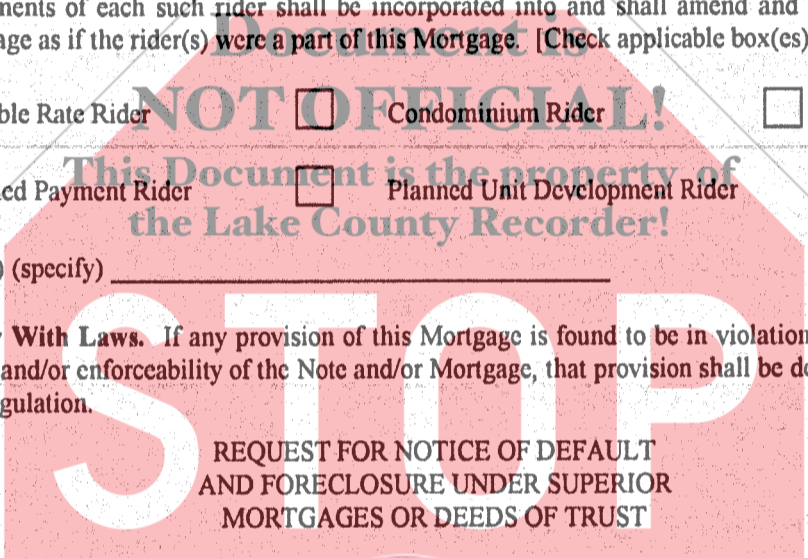
22. **Riders to this Mortgage.** If one or more riders are executed by Borrower and recorded together with this Mortgage, the covenants and agreements of each such rider shall be incorporated into and shall amend and supplement the covenants and agreements of this Mortgage as if the rider(s) were a part of this Mortgage. [Check applicable box(es)].

Adjustable Rate Rider Condominium Rider 1-4 Family Rider

Graduated Payment Rider Planned Unit Development Rider

Other(s) (specify) _____

23. **Conformity With Laws.** If any provision of this Mortgage is found to be in violation of any law, rule or regulation which affects the validity and/or enforceability of the Note and/or Mortgage, that provision shall be deemed modified to comply with applicable law, rule, or regulation.



Borrower and Lender request the holder of any mortgage, deed of trust or other encumbrance with a lien which has priority over this Mortgage to give Notice to Lender, at Lender's address set forth on page one of this Mortgage, of any default under the superior encumbrance and of any sale or other foreclosure action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Borrower has executed this Mortgage.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of:

Borrower **BRADLEY L. HIGHTOWER** (Seal)

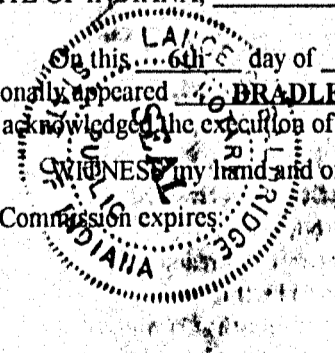
Borrower (Seal)

STATE OF INDIANA, LAKE County ss:

On this 6th day of October 1999, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County, personally appeared BRADLEY L. HIGHTOWER, A MARRIED PERSON and acknowledged the execution of the foregoing instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

My Commission expires: _____



LANCE G BALDRIGE
NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF INDIANA
PORTER COUNTY
MY COMMISSION EXP APR. 13, 2007

Notary Public Signature

Notary Public Printed Name

Resident of _____ County, Indiana

This instrument prepared by: Mema Hrnac
(Space Below This Line For Lender and Recorder) _____

B.L.H.