

# TAMPA POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

## CONSTITUTION

### PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Tampa Police Benevolent Association, do hereby associate ourselves for the following purposes;

To support and defend the constitution of the United States and the State of Florida; to inculcate loyalty and foster the impartial enforcement of law and order; to improve the individual proficiency of our members in the performance of their duties; to encourage social, charitable, and educational activities among all law enforcement officers; to create a tradition of esprit de corps, insuring fidelity to duty under all conditions and circumstances; to cultivate a spirit of fraternalism and mutual helpfulness among our membership and the people we serve; to increase the helpfulness among our membership and the people we serve; to increase the efficiency of the police profession and thus more firmly establish the confidence of the public and the service that is dedicated to the protection of life and property.

### ARTICLE I – NAME

This organization shall be known as the Tampa Police Benevolent Association, Inc., Chartered by the Florida Police Benevolent Association, Inc., and its offices and meeting places shall be in Hillsborough County, Florida.

### ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES

Section 1 – The general objectives and purposes of this organization shall be to promote professionalism among law enforcement officers; to influence the youth of our community in an effort to combat delinquency; to further police-public relations by informing the citizens of our State of the problems of law enforcement and to harness and mobilize the manpower of the law enforcement profession and by doing so, to assist in the building of a bigger, better and greater State of Florida.

Section 2 – The Tampa Police Benevolent Association is an organization of sworn law enforcement officers and law enforcement related support personnel, which shall not strike or, by concerted action cause, or attempt to cause a cessation of the performance of law enforcement duties.

### ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Membership shall be divided into the following classes:

- A. **ACTIVE:** Those fulltime law enforcement officers within the Charter's area of operation that have the powers of arrest and any others that may be approved by the Board of Directors.
- B. **ASSOCIATE:** Those business persons who display an active interest in the welfare of law enforcement officers.
- C. **SUSTAINING:** Those individuals outside of the law enforcement ranks who, in the opinion of the general membership, have performed an outstanding service to this organization, to the police profession, or to the State of Florida.
- D. **RETIRED:** Those law enforcement officers who have retired from law enforcement agencies within the Charter and who had the power of arrest at the time of their retirement.
- E. **LIFE:** Those members who are nominated by any member and approved by a majority of the Board of Directors for outstanding service to the law enforcement profession. Life Members shall be members of the Association for their natural life. Only Life Members who also meet the definition of "ACTIVE" as set forth herein above in Article III, Section 1(A) shall be eligible to hold office and vote.

Section 2 – The By-Laws hereof shall make further provisions for the appointment, regulations, conduct and rights of membership.

#### ARTICLE IV – ORGANIZATION

The Tampa Police Benevolent Association shall be composed of all members described in Article III above, who are in good standing.

#### ARTICLE V – EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Section 1 – The executive officers of this organization shall consist of the president, senior vice-president, second vice-president and secretary.

Section 2 – The executive officers named above shall be elected in the manner prescribed in the By-Laws. The inaugural group of executive officers comprised of the president, senior vice-president, second vice-president and secretary elected in October of 2007 shall serve for a period of three years.

Section 3 – The executive officers named above shall be known as the Executive Committee and shall have duties and rights as prescribed in the By-Laws.

#### ARTICLE VI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1 – The Board of Directors shall be composed of all of the officers described in Article V, Section 1 above, plus an appropriate number of elected Directors. The

inaugural Board of Directors shall consist of the Executive Officers plus all Directors seated as of April 1, 2008. All Directors other than the Executive Officers shall run for election in November of 2008 as proscribed by the election procedure set forth in the By-Laws and shall serve a term of three years commencing on January 1, 2009.

Section 2 – The Board of Directors shall meet upon the call of the President and shall transact such business as comes before it, with the provision that the Board of Directors must meet at least once a month.

Section 3 – The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of this Association. They shall have the power to make such regulations concerning the conduct and attendance of the membership, as they see fit, subject to ratification of general membership.

Section 4 – The conduct of the business of this Association shall be completely in the hands of the Board of Directors. Staff personnel employed by the Association shall not be terminated from employment with the Association except by a majority vote of the Board after the employee is afforded the opportunity to appear before the Board and contest the reasons for termination. Staff personnel may be suspended without pay by the President until consideration by the Board.

Section 5 – A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

Section 6 – The Board of Directors shall have the authority to remove from office any officer, director or membership representative who fails to perform the duties of his office as described in this Constitution and By-Laws. Said removal procedures shall not take place until the officer or director concerned has been notified in writing and shall have been given the opportunity to appear before the Board; a three-fourths vote of the Board of Directors shall be required to remove an officer. In addition, the general membership shall have the authority to petition for the recall and/or removal from office of any officer, director or membership representative who fails to perform the duties of his office as described in this Constitution and By-Laws by following the procedure as set forth in the By-Laws.

Section 7 – The Board of Directors shall order the Secretary at the end of each calendar year to submit the books of this Association to a Certified Public Accountant of its choice for an audit of said books.

Section 8 – The Board of Directors shall be elected in the manner prescribed in the By-Laws, and shall serve for a term of three years.

#### ARTICLE VII – PRESIDENT

Section 1 – The President shall be the Chief Executive of this Association. He shall preside at all general membership meetings and at meetings of the Board of Directors. He shall have the responsibility of general management of the business of the Association and shall see that all orders and resolutions of the Board of Directors are carried into

effect. He shall have the exclusive power to speak and act on behalf of the Association between regular meetings or when it is not feasible to call the Board of Directors into session. He shall have the authority to represent the State Association when designated or authorized by the State President or Board of Directors of the Florida Police Benevolent Association.

Section 2 – He shall execute any and all contracts that may be authorized by the Board of Directors and/or the general membership.

Section 3 – He shall be an ex-officio member of all standing and special committees.

Section 4 – He shall have the power to appoint all standing or special committees and to inquire into any affair or matter affecting or concerning the organization.

Section 5 – He shall have the power to call a special meeting of the Board of Directors whenever an emergency arises, or upon the petition of a majority of the members of the Board of Directors.

Section 6 – He shall convey to his successor all unfinished business of the association.

Section 7 – He shall have the power to recommend PBA employees and their salary and benefits which shall be ratified by the Board of Directors.

Section 8 – He shall be editor-in-chief of the official publication of the association and shall be responsible for the administration of the publication subject to guidelines adopted by the Board of Directors.

#### ARTICLE VIII – SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT

Section 1 – The Senior Vice-President shall assist the President in the performance of his duties and in the absence of the President, he shall exercise the powers and duties of that office.

Section 2 – The Senior Vice-President shall perform such other duties as may be ordered by the President and the Board of Directors.

Section 3 – The Senior Vice-President may be assigned portfolios consisting of committees, sub-committees and/or projects by the President and shall be responsible for the functioning of the projects under such portfolios.

#### ARTICLE IX – SECRETARY

The Secretary shall perform the duties prescribed in the By-Laws hereof.

#### ARTICLE X – SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

The Second Vice President shall perform the duties prescribed by the President and the Board of Directors.

#### ARTICLE XI – PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Except as provided in this Constitution and By-Laws, “Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised” shall govern the conduct and deliberation of all general membership meetings and Board of Directors’ meetings.

#### ARTICLE XII – LEGAL COUNSEL

There shall be a General Legal Counsel, recommended by the President and approved by the Board of Directors.

#### ARTICLE XIII – MEETINGS

This Association shall hold general membership meetings each year as the Board of Directors may require.

#### ARTICLE XIV – AMENDMENTS

Section 1 – The Constitution of this Association may be amended or rescinded by the membership of the organization at any general membership meeting in the following manner:

Written notice shall be mailed to all members twenty-one (21) days prior to the general membership meeting, at which time such amendments shall be voted on, and shall be announced to the membership at all interim meetings and provided further that this Constitution may be amended or rescinded in part or in total upon a three-quarters vote of the members who participate in the vote. The voting procedure is set forth in the Article XI of the By-Laws.

Section 2 – Before any notice of change in the constitution of this association may be given, such notice shall be approved by three-fourths vote of the membership of the Board of Directors, or such notice shall be accompanied by an initiative petition signed by at least one hundred members in good standing.