

RHODE ISLAND POLICE CHIEFS ASSOICATION

(By-Laws Revised May 2013)

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LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

CODE OF ETHICS

AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property, to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the Constitutional Rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice.

I WILL keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I WILL never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the laws courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I RECOGNIZE the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held as long as I am true to the ethics of my police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God and to my chosen profession...law enforcement.

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PROPOSED BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS

ARTICLE I

DEFINITION

NAME: The Association shall be known as the Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association, Inc.

MOTTO: For the Good of the Public
(Pro Bono Publico)

EMBLEM: A wreath encircling the Rhode Island State Seal, below which appears the words: Pro Bono Publico, and above which appears an Eagle.

Encircling the perimeter of the wreath are the words: Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association.

ARTICLE II

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of this Association shall be to assist its members and all law enforcement officers in the State of Rhode Island with the administration of public safety, to promote harmony and trust between law enforcement and the public, to enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement in the State, to strengthen public confidence in the police profession, and to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Association shall consist of five categories:

- 1) Active Members (I)
- 2) Active Members (II)
- 3) Life Members
- 4) Associate Members
- 5) Honorary Members
- 6) Corporate Member

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

Active I & Active II – Any person qualifying for and seeking membership to the Rhode Island Police Chiefs’ Association as an Active member (I) or (II) must complete and submit a membership application to the Secretary of the Association/Membership Committee for review and approval. Election as an Active Member (I) or (II) requires recommendation for acceptance by the Membership Committee and a majority vote of Active Members (I) present at a business meeting.

Associate Membership – Any person seeking membership to the Rhode Island Police Chiefs’ Association must be sponsored by an active member of the association and must complete and submit a membership application to the Secretary of the Association/Membership Committee for review and approval. Election as an Associate Member requires a recommendation for acceptance by the Membership Committee and a majority vote of the Active Members (I) present at a business meeting.

Life Membership – All Active Members (I) are eligible for Life Membership upon retirement from service. Election as a Life Member requires a recommendation for acceptance by the Executive Committee and a majority vote of the Active Members (I) present at a business meeting.

SECTION 2 ACTIVE MEMBERS I

Active Members I Shall consist of the Chief Executive Officer of any Municipal Police Department, the Superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police, Chief Executive officer of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Chief of the Airport Police, Chief of the Brown University Police, Chief of the University of Rhode Island Police, Chief of the Rhode Island College Police, Chief of the Community College of Rhode Island Police, Director of the Municipal Police Academy, Rhode Island High Sheriff, Rhode Island Attorney General , United States Federal Marshal for the State of Rhode Island, and Chief of the Rhode Island Capitol Police, and The commissioner of Public Safety of any City or Town within the State of Rhode Island; provided that such individual is a graduate of a recognized police training academy and has experience as a law enforcement executive.

Only Active Members (I) shall have voting rights and be eligible to hold office.

In the event an Active Member (I) retires from service as a Municipal Police Chief or Superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police and immediately assumes a position as the Chief of the Department of Environmental Management, Chief of the Capitol Police, Federal Marshal for the State of Rhode Island, Executive High Sheriff for the State of Rhode Island, or the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy or Administrator/Registrar of the RI DMV, he/she shall maintain all rights and privileges afforded an Active Member (I).

To be considered a member in good standing of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association an Active Member (I) shall attend a minimum of four (4) meetings per calendar year.

SECTION 3 ACTIVE MEMBERS II

Active Members (II) shall consist of the Agent in Charge of any Federal Law Enforcement Agency based in the State of Rhode Island.

Active Members (II) shall not have voting rights and are not eligible to hold office.

In addition to the above, Active Members (II) shall be recommended by a current Active I member, have law enforcement experience and/or be a Chief Executive Officer of a Police Department or Division within the State of Rhode Island, and have arrest powers as defined by State statute. Said member shall be subject to, but not limited to, criminal history investigation, background/character investigation, professional history review, etc., and upon review and recommendation of the membership committee, must be approved for membership by a majority vote of the Active (I) members present at a regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

SECTION 4 LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

All **Active Members (I)** in good standing shall be eligible for Life Membership upon retirement from service. Election as a Life Member requires a recommendation by the Executive Committee and a majority vote of Active Members (I) present at a business meeting. The meeting attendance requirement for “member in good standing” status may be waived, for good cause, by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Life Members shall not have voting rights and are not eligible to hold office.

The President may appoint, annually, one retired Chief who is a Life Member to a position on the Executive Board to represent the interests of the Life Membership. This appointment will not have voting rights.

SECTION 5 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS

Any person of good reputation may be eligible for Associate Membership provided he/she is sponsored by an Active Member (I). Dues for such membership shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00) per calendar year payable upon application.

The application shall be submitted to the Membership Committee and shall set forth in detail all relevant personal data of the applicant. Election as an Associate Member requires a recommendation for acceptance by the Membership Committee and a majority vote of Active members (I) present at a business meeting.

To enhance the image of all members and to foster a better understanding of the interests of the private sector, the President may appoint, annually, an Associate Member to a position on the Executive Board. This appointment will not have voting rights.

SECTION 6 HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS

Any person of good and sufficient moral character and/or of marked distinction, who has shown or displayed an unquestionable interest in the welfare of this Association, may be eligible for Honorary Membership. Election as an Honorary Member requires a recommendation by the Executive Committee and the Membership Committee and a majority vote of the Active Members (I) present at a business meeting. Honorary Members shall have the privilege of taking part in all discussions at general meetings, but shall not have voting rights or be eligible to hold office.

SECTION 7 CORPORATE MEMBERS:

Any firm or corporation having a valid interest in the advancement of the police profession and desires to aid in the attainment of the purpose and goals of this Association, may be eligible for membership as a Corporate Member under such rules as establish by the Executive Committee. All proposed applicants for Corporate Membership shall be investigated by the Membership Committee, be voted upon and approved by a majority vote of the Active Members at a regular meeting of the Association.

SECTION 8 MEMBERSHIP EXCEPTIONS

Active Members (I) who shall retire or become separated from active police service may retain their membership in the Association as a Life Member, except as provided in Article III, Section 2 of these by-laws. Active Members (I) holding office in the Association at the time of their retirement or separation shall be deemed to have resigned from said office as of the date of such retirement or separation. Said vacancies shall be filled in accordance with Article V, Section 3 through 6 of the by-laws.

SECTION 9 EXPULSIONS

An Association Member or **Corporate Member** may be expelled from membership, for cause, by a vote of three quarters (3/4) of Active members (I) present at a business meeting. The member being expelled shall be notified in writing, by the Secretary of the Association after such expulsion.

SECTION 10 DUES

Active Members (I) shall pay annual dues of one hundred dollars (\$150.00). Active Members (II) shall pay annual dues of fifty dollars (\$50.00).

Associate Members shall pay annual dues of fifty dollars (\$50.00). **Corporate Members shall pay annual dues as established by the Executive Committee.** Dues are due and payable of the first day of each calendar year. Life members and Honorary Members shall not pay dues.

ARTICLE IV

SECTION 1 ATTORNEY

The Association may employ a law firm or an attorney on a retained basis to assist in any legal matter that may arise in the business of the Association. The Executive Board shall provide the Association with the name of such law firm or attorney for approval by a majority vote of Active Members (I) present at a business meeting.

SECTION 2 LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Legal assistance for Active Members (I) is limited to five hundred dollars (\$500.00). In each case, a written request shall be made to the Executive Committee who will make a recommendation to the President for approval or disapproval. The President shall, on his/her motion, place that recommendation before the Association at the next business meeting. A majority vote of Active Members (I) present at the meeting is required for passage. The Treasurer shall maintain a minimum balance of one thousand, five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) in the Legal Assistance Account at all times.

SECTION 3 EXPENDITURES

The President is authorized to expend up to and including two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) with the approval of a majority of the Executive Committee and that approval may be obtained by vote at a meeting or by telephone vote.

All motions for expenditures in the amount of two hundred, fifty dollars (\$250.00) or more will be referred to the Finance Committee for review and approval.

ARTICLE V

SECTION 1 OFFICERS

The Officers of this Association shall consist of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Sergeant-at-Arms. The Offices of President, Vice President and Sergeant-at-Arms will be one year terms and persons filling those offices may not hold that office for more than one successive year. The Offices of Treasurer and Secretary may be for terms longer than one year. Only active Municipal Police Chiefs and the Superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police, as defined in Article III, Section 2, of these by-laws shall be eligible to hold an elective office or serve in an executive capacity.

SECTION 2 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Election of Officers shall occur annually at the December business Meeting.

The Office of President shall be filled by the progression of the Vice President.

The Office of Vice President shall be filled by the progression of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Office of Sergeant-at-Arms shall be filled by an Active Member (I) in good standing elected by a majority vote of Active Members (I) present at the December business meeting from a list of nominees presented by the Nomination Committee.

The Office of Treasurer shall be filled by an Active Member (I) or, if unable to be filled by an Active Member (I), a retired Active Member (1), in good standing elected by a majority vote of Active Members (I) present at the December business meeting from a list of nominees presented by the Nomination Committee.

The Office of Secretary shall be filled by an Active Member (I) or, if unable to be filled by an Active Member (1), a retired Active Member (1), in good standing elected by a majority vote of Active Members (I) present at the December business meeting from a list of nominees presented by the Nomination Committee.

SECTION 3 PRESIDENT

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and shall preserve order pursuant to the provisions of the Roberts Rules of Order. The President shall have a vote on all questions and shall appoint committees at his/her discretion with the following exception:

The President shall, upon assuming office, appoint the following named officers to the Executive Committee in this order:

- 1) President
- 2) Vice President
- 3) Treasurer
- 4) Secretary
- 5) Sergeant-at-Arms
- 6) Immediate Past President
- 7) *One member of the Live Membership
- 8) *One member of the Associate Membership

(*denotes a non-voting appointment)

The President shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee for a period of two (2) years immediately following his/her term of Office, provided he/she is still an Active Member (I), as defined in Article III, Section 2 of the by-laws.

An Active member (I) may serve as President for more than one term provided the terms are not consecutive.

In the event the municipality of the Association's presiding President does not fund or contribute to his/her attendance at the International Association of the Chiefs of Police conference and/or the New England Police Chiefs Association conference, the Association shall pay the travel, lodging, and conference registration fees if requested, providing funds are available.

SECTION 4 VICE PRESIDENT

The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President in his/her absence and shall assume the Office of President for the unexpired term, if, for any reason, the presiding President vacates the Office. A Vice President assuming the Office of President shall not be considered to have served a full term in office and, therefore, shall not be precluded from serving the next term as an elected President of the Association.

SECTION 5 SECRETARY

The Secretary of the Association shall be compensated at one thousand, two hundred dollars (\$1,200.00) per year. The Secretary shall faithfully keep records of all meetings and attend to the correspondence of the Association. The Secretary shall be bonded in the amount of the ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.000).

In the event of the Office of Secretary becomes vacant, an election shall be held at the next business meeting for the purpose of filling said vacancy. The President may appoint an Active Member (I), eligible to hold office, to fill the position on an interim basis until such election is held.

SECTION 6 TREASURER

The Treasurer of the Association shall be compensated at one thousand, two hundred dollars (\$1,200.00) per year. The Treasurer shall be bonded in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) and shall sign all checks drawn on the Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association and have charge of all funds of the Association.

The Treasurer shall provide a written annual report to the Active Members at the first business meeting of each year and shall make any further reports as requested by the President. A copy of all said reports shall be filed with the Secretary. The Treasurer shall make all financial documents, ledgers, bills, etc. available to the Auditing Committee.

In the event the Office of Treasurer becomes vacant, an election shall be held at the next business meeting for the purpose of filling said vacancy. The President may appoint an Active Member (I), eligible to hold office, to fill the position on an interim basis until such election is held.

SECTION 7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

The Sergeant-at-Arms shall attend the doors and permit entrance only to those persons properly qualified by membership, unless otherwise ordered by the President. He/She shall maintain peace within the meeting room and perform such other duties as requested by the President. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall assume the Office of Vice President for the unexpired term if, for any reason, the Vice President vacates the office.

In the event the Office of Sergeant-at-Arms becomes vacant, an election shall be held at the next business meeting for the purpose of filling said vacancy. The President may appoint an Active Member (I), eligible to hold office, to fill the position on an interim basis until such election is held.

SECTION 8 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of those members who shall be appointed by the President in accordance with Article V, Section 2 of the By-Laws.

The By-Laws shall define the duties and responsibilities of the Executive Committee who shall have full power and authority to conduct the business of the Association during intervals between meetings.

The Executive Committee shall not possess the power to change the Constitution of the Association or its By-Laws; nor shall it cause any expenditures or indebtedness on behalf of the Association without approval by a majority vote of the Active Members (I) present at a business meeting.

SECTION 9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Committee with the advice and consent of the Association may appoint an Executive Director. At the end of his/her term, The President of the Association shall make a recommendation to the Executive Committee whether to renew the appointment of the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall carry out such duties and responsibilities designated by and prescribed by the Association.

The Executive Director shall be a non-voting member of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 10 REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

A member of the Executive Committee may be removed from office for any act of malfeasance or misfeasance by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Active Members (I) present at a business meeting.

ARTICLE VI

SECTION 1 MEETINGS

Business meetings of the Association shall be held on the third Tuesday of each month as defined in Section 2 of this Article. The purpose of such meeting is to conduct Association business and it shall precede any social function or gathering of Associate and Honorary Members.

The annual election of Association Officers will be conducted at the December business meeting with the Installation of Officers being conducted at the January meeting

The President may call up to four (4) additional meetings per year to discuss Association business. These additional meetings shall be held on a quarterly basis or when designated by the President. Only Active Members (I) shall be eligible to attend and vote at such meetings.

Special meetings may be called by the President, or by five Active Members (I), as deemed necessary.

To conduct business at any monthly, special, or quarterly meeting, a quorum of eleven (11) Active Members (I) is required.

SECTION 2 MEETING LOCATIONS

The location of the monthly business meeting shall be chosen from a roster of the cities and towns listed in alphabetical order. All Police Chiefs will be given the privilege of hosting the meeting in their respective city or town. A Police Chief may decline to host a meeting and defer to the Chief of the next City or Town appearing on the roster. If for any reason a conflict occurs in the selection of a meeting place, the President shall chose a location.

SECTION 3 QUORUM

Eleven (11) Active Members (I) present at any business meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of Association business.

ARTICLE VII

SECTION 1 PASSAGE

The Chairman of the By-Laws Committee shall call an annual meeting of the committee in the month of February of each calendar year to review the By-Laws of the Association and make any recommendation for changes of the By-Laws to the membership.

All requests for amendments to the By-Laws must be submitted in writing to the President of the Association or the Chairperson of the By-Laws Committee by January 1st of each calendar year.

The By-Laws Committee shall submit to the general membership their recommendations for changes at the monthly meeting in May of each calendar year.

ARTICLE VIII

The order of proceedings of the business meeting shall be as follows:

- a. Call to order by the President
- b. Salute to the Flag
- c. Minutes of the previous meeting
- d. Appointment of Committees
- e. Reports of Officers
- f. Reports of Committees
- g. Presentation/Reading of Papers
- h. Unfinished Business
- i. New Business
- j. Election of Officers
- k. Selection of Meeting Place
- l. For the Good & Welfare of the Association
- m. Adjournment

ARTICLE IX

(Revised October 13, 1998)

SECTION I COMMITTEES

The President shall appoint five (5) members to each of the following committees:

1. Hospitality Committee
2. Nominating Committee
3. Auditing Committee
4. Membership Committee
5. By-Laws Committee
6. Legislative Committee
7. Training, Standards and Education Committee
8. Finance Committee
9. Awards Committee
10. Special Issue Committee
11. Any other Committee necessary for the welfare of the Association.

SECTION 2 AWARDS COMMITTEE

The President of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association shall appoint five (5) Chiefs to the Awards Committee in the following manner. One Chief whom shall represent departments from 1 to 20 full-time sworn police officers; one Chief who shall represent departments from 21 to 50 full-time sworn police officers; one chief who shall represent departments from 50 to 100 full-time sworn police officers; one chief who shall represent departments with 101 or more full-time sworn police officers. The fifth member of the committee shall be the Superintendent of the State Police or the senior supervisory agent of a member Federal Law Enforcement agency. In the event that a member of the Awards Committee resigns or retires, the replacement shall be selected by the President of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association from the appropriate size department.

SECTION 3 RHODE ISLAND POLICE CHIEFS' MEDAL

Be it resolved that the Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association may annually award the Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Medal to any sworn police officer serving in the State of Rhode Island who has been so selected for such recognition by the Awards Committee of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association. The eligibility for such award shall be determined by the Awards Committee.

ARTICLE X

An annual audit shall be ordered by the Auditing Committee immediately following their appointment. The Auditing Committee shall present the results of such audit at the February business meeting.