

CONSTITUTION
OF
"THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN CHAPTER"
THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
OF BLACK LAW
ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVES

Article 1

Name and Purpose

Section 1. Name. The name of this chapter shall be the Washington Metropolitan Chapter of NOBLE.

Section 2. Purpose. The purpose of this Chapter is:

- (A) To establish an effective local mechanism to facilitate the development and exchange of information among minority law enforcement executives;
- (B) To work towards immediate implementation of effective programs to increase minority participation at all levels of law enforcement throughout the Metropolitan area;
- (C) To work with the community to achieve greater involvement and cooperation with criminal justice agencies;
- (D) To develop communication techniques for sensitizing police executives, police officers, institutions and agencies in the criminal justice system to the problems of black police officers and the problems of the black community.

- (E) To fully support the parent organization in its goals and purposes, both programmatically and financially.

Article II

Membership

Section 1. Eligibility. Individuals authorized for any one of the four (4) classes of membership set forth in the national constitution (regular, associate, supporting, sustaining) will be eligible for membership in this chapter. Moreover, concerted efforts should be made to recruit individuals into the National Organization with a view towards their subsequent membership in the local chapter.

Section 2. Termination of Membership. Members of the chapter shall be terminated from membership in any one of the following ways:

- (A) Any member may voluntarily terminate his/her membership by tendering his/her resignation in writing to the **secretary** of the chapter;
- (B) Any member of this chapter will be subject to dismissal in accordance with instructions from the National/Regional Organization:
- (C) Any member of this chapter may be temporarily suspended from participating in chapter affairs by a majority vote of the elected officers for cause, pending referral to the Regional Vice-President for forwarding to the National Organization for final action.
- ** (D) Any member of this chapter who fails to pay his/her chapter dues within sixty (60) days of the due date, (January 30) is subject to removal from the chapter roll(s) at the discretion of the President. Any appeals offered regarding such removals

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will be acted on by the Chapter Executive Board. Lapse time and/or additional fees that may be levied against the errant member will be as determined by the Executive Board.

** Section 3. Reinstatement of Members. Any member of this chapter whose name has been stricken from the rolls for any of the above listed reasons, may apply for reinstatement to the chapter provided:

- (A) He/she is currently financial and in good standing with the National Office, and exhibits proof of same;
- (B) He/she makes application to the local chapter, the same to be accompanied by funds to cover one (1) year's back dues, and dues owed for the current year when the application is submitted; and
- (C) He/she is not indebted to the local chapter for any outstanding debts or obligations, such as; unsold tickets not turned in, any money from same not turned in, any pins, decals, or other objects of identification, ordered and not paid for.

Article III

Fiscal

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of this chapter will run concurrent with the calendar year.

Section 2. Annual Budget. The annual budget will be approved during the November/December time frame preceding the fiscal/calendar year which it covers.

Section 3. Dues. Current paid-up membership in any one of the authorized categories set forth in the National Organization is a prerequisite for membership in this chapter. Annual dues of \$25.00 a year to

cover cost of local meetings will be assessed each member in order to support programmed local activities and related chapter requirements, and are to be paid by January 30th of each year.

Article IV

Meetings of Members

Section 1. Monthly Meetings.

- (A) The Washington Metropolitan chapter will meet once every month on the second (2nd) Thursday of each month. When this date coincides or otherwise conflicts with annual/regional meetings, the third (3rd) Thursday of the respective month will be the alternate meeting date. Said meetings shall be held for the purpose of electing officers and for the transaction of such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting;
- (B) The order of business shall be set by an agenda by the President with assistance as appropriate from the other elected officials. The agenda will be provided to all members in advance of the meeting.

Section 2. Special Meetings. Special meetings are authorized for such purposes as may be deemed appropriate by the President or at the request, in writing, of at least twenty-five (25) per cent of the members in good standing. Notices of special meetings shall be forwarded to the membership in advance of the meeting and state briefly the purpose(s) thereof. No business other than that specified in such notice and matters germane thereto shall be transacted at any special meeting without further notice to the members not present.

Section 3. Quorum and Voting. A minimum of 1/3 of the members in good standing entitled to vote on the matter under consideration shall constitute a quorum. The members present at a duly organized meeting can continue to do business until adjournment, notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough members to have a quorum. If a meeting cannot be organized because a quorum has not attended, those present may adjourn the meeting to such time and place as they may determine. At any such adjourned meeting at which a quorum is present, such business may be transacted as might have been transacted at the meeting originally called. All matters coming before any meeting of the members, except as otherwise limited herein, shall be decided by the vote of a majority of the voting members present at such meeting, a quorum being present at the organization of such meeting.

Section 4. Rules of Order. Robert's Rules of Order shall be used throughout the meeting where said rules do not conflict with the provisions of this Constitution. The parliamentarian shall be the arbiter in matters dealing with parliamentary procedures or constitutional interpretation.

Article V

Officers

Section 1. Number. The elected officers of the chapter shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Parliamentarian, a Treasurer and a Sergeant-At-Arms, together with such other officers as deemed appropriate and appointed by the President.

Section 2. Term. Unless otherwise stated herein, the elected officers shall serve for two (2) years and until their successors are elected and qualified. All officers are eligible to succeed themselves. However, the President may serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms. The President shall be an exofficio member of all standing committees.

Section 3. Duties and Authority. The Officers shall have such duties and authority as generally pertain to their respective offices, as well as

such duties and authority as from time to time may be conferred by the President. Without limitation upon any of the foregoing:

- (A) The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the chapter. He/She shall preside at all meetings, enforce the goals and objectives of the chapter, decide all questions of order (subject to appeal), appoint all committees, call special meetings whenever, in his/her judgement, it shall be deemed necessary and/or in the best interest of the chapter. He/She shall perform such duties as coming within the purview of his/her office, as the Constitution, By-Laws, Customs and Traditions of the chapter demand. ** Further, the President is hereby authorized to make minor expenditures of \$100.00 or less, from the Chapter Treasury as he/she may deem necessary to conduct relevant Chapter affairs. All other expenditures will require a vote and approval of the Chapter's Executive Board.
- (B) The Vice President shall aid and assist the President in conducting meetings and in the absence of the President, he/she shall preside, and while so presiding shall have the full power of the President;
- (C) The Secretary shall receive all mail addressed to the chapter, and, when appropriate, forward such mail to the officers, committee, or member concerned. He/She shall keep and maintain an accurate file of the names and addresses of every member of the organization, and advise the President and Treasurer of any changes in addresses and shall give due and proper notice of meetings. He/She shall answer all correspondence and perform all duties incidental to the office or as may be

required by the chapter. He/She shall record the minutes of the meetings, send a copy to the President, and others deemed appropriate, and maintain a copy for his/her records.

- (D) The Parliamentarian shall have a thorough knowledge of parliamentary law on General Henry M. Robert's Rules of Order, and a complete understanding of the constitution and by-laws of the Organization. He/She shall serve as arbiter in matters dealing with parliamentary procedure or constitutional interpretation;
- (E) The Treasurer shall keep a full and accurate account of the standing in the Organization of each member; receive all membership fees, dues and all money properly due and coming into the possession of the chapter, giving receipts therefor. He/She will open and maintain a checking account in the name of the chapter. He/She shall be responsible for keeping full and accurate records of all monies deposited to the account of the chapter. He/She shall pay all bills, claims, and indebtedness when authorized. All checks are to be co-signed by the Treasurer and the President. Moreover, he/she shall issue a monthly report and an annual financial statement reflecting all credits and debits and other fiscal matters in conformance with approved National fiscal standards for the year. The Treasurer will be bonded and the cost incidental to this process will be borne by the chapter. The Treasurer will execute his/her office in accordance with the

procedures set forth in the document titled
"National Standards for Fiscal Affairs (NOBLE)".

- (F) The Sergeant-At-Arms shall enforce order at meetings, conferences and conventions. He/She shall expel intruders and bar the door to the unauthorized. He/She perform other duties as designated by the President.

Section 4. Eligibility. All members of NOBLE in good standing who are active in the Washington Metropolitan Chapter are eligible to hold office and to vote in the chapter.

Section 5. Election. Elections will be held bi-annually in December with elected officers assuming office in January of the succeeding year. A simple majority by eligible voters on matters put to a vote will be the sole determinant of the results.

** Section 6. Removal/Replacement of Elected or Appointed Officials/Members

Individuals who are elected or appointed in accordance with the provisions of Section 1 above, may be removed or replaced as follows:

- (A) Removal from elected or appointed positions will be authorized in instances of frequent or persistent failure to attend regularly scheduled or other official meetings. When in the judgement of the President and the majority of the other elected officials of the chapter, a duly elected official fails to attend three (3) regularly scheduled or other officially called meetings during the calendar year, and thereby impairs the ability of the chapter to effectively conduct its business, will be cause for consideration for removal from the position in question after a majority vote by members present at the meeting where a quorum is present. The office holder will be accorded an opportunity

to be heard concerning his/her reason for the absences and to offer any mitigating or extenuating circumstances, such as changes in assignments, tour of duty, illness, etc., prior to the actual vote on the matter.

- (B) Replacement. Any elected position that becomes vacant as a result of removal, death, resignation, etc., should be filled on an interim basis by an election by majority vote of the members present, to serve in the capacity only until such time as the next regularly scheduled election of officers.

Section 7. Vacancies. If the office of the President shall become vacant, the Vice President shall assume the office of President and shall serve the remainder of his predecessor's term, and at the next regular meeting, will be sworn in to serve his term.

Section 8. Committees. Standing - Constitution and By-Laws, Ways and Means, and Membership;

Special - Such other committees as may be deemed appropriate and appointed by the President.

Article VI

Effective Date: Amendments

Section 1. Effective Date. This Constitution shall become effective upon approval by the majority vote of the voting members of the Organization.

Section 2. Amendment. Amendments to the Constitution may be made in the following manner: By an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the paid-up members present and voting at the meeting.

Organized December 1982

Constitution Revised December 1986

** Indicates Revisions, and/or additions.