

**MARYLAND CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION, INC.
CONSTITUTION**

**ARTICLE I
NAME OF ORGANIZATION**

The name of this organization shall be the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association. This Association was chartered on June 30, 1961 and was incorporated on September 8, 1961, and the term shall be perpetual.

**ARTICLE II
PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Association shall be to unite law enforcement executives in delivering innovative, high-quality public safety services through cooperation, professional development, leadership, to increase the effectiveness of the police profession and enhance public confidence in the police; and, to improve the quality of life in the communities that we serve.

This Association is non-partisan and, as such, is not affiliated with any political party nor will it endorse or support any candidate for elective office.

The assets of the Association shall be dedicated to the purposes described above, and all activities of the Association shall comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.

**ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Nondiscrimination

No person shall be denied membership because of race, sex, creed, color, national origin, disability or sexual orientation.

Section 2. Categories of Membership and Eligibility

Membership in this Association consists of four categories—Active, Associate, Retired and Life:

a) Active Membership:

- 1) The Chief Law Enforcement Executive of any State, county or municipal law enforcement agency established by law, and any division of a federal agency that is assigned to law enforcement duties in the State of Maryland;

- 2) The Chief Law Enforcement Executive's sworn Deputies, Assistants, Bureau and Division Commanders when sponsored by the Chief Executive who is a member in good standing.
- b) Associate Membership:
- 1) Any person not eligible for Active membership, but qualified by training and experience in police or other law enforcement activity, or by other professional attainments in law, police science, administration, private security, or law enforcement training and whose membership would benefit the Association.
 - 2) Any member of the community who, while not in the criminal justice profession, provides support to the Association, and whose membership would benefit the Association.
- c) Retired Membership:
- 1) Any person who has been an Active member for at least five years and retires from the law enforcement profession.
 - 2) Retired members have the same privileges as Associate members.
- d) Life Membership:
- 1) Persons completing a full term as President of this Association, and
 - 2) The Executive Board may grant to any Active or Associate Member who has served the Association with honored distinction for 10 consecutive years, and who has rendered outstanding service to the Association by distinguishing him or herself by deed or act on behalf of the principles or objectives of this Association a Life Membership;
 - 3) Any member may nominate another member for Life Membership.

**ARTICLE IV
DUES**

Section 1. Authority

The Association has the right to assess dues upon its members and the Executive Board shall set the dues for the following fiscal year.

Section 2. Changes in Dues

Any change in dues will take effect on the first day of the new fiscal year.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers

The officers of the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association are:

- a) President who shall act as Chairperson of the Executive Board;
- b) First Vice President who serves the duties of the President in his/her absence;
- c) Second Vice President who oversees the financial dealings of the Association.

Section 2. Eligibility and Term

- a) Any Active Member who is the chief law enforcement executive of a Maryland law enforcement agency and whose membership is in good standing is eligible to seek office except that no Active Member shall hold more than one office in the Association at any given time.
- b) The term of office shall begin with the installation of the new officers at the annual conference and shall continue for one year.
- c) A full-term President of the Association is not be eligible to succeed himself or herself.

Section 3. Election of Officers

The office of Second Vice President shall be filled by election of the membership. The offices of President and First Vice President shall be filled automatically by ascending progression.

ARTICLE VI CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Section 1. Permissible Changes

The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended, repealed or suspended.

Section 2. Adoption of Changes

a) The Constitution may be changed only by a two-thirds majority vote of the each agency entitled to vote and agencies may cast only one vote for changes to the Constitution at a general business meeting.

b) Amendments to the By-Laws of the Association must be approved by a simple majority of the each agency entitled to vote and each agency may cast only one vote for changes to the By-Laws at a general business meeting.

**ARTICLE VII
DISSOLUTION**

In the event of dissolution of the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association, the Executive Board shall, after paying or making provision for the payments of the liabilities of the organization, dispose of all the assets of the organization exclusively for the purposes of the organization and consistent with applicable law.

Revised and Readopted September 12, 2007