



**THE CONSTITUTION**

**Of the**

**COLORADO FRATERNAL ORDER OF  
POLICE**

**DENVER SHERIFF LODGE 27**

**P.O. Box 11420**

**Denver, Colorado 80211**

Revised 4/19/2002



# CONSTITUTION

## Preamble

We, the law enforcement officers of the Colorado Fraternal Order of Police, Denver Sheriff Lodge 27, do hereby associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

- ✚ To support and defend the Constitution of the United State of America;
- ✚ to inculcate loyalty and allegiance to the United States of America;
- ✚ to promote and foster the enforcement of law and order;
- ✚ to improve the individual and collective proficiency of our members in the performance of their duties;
- ✚ to encourage fraternal, social, charitable and educational activities among law enforcement officers;
- ✚ to advocate and strive for uniform application of the civil service merit system for appointment and promotion;
- ✚ to support the improvement of the standard of living and working conditions of the law enforcement profession through every legal and ethical means available;
- ✚ to create a tradition of esprit de corps insuring fidelity to duty under all conditions and circumstances;
- ✚ to cultivate a spirit of fraternization and mutual helpfulness among our members and the people we serve;
- ✚ to enhance the law enforcement profession;
- ✚ to increase the efficiency of the law enforcement profession and thus more firmly
- ✚ to establish the confidence of the public in the service dedicated to the protection of life and property.

## ARTICLE I Name <sup>1</sup>

**Section 1.** This organization shall be known as the Colorado Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 27 (hereinafter referred to as the “Lodge” or “Lodge 27”).

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<sup>1</sup> *All terms used herein to denominate gender shall be generic, whenever appropriate, the singular shall include the plural, and the plural shall include the singular.*

**Section 2.** The Lodge, by virtue of its affiliation with the Grand Lodge Fraternal Order of Police, shall have the right to use the name, insignia, emblem and mark, trademark or service mark of the Fraternal Order of Police in order to signify or denote its affiliation therewith. In cases of use for profit, refer to the Grand Lodge Constitution.

## **ARTICLE II Character**

**Section 1.** The Fraternal Order of Police is a fraternal organization composed of professional law enforcement personnel who have joined together for their common good. In no event shall the Fraternal Order of Police or this Lodge join or be controlled by any labor organization, provided, however, that this section shall not prohibit cooperative efforts by the National, State or subordinate Lodges of the Fraternal order of Police with labor organizations for their common good.

**Section 2.** The Lodge shall not strike or by concerted action cause a cessation of the performance of police duties, or induce other members or Lodges to do likewise.

**Section 3.** This Constitution shall be the fundamental law, along with any of the Rituals previously adopted, the applicable laws of the state of Colorado, the articles of incorporation, and such By-laws as may be adopted from time to time, enacted in conformance therewith and adopted at duly called Lodge meetings, shall govern the conduct of the Lodge.

**Section 4.** There shall be By-laws which shall govern the day-to-day operation and administration of the Lodge. The By-laws of the Order may be promulgated, amended or revised as set forth in the By-laws.

## **ARTICLE III Purpose and Objectives**

### **Section 1.**

A. To promote public acceptance and awareness of professional efforts for improvement of the Denver Deputy Sheriffs and affiliated employees through educational seminars, workshops, conferences and other educational activities. These activities shall be open to all members of the Fraternal Order of Police.

B. To enlist the support of both publicly and privately employed professionals, law enforcement officials and legislators in research, introduction and repeal of new and old legislation, and educational activities which increase the public's knowledge of the various components of the Denver Sheriff Department, including the available services, capabilities, problems, and needs of this agency.

C. To strengthen the professional status of Denver Sheriff Personnel and affiliated employees by increasing awareness, instructing members and the public by disseminating knowledge and information about new innovative techniques, training, or programs which improve the working conditions of all employees.

D. To promote the code of ethics and standard for professional conduct as established by federal, state and city statutes, Career Service Authority Rules, departmental orders, policies of the City and County of Denver, and that of the Denver Sheriff Department.

E. To promote citizen support in the educational activities conducted by this organization and to have published brochures, newsletters, journals or other materials of instruction to enhance the knowledge and skill levels of interested members of the public and members of this organization.

F. To acquaint members of this organization with the total scope of their duties as they are governed by established legislation, statutes, rules, orders and procedure of the State of Colorado, City and County of Denver, and the Denver Sheriff Department.

G. To exercise all of the powers, rights and privileges which a corporation organized pursuant to the Colorado Non-Profit Act may have.

#### **ARTICLE IV Definitions**

Section 1. As used herein, the following terms, phrases or words shall be defined as follows:

A. **“Board of Directors”** shall mean and consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain, Chairman of the Representatives and Immediate Past-President (for the first year after vacating the office of President).

B. **“Good cause”** shall mean nonfeasance, gross neglect of duty, malfeasance, dishonesty, or refusal to carry out the will of the Lodge.

C. **“Law enforcement personnel”** shall refer to any person who is employed by a law enforcement agency (or who volunteers his or her time as a certified peace officer, whether paid or unpaid).

D. **“Affiliated employees”** of the Denver Sheriff Department means a member of the Denver Sheriff Department who is not sworn officers, and are affiliated with the Department through their employment status, such as clerical workers.

## **ARTICLE V Membership and Affiliation**

### **Section 1.**

A. All persons who are employed as Denver Sheriffs, affiliated employees of the Denver Sheriff Department and active law enforcement personnel from another agency and who agree to support and abide by the objectives and purposes of the Fraternal Order of Police and Lodge 27, may be accepted as a member of the Lodge, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and By-laws. No person shall be denied membership because of race, creed, sex or religion. If, at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors, any person is found to have actively supported efforts to undermine the authority, objectives or purpose of the Lodge, or the Board finds that such person will not or cannot support or abide by the objectives and purposes of the Fraternal Order of Police and this Lodge, such person shall be denied membership in the Lodge.

### **Section 2.**

Subject only to the provisions of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge and Colorado State Lodge, Lodge 27 shall be the judge of its membership. It shall establish requirements for membership in good standing and respective classes of membership in the Lodge. The Board of Directors shall establish, at its discretion, the procedure for making the determinations or requirements provided for under this Section.

### **Section 3.**

There shall be three (6) classes of membership: Active, Retired, Lifetime, Active Retired and Honorary.

- A. **Active members** shall consist of all full-time employees of the Denver Sheriff Department who are of the sworn service. Only active members are eligible to hold elective or appointed office within the Lodge, as set forth in the By-laws.

Only active members shall have the right to voice or vote on officers or any Lodge matter. Denver Safety Cadets are excluded from membership.

- B. **Retired Membership** shall be comprised of retired regularly appointed or elected law enforcement officers who withdraw from active membership upon or after retirement from their law enforcement agency. These members shall not have the right to vote and are not considered as active members.
- C. **Lifetime Membership:** Shall be comprised of retired regularly appointed or elected law enforcement officers who withdraw from active membership upon or after retirement from their law enforcement agency. This class of membership shall be extended to a select group and voted in as a Lifetime member by the membership at a regularly scheduled membership meeting. State and National per-capita shall be paid by the local lodge at no cost to the lifetime member.
- D. **Active Retired Membership:** Shall be comprised of retired law enforcement officers of the Denver Sheriff Department. This class of membership is eligible to hold elected office as set forth in the bylaws. Further, they have all the same rights to voice and vote on all issues excluding ratification of a Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- E. **Associate Membership** shall be comprised of affiliated non sworn employees of the Denver Sheriff Department. Associate Members shall enjoy limited privileges and benefits, as provided in the By-laws. They shall not be eligible to nominate or hold office or be appointed to any position within this organization with the exception of appointment to a special committee. They also may be invited to a special meeting of the Lodge.

F. **Honorary Membership** are individuals recognized by the Grand Lodge, State Lodge or this Lodge for exceptional service or contribution to the Nation, the State, or political subdivision, the law enforcement community or the Fraternal Order of Police. Honorary Membership shall be also granted to all spouses, children and parents of Denver Sheriff Department Officers slain while in the performance of their duties. They shall not be eligible to nominate or hold office or be appointed to any position within this organization with the exception of appointment to a special committee. They also may be invited to a special meeting of the Lodge.

## **ARTICLE VI Officers**

### **Section 1.**

A. The Board of Directors of Lodge 27 shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, 2nd Vice President, Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chairman of the Representatives and the Immediate Past-President (for the first year after vacating the office of President). These Officers shall be elected from the active membership in good standing, as defined in the By-laws, by a majority vote in a manner and at a time as described in the By-laws. The officers shall have the normal and customary duties of office, as described in the By-laws.

### **Section 2.**

A. No member of this organization shall be nominated, or be a candidate for more than one (1) office at the same election. No Officer-elect shall be a candidate for any other office, nor shall be allowed to hold office in a competing organization during his or her term in office.

B. All individuals who are elected to the Board of Directors of this organization shall be bonded. This coverage shall remain in effect during the elected Official's term in office, with the expenses of such coverage to be incurred by Lodge 27.

## **ARTICLE VII Meetings**

### **Section 1.**

A. The Lodge meetings shall be held monthly as provided in the By-laws. Three (3) members present at such meeting shall constitute a quorum.

## **ARTICLE VIII Amendments**

### **Section 1.**

A. Only an Active Member of this Lodge may propose an amendment to this Constitution. Such proposals shall be in resolution form, stating the reasons for the amendment, signed by the member and then submitted to the Secretary.

B. Any proposed amendment to the Constitution of Lodge 27 shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the next regularly scheduled Lodge meeting. The Secretary shall mail, or deliver, to each active voting member of this Lodge, a copy of such proposed amendment at least ten (10) days prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting. The proposed amendment shall then be submitted at the regularly scheduled meeting. Upon adoption by a majority vote of the members present at said meeting, the proposed amendment shall become a part of this Constitution.

## **ARTICLE IX Auxiliaries**

### **Section 1.**

The Lodge is authorized to establish an auxiliary of the Lodge by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Such auxiliaries shall be subject to the contract and supervision of Lodge 27. They shall conform to and be governed by the Constitution and By-laws as they may adopt and which will, at all times, be subject to approval of the Board of Directors of the Lodge and the State Lodge as well.

## **ARTICLE X Discipline**

### **Section 1.**

All matters of discipline will be interpreted in such manner as to afford equity and fairness to all affected thereby. The By-laws shall provide how disciplinary matters are to be carried out.