



The Champaign County Black Chamber of Commerce By-Laws

-as approved September 22, 2006

Article I - Name

The name of this organization is The Champaign County Black Chamber of Commerce.

Article II - Place of Business

The Chamber's place of business is 1817 South Neil Street, Suite 201, Champaign, IL 61820. The mailing address is the same.

Article III - Purpose

The purpose of the Chamber shall be to teach capitalism and expand access to capitalization, technical support, procurement opportunities, effective networking, and sharing of information for Black owned businesses and other minority owned businesses as well as the African descendant community as a whole. The Chamber is nonprofit, nonpartisan and nonsectarian and abides by the rules set forth via IRS 501(c)3 classification.

Article IV - Powers

The Chamber is empowered to raise and receive money and other property by gift, devise, subscription, dues, and other legal means and to expand and contribute the funds so raised and does all things necessary or desirable to carry out the purpose set forth in Article III of these by-laws. The Chamber shall have no capital stock and shall be operated solely for charitable purposes and for the furthering of the economic development of Black owned businesses/communities and other minority owned firms. The Chamber may charter local affiliate Chapters that must secure annual certification for their Chapter Agreements and Charter to remain in effect.

Article V - Membership

Any person, association, corporation, partnership or estate having an interest in the objectives of the organization shall be eligible to apply for membership. The levels of membership are:

Student – A student at the University of Illinois, Parkland, or other college wishing to join the Chamber.

Individual – A citizen wishing to join the Chamber as a member.

Business - A business of any type wishing to join the Chamber.

Association – A nonprofit association wishing to have a membership in the Chamber.

Article VI - Board of Directors and Officers

Elections: There shall be no more than 12 Board of Directors at any one time.

At each Annual Meeting, held in the Fall, the Chamber Members shall elect up to 4 Directors to serve a term of three years, and may elect additional Directors for shorter terms to fill vacancies, it being the intent of this By-Law that insofar as practical the term of office of one-third of the number of Directors shall expire at the next succeeding Annual Meeting.

Each member is given a ballot. The member may write on the ballot as many names as there are open Directorships. For any open Directorship the member may write "no candidate" on the ballot or leave a blank space. The member may not vote twice for the same person. Example: if there are 3 seats open and 4 candidates running, the voter may write 0, 1, 2, or 3 different names on the ballot.

A candidate wins a seat if their name appears on a majority of the ballots cast.

In the event of shorter term vacancies, 3 year terms are voted on first, then 2 year, then 1 year.

Board of Directors: The Board of Directors shall make implement and supervise the policies of the Chapter, shall elect all officers, and may fill vacancies in the Board of Directors which occur between Annual Meetings.

Number and Title: The officers of the Chamber, elected from among the Board of Directors, shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers as the Board of Directors may choose to elect.

President: The President shall preside at all meetings of the members of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. The President shall also serve as the chief executive officer of the Board and shall implement Chamber policy as established by the Board of Directors. The President is responsible for all activities emulating from the Chamber and implements and manages the Strategic Plan. The President will oversee all financial records and manage the audits as they occur.

Vice-President: The Vice-President at the guidance and management of the President manages the staff and operations of the Chamber. The Vice-President can also manage the monies that are received by the Chamber and, in addition to the President, is a signor on CCBCC accounts.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all Chamber funds. He or she shall deposit all receipts in a bank or banks designated by the Board of Directors and shall disburse Chamber funds only by checks or other orders for the payment of money.

The Treasurer will be ready at all times to accurately report to the Board of Directors the financial status of the Chamber. The Treasurer shall also make and submit to the Chamber such reports as the Chamber may prescribe relative to Chamber finances.

Secretary: The Secretary shall record and keep minutes of the meetings and shall prepare and transmit to the Chamber such reports as may be required by the Chamber pursuant to these By-Laws. The Secretary shall also keep all daily records and files as needed by the Chamber.

Other Officers: Such other officers as the Board of Directors may from time to time elect shall have such powers and perform such duties as the Board of Directors may determine.

Staff: The President will hire and train staff for the Chamber. The positions and duties shall be consistent with the Strategic Plan and will be predicated on the Annual Budget and sufficient funding.

Management: The Board of Directors shall employ the President and shall fix his salary and other considerations of employment. The Executive Committee shall act for and on behalf of the Board of Directors when the Board is not in session, but shall be accountable to the Board for its action. It shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and at least one other board members designated by the President. The President will serve as the Executive Committee President.

Committees: The President, by and with approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint all committees and committee chairpersons. He/she may appoint such ad hoc committees and their chairpersons, as he deems necessary to carry out the program of the Chamber. Committee appointments shall be at the will and pleasure of the President and in no event shall exceed the term of the appointing President.

It shall be the function of the committees to make investigations, conduct studies and hearings, make recommendations to the Board of Directors and to carry on such activities as may be delegated to them by the Board. The committees will be, but not limited to, Nomination, Budget, Executive, Technology, International Trade, Title VI, and Section 3.

Divisions: The Board may create such divisions, bureaus, departments, or councils, as it deems advisable to handle the work of the Chamber. The Board shall authorize and define the powers and duties of all divisions, bureaus, departments and councils. The Board shall annually review and approve all activities and proposed programs of such divisions, bureaus, departments or councils.

Article VII - Finances

Funds: All money paid to the Chamber shall be placed in a general operating fund. Funds unused from the current year's budget will be carried over to the following year.

Disbursements: Upon approval of the budget, the President is authorized to make disbursements on accounts and expenses provided for in the budget without additional approval of the Board of Directors. Disbursement shall be by check.

Fiscal Year: The fiscal year of the Chamber shall close on December 31.

Budget: As soon as possible after election of the new Board of Directors and Officers, the Executive Committee (or Budget Committee) shall compile a budget of estimated expenses for the coming year and submit it to the Board of Directors for approval.

Procedure: The Chamber shall use its funds only to accomplish the objectives and purposes specified in these by-laws, and no part of said funds shall inure, or be distributed, to the members of the Chamber. On dissolution of the Chamber, any funds remaining shall be distributed to one or more regularly organized and qualified charitable, educational, scientific, or philanthropic organizations to be selected by the Board of Directors.

Article VIII - Parliamentary Authority

The current edition of Roberts Rules of Order shall be the final source of authority in all questions of parliamentary procedure when such rules are not inconsistent with the By-Laws of the Chamber.

Article IX - Amendments

Revisions: These by-laws may be amended or altered by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board or by a majority of the members at any regular or special meeting, providing the notice for the meeting includes the proposals for amendments. Any proposed amendments or alterations shall be submitted to the Board or the members in writing, at least ten (10) days before the meeting at which they are to be acted upon. Written proxy votes are acceptable.