

# CONSTITUTION OF THE CROFTON ISLANDS

WE THE PEOPLE of the Crofton Islands, in Order to establish a unified government, preserve Justice, ensure the safety and Welfare of the public, provide for the common defense, and secure the freedoms of its citizens, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the unified municipalities of the Crofton Islands.

## ARTICLE I.

SECTION I. There shall be an executive branch called the Council consisting of two members, the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister. The Deputy Prime Minister serves as the subordinate of the Prime Minister, thus following powers are entitled only to the Prime Minister unless specifically transferred by the Prime Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister for a single term, retraction of which is fully capable.

SECTION II. Elections shall be held every four months. The Prime Minister shall be the candidate possessing the highest number of votes, the Deputy Prime Minister shall be the candidate possessing the second highest number of votes. The Prime Minister is entitled the power of self-demotion in the event of an undesired victory.

SECTION III. The Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister shall have terms of four months, unless terminated through impeachment.

SECTION IV. Each term shall officially begin four months following the start of the preceding term. In the event of an equal distribution of votes between two or more parties, a run-off election following the initial polls shall be formed with only the disputed parties as candidates.

SECTION V. Members of the Council shall be entitled to the highest wages according to the most recent government budget report for government employees. The Prime Minister shall be entitled to residential use of Crofton Manor. The Deputy Prime Minister shall be entitled to residential use of Merdat House in Ceres. Members of the Council are afforded special protection services by the Crofton Intelligence Service.

SECTION VI. No person shall be a member of the Council who shall not have been four months in residence of the Crofton Islands or concurrently holds any subsequent position or rank within this or any other government, private or public organization. No person may serve on the Council for more than two consecutive terms. Members are elected to four month terms. No member shall have, at any time, committed any acts of felony.

SECTION VII. The Council shall have the ability to make Judicial appointments which must be confirmed by a voting majority in the Assembly, approve or reject a budget, and levy taxes with a voting majority in the Assembly. The Council may also initiate bills for Assembly consideration. The Prime Minister has the powers of veto and line-item veto in regards to Assembly bills. The Deputy Prime Minister shall function as Mayor of the capitol city of the Crofton Islands, currently Straford, which includes the ability to form a bureaucracy, maintain the city's government agencies, submit a city budget to the Assembly, and encourage growth. The Prime Minister shall have the power of pardon, when approved by the Deputy Prime Minister, to be used at his or her discretion for any convicted person.

## ARTICLE II.

SECTION I. There shall be a legislative branch called the Assembly consisting of four members. Immediately after they shall be assembled in consequence of the first election, they shall be divided equally into two classes. The seats of the members of Assembly of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the second month and of the second class at the expiration of the fourth month, so that one half may be chosen every two months.

SECTION II. Elections shall be held every two months.

SECTION III. Members of the Assembly shall have terms of four months, unless terminated through impeachment. Each term shall officially begin four months following the start of the preceding term. In the event of an equal distribution of votes between two or more parties, a run-off election following the initial polls shall be formed with only the disputed parties as candidates.

SECTION IV. The Assembly shall decide on its own procedures, including punishment for its members, if it deems it to be necessary. Minutes must be kept of each meeting by the Bench of Straford and must

be published from time to time excepting the parts of the proceedings that require secrecy.

SECTION V. Members of the Assembly shall be entitled to the second highest wages according to the most recent government budget report for government employees. Members of the Assembly shall also be entitled to the exclusive usage of designated office space in the building housing the Assembly Hall. Barring suspicion of treason or disturbing the peace, members of the Assembly are not to be arrested while meeting in the Assembly, nor stopped en route to the Assembly. The Assembly shall have the exclusive power to try all impeachments, though votes shall be included from the Council, with the requirement of a voting majority of the votes tallied to confirm impeachment. No member who shall be the subject of an impeachment hearing shall have a vote in those proceedings. Impeached members of the Assembly or Judicial Branch may be replaced through Council appointment and confirmed by the Assembly with a majority vote. Assembly replacements will inherit the remaining term time of their predecessor. All members of the three branches, the Council, the Assembly, and the Judicial branch, may be subjected to the impeachment process for any issue which proves excessively obstructive to the individual's function, including but not limited to abandonment, corruption, uncivil conduct, and inactivity. Members of the Assembly are afforded special protection services by the Crofton Intelligence Service.

SECTION VI. No person shall be a member of the Assembly who shall not have been two months in residence of the Crofton Islands or concurrently holds the position of Justice within this or any other government. No person may serve on the Assembly for more than two consecutive terms. The Deputy Prime Minister of the Crofton Islands shall cast the deciding vote in the Assembly if it is equally divided. No member shall have, at any time, committed any acts of felony.

SECTION VII. The Assembly has the power to make laws and propose a budget. Each proposed bill is written up by the Assembly and must be passed by a majority vote. The bill then passes to the Council where it is approved and made law or vetoed and sent back to the Assembly for modifications. After a bill is made a law, it can be struck down if challenged in a court of law. As a result of this challenge, the justices may make a ruling declaring a law unconstitutional. A unanimous vote in the Assembly, plus the vote of the Deputy Prime Minister, is required to override veto power on a bill. In the event of time conflicts for Assembly meetings, the Bench of Straford Assembly member may submit any business by mail and expect a vote within one week. If a vote is not

received by a member within that time frame, the member is considered to abstain.

### ARTICLE III.

SECTION I. There shall be a judicial branch consisting of three courts and one appeals court with Justices appointed by the executive branch and confirmed by the Assembly.

SECTION II. Each Justice is appointed for a six month term, however he or she may be removed through the impeachment process. An appointment requires a selection by the executive branch and a voting majority confirmation in the Assembly. Complaints about Justices are handled via grievance forms and filed with the Executive Branch Clerk.

SECTION III. Civil Court deals with any matters brought before the court by private citizens. It is administered by the Civil Court Judge.

SECTION IV. Criminal Court deals with any matters brought before the court by a law enforcement agency through the District Attorney. It is administered by the Criminal Court Judge. The defendant of a case before the Criminal Court shall make the decision between a jury or judicial verdict, whereby a jury verdict shall leave the matter to the agreement of four peers of the defendant.

SECTION V. The Crofton High Court shall be composed of three Justices, all appointed for life by the Prime Minister and confirmed by a voting majority of the Assembly, with the longest serving as the High Justice, appointed for life or impeachment prior to the commencement of arguments. A majority vote in the Crofton High Court determines the final outcome of the matter in question. The Court shall have the power to rule, through court proceedings, acts of the Assembly or Council unconstitutional. Any entity shall have the means to offer arguments to the court in written form, though the panel of three Justices for the session shall decide upon hearing the matter. The Crofton High Court shall only hear those cases in which two of the three Justices wish heard. The Justices shall remain until each terminates his or her position willingly or is forced to step down through the impeachment process. The High Justice shall possess the right to submit cases to the panel not otherwise brought by a citizen of the Crofton Islands. In the event that a High Court Justice relinquishes his or her post to serve in the Assembly or Council, he or she may return to the same High Court seat if vacant upon the end of the Assembly or Council term. No High Court seat may be vacant for longer

than four weeks at any given time or the senior Justice of the Straford County Courts shall temporarily be elevated to the position, without voting authority in amendment procedures.

SECTION VI. Crofton's Family Court is administered by the Family Court Judge and hears cases dealing with marriages, divorces, wills, adoptions, and child custody. These are always closed hearings and usually meet with the Family Court Judge in a special conference room.

SECTION VII. The Pre-Trial and Research Branch is conducted by each of the justices and the Court Commissioner. The Court Commissioner provides mediation or arbitration services and the Judges, on a rotating basis, oversee arraignments and bail hearings. The Court Commissioner shall appoint a Public Defender in the case where no attorney has been declared. The Court Commissioner shall appoint individual cases to specific Justices.

SECTION VIII. Justices shall be afforded special protection services by the Crofton Intelligence Service. Justices shall be entitled the exclusive use of chamber space in the same facilities as the individual's courtroom.

SECTION IX. No person shall be appointed Justice who shall not have been two months in residence of the Crofton Islands, concurrently practices law, or holds any additional position or rank within this or any other government. Justices must be, at the time of appointment, in good standing with the governing body of the legal profession of the land.

SECTION X. Justices shall have the authority to preside over cases assigned to their respective courts and issue rulings based on the presentations of participating parties, having followed the procedures of courts as established by the Assembly. Justices shall have the power of the issuing of warrants, having followed constitutional and legislative requirements for doing so.

#### ARTICLE IV.

This Constitution may be amended to or changed with a special meeting of the Assembly, Council, and Justices. At the special meeting, the proposed change or amendment shall be drafted, and then submitted to each member. One week following the meeting, there will be a second meeting to vote on the proposed change or amendment. Two thirds majority of members of the Assembly and Council plus a majority

endorsement of the Justices is necessary to pass an amendment or change. Absentee voting is not to be used.

#### ARTICLE V.

Basic rights, freedoms, and privileges extended to all in the Crofton Islands, regardless of citizenship:

RIGHT I. People are guaranteed the right to worship, to speak freely, to assemble, and to question the government.

RIGHT II. People have the right to own firearms, providing they possess the proper credentials except under special circumstances.

RIGHT III. People and their property cannot be searched without due process.

RIGHT IV. People cannot be tried twice for the same crime or be forced to testify against themselves.

RIGHT V. In criminal cases, people have a right to a trial, to be told what they are being accused of, to hear witnesses against them, to get witnesses in their favor, and to have a lawyer regardless of financial status.

RIGHT VI. People have a right to fair bail and to fair fines and punishments.

RIGHT VII. Slavery is not permitted in the Crofton Islands.

RIGHT VIII. Voting rights are given to all citizens regardless of gender, race, creed, or color, providing they have resided in the Crofton Islands one month prior to an election and have valid credentials.

RIGHT IX. No person may be held more than seventy-two hours by any government agency, against his or her will, without charges presented in a court of the lands.

RIGHT X. No person may be deprived of liberty or property without due process, or life in any case.

#### ARTICLE VI.

SECTION I. In the event of an emergency which removes the capacity of the Prime Minister to adequately manage the affairs of the Republic, the Deputy Prime Minister shall assume all responsibilities and duties normally reserved to the post of Prime Minister. If the transfer is to last until the end of the term, a replacement Deputy Prime Minister must be appointed by the new Prime Minister and confirmed by the Assembly.

SECTION II. In the event that the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister become unable to fulfill the duties of the Council, the order of succession to the post falls to the members of the Assembly, ranked by population of the areas they each represent, most populated highest in rank. In the event that no member of the Assembly is capable of fulfilling the duties required, the responsibilities of the post fall to the High Justice of the Crofton High Court. If the High Justice is incapable of fulfilling the duties required, the responsibility falls to the heads of the government agencies of the Crofton Islands, as listed below, ranked by length of their term, longest term highest in rank. The agencies to be considered are the Crofton Intelligence Service, the Straford Police Department, and the Straford Fire Department. No governmental military organization shall be in the line of succession.

SECTION III. In the event of any person other than the Deputy Prime Minister assuming the responsibilities of the post of Prime Minister without hope that the Prime Minister will return to the post, elections must be convened within two weeks to fill the position. In this situation, the acting Prime Minister shall not have the power of appointment, pardon, or line-item veto. The Assembly must confirm all military engagements by a voting majority.

#### AMENDMENTS.

AMENDMENT I. The term restrictions governing the Assembly shall be abolished.

AMENDMENT II. The Crofton Islands agrees to and accepts the full terms of the Treaty of Mahulia.

09 August 2007  
25 June 2004  
5 November 2003  
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