

**BYLAWS OF
THE FREEDOM DEMOCRATS
THE MIAMI-DADE GLBT DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS,
A CHARTERED CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, AND
TRANSGENDER (GLBT) DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS**

PREAMBLE

We, the members of The Freedom Democrats, The Miami-Dade Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Democratic Caucus, united in a common purpose, in order to strengthen and further the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party, which recognizes and promotes diversity, good will, and respect for all members of the community, do hereby adopt and uphold these bylaws.

ARTICLE I. NAME.

The official full legal name of this organization shall be The Freedom Democrats/The Miami-Dade GLBT Democratic Caucus, a Chartered Chapter (hereinafter referred to as “organization” or “chapter”) of the Florida Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Democratic Caucus, hereinafter referred to as “Caucus”.

ARTICLE II. OBJECT.

Section 1. Object. The object of this organization shall be:

- to stimulate active interest in political and governmental affairs;
- to strengthen and to further the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party;
- to provide reasonable and ongoing financial support to our Caucus;
- to promote participation among Democrats;
- to support and elect the duly selected nominees of the Democratic Party in national, state, and local campaigns;
- to foster good fellowship among Democrats; and
- to encourage voter registration and advocate issues without discrimination on grounds of race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, physical disability, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

Section 2. Mission. Further, it shall be the mission of this organization to foster good will between gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) members of the Democratic Party and the community at large. We seek individual freedom in the framework of a just society and political freedom in the framework of meaningful participation by all citizens.

Section 3. Endorsements. In all state-wide primaries, elections, or runoffs, whether partisan or non-partisan, where more than one Democrat is running for the same public office, the organization shall be bound by the Caucus’s endorsement or non-endorsement action. In all

other primaries, elections, or runoffs, whether partisan or non-partisan, where more than one Democrat is running for the same public office, within the geographic area of the organization, the organization may endorse (defined as endorsing, certifying, screening, or recommending, in any manner), and support a candidate. No such endorsement shall be made prior to the close of the period of candidate qualifying. Prior to being eligible to endorse, (a) eighty percent (80%) of all Board positions shall be filled, (b) the General Membership shall have held at least nine (9) meetings at which a quorum was present during the previous twelve (12) months, and (c) the Board of Directors shall have held at least three (3) meetings at which a quorum was present during the previous twelve (12) months. To be endorsed, a candidate for a given office shall be recommended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total membership of the Board of Directors and such endorsement action shall be confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting at a General Membership special or regular meeting. At no time will this organization support any non-Democrat against a Democrat in any election, other than in judicial elections.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION.

Section 1. Eligibility for Membership and Associate Membership. Any Democrat registered to vote in Miami-Dade County supportive of the objectives of the Caucus, who wishes to participate actively in the chapter, and who pays dues as specified by the Board shall be a member. No other residency restriction may be placed upon membership or the privileges of membership. Any Democrat, supportive of the objectives of the Caucus, registered in Miami-Dade County, but who cannot participate actively in the Caucus, or any Democrat registered outside Miami-Dade County shall be an associate member, upon payment of dues specified by the Board. Members and associate members of the organization shall automatically be associate members of the Caucus, and may wish to become full members (with voting and office-holding rights, upon payment of membership dues to the Caucus). Associate members of the organization may participate in the activities of the organization, may be appointed to committees, and may attend and speak at meetings, but shall not make motions, vote, nor hold office. Membership will become immediately effective upon the payment of dues and verification of affiliation with the Democratic Party (either through presentation of a current voter registration card or confirmation of party registration with the Supervisor of Elections Office). Associate membership will be effective immediately upon the payment of dues and verification of voter registration status, to the maximum extent practicable.

Section 2. Friends of the Organization. Mindful of the need to reach out and the benefits of a policy of inclusion, a person who:

- (a) is not a Florida resident, or
- (b) is not eligible to register to vote in Florida,

but who subscribes to the purpose and mission of the organization, shall be a “friend”, upon payment of dues specified by the Board. “Friends” may speak at meetings and assist on committees, but may not vote.

Section 3. Dues. The organization, by vote of the Board, shall determine the annual dues of each category of membership or affiliation. Dues are payable upon joining and, thereafter, in advance on or before December 31 of each year. The Membership Committee will notify members two months in arrears; those renewing members whose dues are not paid within 30 days thereafter shall be

automatically placed in inactive status and shall not be considered members. The voting privileges of those members in arrears will be suspended until dues are paid. Dues shall entitle one to membership in the organization (as either a member or associate member).

Section 3. Resignation from Membership. Members desiring to resign from the organization shall submit their resignation in writing to the Secretary and President, through the Membership Committee Chair.

ARTICLE IV. ANNUAL PARTY CONTRIBUTION AND RE-CERTIFICATION.

Section 1. Contribution. The organization shall pay an annual contribution to the State Florida GLBT Democratic Caucus, as prescribed by the Caucus and Florida Democratic Party rules.

Section 2. Charter Re-certification. In July of every odd numbered year, or at such time as otherwise required by the Caucus, the organization shall apply to the Membership and Chartering Committee of the Caucus for charter re-certification. Failure to do so shall result in the forfeiture of all rights and privileges of the use of the word Democrat, Democratic, or derivative thereof.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS.

Section 1. Officers. The elected officers of the organization shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and up to three Directors. The President shall appoint, with the consent of the Board of Directors, a Historian, a Parliamentarian, and a Sergeant-at-Arms, as *ex officio*, non-voting members. All officers shall perform the duties prescribed by *Robert's Rules of Order*, the parliamentary authority for the organization, as amplified and modified by these bylaws.

Section 2. Term of Office. The officers shall be elected by open ballot to serve for one year or until their successors are elected, and their term of office shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.

Section 3. Office-Holding Limitations. No member shall hold more than one elected office at a time. The President and the Vice President shall be of opposite genders, and shall be elected together as a ticket. The gender of the persons involved will be by self-determination. The Executive Officers of this organization (the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) shall be limited to two (2) consecutive terms only. This does not preclude any current Executive Officers from being eligible for a different Executive Officer position. Upon relinquishing the office for a one-year period, previous office holders shall again be eligible to be re-elected to the same position for another two (2) consecutive terms. There shall be no term limits on election as Director or appointment to Parliamentarian, Sergeant-at-Arms, or Historian.

Section 4. Adequate Opportunity to Participate. The organization shall publicize fully the legal, practical, and pertinent procedures for selection of the organization's representatives and officers; such publication shall be timely to assure notice to all interested Democrats, whether members or prospective members, such that they may have adequate opportunity to participate.

Section 5. Nomination Procedure, Time of Elections, and Open Ballot Election.

A. Nominations.

1. At the regular meeting held within the first two weeks in November, the President shall appoint a Nominating & Election Committee, comprised of three members. The duty of this committee is (a) to publicize fully the election and requirements in the organization's newsletter and other appropriate community media, at least 60 days in advance of the annual meeting; (b) to recruit members for office; (c) to ensure the eligibility (consistent with these bylaws) of all members seeking office; (d) after ascertaining their willingness to serve, to nominate a candidate for each office to be filled at the meeting within the first two weeks in February; and (e) to conduct the election process. No committee member may be nominated or elected to any office to be filled at the annual meeting.
2. At the regular meeting held within the first two weeks of January, this Committee shall report and accept further nominations from the floor, subject to this Committee's subsequent determination of eligibility. This Committee will afford each candidate a reasonable opportunity to submit campaign material to the general membership, which will be distributed along with the call for the annual meeting.

B. Election.

1. Prior to the annual meeting, this Committee shall prepare one ballot with the names of each duly qualified candidate for each position. Each ballot shall be printed with the name and address of the organization at the top, followed by the position to be voted upon, with the candidates' names printed on the ballot. There will be a blank line or lines provided for each office, equal to the number of persons who can be elected for that position. At the bottom of the ballot, there will be two blank lines to be completed by the voter with the voter's signature and printed name.
2. Voting for officers will be by open ballot, in accordance with Florida Democratic Party rules, at the meeting in February. Members must be present to vote; absentee or proxy voting is prohibited. The Nominating & Election Committee will preside over and conduct the election process. At the annual meeting, additional nominations shall be in order and voters may write in that nominee's name and vote for that nominee on the line provided. Following each vote, this Committee shall collect and count ballots, utilizing additional tellers, as necessary, and will announce the results at the end of the count. A majority of those present and voting is required for election; the nominee receiving the lowest number of votes is removed from the next ballot. This Committee will afford any candidate the right to a recount, after which the Committee will certify the results.
3. To be eligible to vote, participate in elections, and be a candidate, a member must have been a member by the forty-fifth day prior to the February meeting and maintain membership through the date of this meeting. The Information Technology Committee, if there is one, or the Secretary shall provide to the Nominating & Election Committee a list of members eligible to

vote and be candidates forty-four days before the annual meeting and on an up-dated basis thereafter, as required by the Nominating & Election Committee.

4. If a candidate for office runs unopposed or the number of candidates for directorships equals or is less than the number of directors provided for in these bylaws, such candidates may be elected by acclamation.
5. All ballots shall be kept by the local representative of the Caucus for a period of thirty days following the date of the election and shall be available for review by any member. All ballots shall, thereafter, be transmitted to the Caucus, which may hold such ballots for a period of three years, after which time they may be destroyed.

ARTICLE VI. DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND ADVISORS.

Section 1. President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and Board of Directors; shall be a member *ex officio* of all committees (except the Nominating and Elections Committee and the Audit Committee); and shall appoint the Chairs and members of all standing and special committees (except as provided in these bylaws). The President, or the President's designee from among the Board members, (a) shall represent the organization at county, district, state, and national meetings and functions and (b) shall act as spokesperson for the organization. The President shall serve as chief executive and administrative officer and shall provide guidance to the committee Chairs.

Section 2. Vice President. The Vice President shall assist the President in the discharge of the President's duties and shall assume that office in the absence, or inability to serve, of the President. The Vice President shall serve as Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee.

Section 3. Secretary. The Secretary is the recording officer of Board and general membership meetings and is custodian of all records of the organization, except those assigned to other officers or committee chairs by these bylaws. These records include, but are not limited to, the minutes of all meetings, committee reports, the official membership roll, lists of committees and their members, bylaws, special rules of order, and standing rules. The Secretary shall issue the call of meetings, prepare an order of business for the presiding officer, and – in the absence of the President or Vice President – shall call a meeting to order, until a Chair *pro tempore* is elected.

Section 4. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all funds of the organization; shall keep an accurate record of receipts and expenditures; shall present a statement of all income, expenditures, accounts payable, and income receivable, in a format acceptable to the Board, at each meeting, occurring since the previous meeting; shall make such interim reports as directed by the Board or organization, and shall prepare and present an annual statement of expenses and receipts. The Treasurer shall provide a quarterly report to the Audit Committee in sufficient time for its review and approval. All reports, signed by the Treasurer (and the Audit Committee for quarterly reports), should be distributed, to the extent practicable, to members at least two days in advance of each Board meeting. The Treasurer shall present a written summary financial report, including cash balance on hand less outstanding obligations, at each regular general membership meeting, and shall

have the detail available for member review. The Treasurer shall disburse funds as authorized by the Board. Checks shall be signed by the Treasurer or the President, with notification given to the other party not signing. The Treasurer shall maintain a fidelity bond during the term of office, which bond shall be paid by the organization. The Treasurer, with the approval of the Board, may appoint deputies to receive and account for funds. The Treasurer shall chair the Finance Committee and the Ways and Means Committee.

Section 5. Other Directors: Other Directors shall be nominated by the President to assume roles important to the Caucus. The President may nominate up to three (3) Directors and their respective roles shall be defined at the time of nomination. All Directors shall perform their duties professionally and shall have voting rights on any matters before the organization as officers of the Caucus and on the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Parliamentarian. The Parliamentarian shall advise the President, other officers, committees, and members on matters of parliamentary procedure. The Parliamentarian shall not vote on any matters before the organization, except for the balloting for officers. The Parliamentarian shall co-chair the Bylaws and Rules Committee.

Section 7. Historian. The Historian shall prepare a narrative account (including a video and pictorial collection) of the organization's activities during the Historian's term of office which, when approved by the organization, will become a permanent part of the organization's official history.

Section 8. Sergeant-at-Arms. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall preserve order at meetings and remove any person found to be disruptive at meetings, as directed by the presiding officer, and shall ensure that appropriate physical arrangements and furnishing are in place for each meeting.

Section 9. Loyalty Oath. Officers shall execute a loyalty oath, in the form and manner prescribed by the rules of the Florida Democratic Party, immediately upon taking office at the annual meeting, or as soon thereafter as possible (within 30 days), and before discharge of their duties. Notwithstanding any other provision of these bylaws, failure to comply shall result in immediate removal from office.

Section 10. Maintenance of Membership. All officers shall pay dues by December 31. Notwithstanding any other provision of these bylaws, failure to comply shall result in immediate removal from office.

Section 11. Organization Records. All records created and maintained by officers in the discharge of their duties shall be the exclusive property of the organization. Officers shall be custodians of such records during their term of office and shall physically present them at the annual meeting (or such other time when their term ends) to ensure the smooth transfer of all records to succeeding officers immediately upon the election of their successors.

ARTICLE VII. BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Section 1. Board Composition. The officers of the organization shall constitute the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Duties and Powers of the Board. The Board of Directors shall have full power and authority over the affairs of the organization, except as reserved specifically to the general membership in these bylaws. The Board shall be subject to the orders of the organization and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the organization.

Section 3. Board Meetings. Unless otherwise ordered by the Board, regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held monthly. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President and shall be called, within seven days, upon the written request of five members of the Board.

Section 4. Quorum. A majority of the voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5. Voting. No vote at a Board meeting shall be taken by secret ballot. Proxy voting shall be prohibited.

Section 6. Emergency Authority of the Executive Committee. In case of emergency, if a special Board meeting cannot be called in a timely fashion, the President may convene a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board, comprised of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer as voting members and the Parliamentarian as a non-voting member. A quorum shall be three voting members. At any such meeting, the Executive Committee may take action and vote on matters of urgent interest to the organization, provided that such vote is unanimous to be valid. Any such action taken must subsequently be ratified by a vote of the Board or the general membership at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE VIII. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS.

Section 1. Regular Meetings. Regular general membership meetings of the organization shall be held by the second Thursday of each month, unless otherwise ordered by the organization.

Section 2. Annual Meeting. The regular general membership meeting shall be held by the second Thursday in February and shall be known as the annual meeting for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports of officers and committees, and for any other business that may arise.

Section 3. Special Meetings. Special general membership meetings may be called by the President or by a majority of the Board of Directors, in writing, and shall be called upon the written request of twenty percent of the organization's membership. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. Except in cases of emergency, at least seven days' notice shall be given.

Section 4. Quorum. Twenty percent of the organization's membership shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5. Meetings Open to All Democrats. The time and place for all regular, annual, and special

meetings of the organization shall be publicized fully and in such a manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Meetings shall be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or physical disability. All meetings shall be in a facility accessible to the physically handicapped.

Section 6. Voting. No vote at a meeting of the organization shall be taken by secret ballot. Proxy voting shall be prohibited.

ARTICLE IX. VACANCIES AND REMOVAL.

Section 1. Vacancy of President. If a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Vice President shall become President.

Section 2. Other Vacancies. Other vacancies shall be filled, on an acting basis, by appointment of the President, until the next regular meeting of the organization, provided that ten (10) days notice is given of the vacancy, at which time the position will be filled for the remainder of the term, by nominations from the floor. Election shall be by open ballot; members shall indicate their choice for the vacancy and shall sign and print their own name. Election may be by acclamation, if only one nominee is presented for the vacancy. All ballots shall be kept by the local representative of the Caucus for a period of thirty days following the date of the election and shall be available for review by any member. All ballots shall, thereafter, be transmitted to the Caucus, which may hold such ballots for a period of three years, after which time they may be destroyed.

Section 3. Removal. Any officer may be removed upon a two-thirds vote of the members at any regular or special general membership meeting after at least ten days notice to the membership that a motion for the purpose of removal of such officer will be considered at such regular or special meeting. The removal may be for cause, including, but not limited to, malfeasance, misfeasance, neglect of duty, abandonment of office, incompetence, permanent inability to perform official duties, and conviction of a felony. Any absence from four Board meetings shall constitute neglect of duty. Unexcused absences from two consecutive regular Board meetings shall constitute abandonment of office.

ARTICLE X. COMMITTEES.

Section 1. Finance Committee. Promptly after each annual meeting, the President shall appoint a Finance Committee, comprised of the Treasurer and at least four other members. It shall be the duty of the committee to prepare a budget for the fiscal year, beginning the first day of May, and to submit it to the Board in April for approval. The Finance Committee may from time to time submit amendments to the budget for the current fiscal year, which may be adopted by a majority vote. It shall submit quarterly reports on budget performance.

Section 2. Bylaws and Rules Committee. The Bylaws and Rules Committee, co-chaired by the Parliamentarian, shall review all changes to the bylaws, special rules, and standing rules and shall report on any such changes to the Board and general membership as appear necessary and feasible

from time to time. The committee shall review proposed amendments to the bylaws expeditiously and shall report its recommendations at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. It shall also draft, review, and revise, as necessary, a code of conduct for both Board members and individual members of the organization, for approval by the general membership.

Section 3. Campaign Committee. The Campaign Committee shall work toward the election of all Democratic candidate nominees for the area covered by this organization, including county, state, and national candidates; shall organize voter registration efforts; shall serve as the clearinghouse for candidates' requests for volunteers; and shall mobilize the general membership and the GLBT community to vote. The Campaign Committee shall report to the organization on the status of candidates and issues (including endorsements), recommending actions, as appropriate.

Section 4. Audit Committee. The Audit Committee, comprised of at least three members, shall be appointed within ten days of the annual meeting. The duty of the committee shall be to audit the Treasurer's books, the annual financial report, quarterly reports, or any other financial reports required to be audited by the Board or general membership. The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be ineligible to serve on such committee, although they may be called upon to provide all information required by the committee to carry out its duties.

Section 5. Membership Committee. The Membership Committee shall recruit new members, notify members of renewals and arrearages, and confirm that all persons wishing membership are, in fact, registered Democrats and meet other requirements, appropriate to their category of membership. It shall verify the membership status of persons attending meetings for voting purposes. It shall recommend rules and procedures relating to membership requirements and dues, including the manner and form of initial application and renewals.

Section 6. Media and Public Relations Committee. The Media and Public Relations Committee, co-chaired by the newsletter editor, shall ensure that all activities, including meetings, are advertised in an appropriate and timely manner. It shall be responsible for the editing, publication, and distribution of the newsletter. It shall also develop and maintain a chapter website, subject to Board approval

Section 7. Ways and Means Committee. The Ways and Means Committee shall explore and recommend manners of fundraising and shall coordinate all such fundraising activities.

Section 8. Program Committee. The Program Committee shall plan the speaking program for each regular general membership meeting of the organization, as appropriate.

Section 9. Strategic Planning Committee. The Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by the Vice President, shall develop a strategic planning document for Board and general membership approval. Thereafter, it shall maintain, update, and revise the plan (as necessary), coordinate with other standing and special committees to ensure congruence with the strategic plan, and shall monitor achievements against plan benchmarks.

Section 10. Mediation Committee. The President shall appoint a Mediation Committee comprised of at least three members, whose duty shall be to investigate and resolve grievances and disputes

arising between or among members, as set forth in these bylaws.

Section 11. Information Technology Committee. The Information Technology Committee shall maintain a current and accurate membership list and provide a copy of such list to the Secretary, as the official membership roll, and to the Treasurer.

Section 12. Nominating and Election Committee. The President shall appoint a Nominating and Election Committee whose duties are defined in these bylaws.

Section 13. Other Committees. The President shall appoint members of other committees, standing or special, as the Board or general membership shall, from time to time, deem necessary to carry on the work of the organization.

Section 14. Committee Records and Reports. All records created and maintained by committees in the discharge of their duties shall be the exclusive property of the organization. Committee chairs shall be custodians of such records, shall make copies of all records quarterly for submission to and retention by the Information Technology Committee, and shall transfer all records to succeeding chairs immediately upon the appointment of their successors. All committee reports requiring action at a Board meeting shall be in writing and should be received by Board members at least two days in advance of the meeting.

ARTICLE XI. MEDIATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES.

Section 1. Grievance Resolution through Mediation. Members may avail themselves of internal mediation procedures for resolving disputes and grievances amicably. Such disputes and grievances shall involve violation of the codes of conduct, as approved by the general membership, or conduct otherwise involving the organization which tends to injure its good name, disturb its well-being, or hamper it in its work. A member shall submit, in writing, to the Mediation Committee any charges and complaints against another member or officer. The committee shall invite the parties to attend, testify, and submit any pertinent documents or evidence at sessions called to resolve the dispute. The committee shall meet and mediate the dispute within fifteen days of the date of receipt of the grievance. Committee members who are parties, witnesses to the dispute, or may otherwise have a real or perceived conflict of interest, shall recuse themselves. It shall recommend an equitable resolution to the parties involved and, if acceptable to them, shall report its findings and the resolution to the Board.

Section 2. Grievance Resolution through Board Decision. If such resolution is not acceptable to the parties, the committee shall forthwith report its findings and recommendations or sanctions, including revocation of membership not to exceed two membership years, to the Board. A two-thirds vote by the Board and general membership is required to terminate membership. The committee Chair shall promptly forward, by certified mail, to the parties involved a copy of the committee's findings and recommendations, together with the time and place of the next succeeding meeting of the Board at which time the matter will be considered, provided that at least ten days written notice is given of the purpose of such meeting. Decisions of the Board, except the recommendation to revoke membership, are effective immediately. Such decision or

recommendation may be appealed at the next regular general membership meeting, except the annual meeting. Decisions may also be appealed to the Caucus, in accordance with its prescribed grievance procedures.

Section 3. External Grievance Procedures. Disputes and grievances may also be resolved by the president and officers of the Caucus, utilizing the Caucus's grievance procedures. Such resolution may be appealed to the Judicial Council no later than forty-five days from the date of said decision.

ARTICLE XII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY.

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws, any special rules of order the organization may adopt, the rules of the Caucus, Florida Democratic Party and National Democratic Party, and any statute applicable to this organization that do not authorize the provisions of these bylaws to take precedence.

ARTICLE XIII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

Section 1. Dissolution. In the event this organization wishes to dissolve, a resolution stating the date of dissolution and reasons for the same shall be adopted by a majority vote at a regular general membership meeting, provided that such resolution is submitted in writing at the previous meeting. When the organization disbands for any reason, the assets and funds of the organization, after all debts are satisfied, shall become the property of the Florida State GLBT Caucus.

Section 2. Use of Membership and Mailing Lists. Due to the unique nature of the organization and the need to protect the privacy of members, the organization, consistent with Florida Democratic Party rules, shall preserve the confidentiality of information provided by members. The release or use of the membership and mailing lists of the organization and related contact information shall be prohibited, unless authorized by the Board or general membership. Unauthorized release or use of such lists or information shall result in the immediate revocation of membership in the organization for a period not to exceed two years. To ensure due process, the Mediation Committee shall investigate the circumstances and consequences of such unauthorized release or use and shall report its findings and recommendations to the Board, as expeditiously as possible.

ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS.

Section 1. Amendment Process. These bylaws may be amended at any regular general membership meeting by a two-thirds vote, provided that the text has been reviewed by the Bylaws and Rules Committee and the Board, and provided further that it is forwarded to the membership for its consideration at the next general membership meeting, consistent with notification, and that such text and the Committee's report, its recommendation, and the Board's recommendation are provided in writing to the membership no less than ten days prior to the meeting. Bylaws, and any changes or amendments thereto, together with copies of the minutes of the meeting at which such amendments

were adopted, shall be filed with the Caucus within thirty days following adoption.

Section 2. Effective Date. All amendments shall be effective immediately, but shall be subject to the approval of the Caucus and the Florida Democratic Party Committee on Clubs, Organizations, and Caucuses. Any amendment or change, which is not approved, shall be deleted from the bylaws. Actions taken pursuant to such non-approved amendment or changes shall be null and void.

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By a vote of five (5) YEAS and zero (0) NAYS, on July 13, 2006, the Bylaws were approved by the chapter/organization. The Bylaws were approved by the Caucus on _____, 200__.

Subsequent amendments include:

- a. By a vote of ____ YEAS and ____ NAYS, on _____, 200__, the Bylaws were amended, as follows:

Such amendment was approved by the Caucus on _____, 200__.

- b. By a vote of ____ YEAS and ____ NAYS, on _____, 200__, the Bylaws were amended, as follows:

Such amendment was approved by the Caucus on _____, 200__.

- c. Continuing in like manner.