

CHARTER OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAIPAN, M.I.

Preamble

WHEREAS, the peoples native to the Island of Saipan, Marianas Islands, Have joined together in a self-expressed desire to establish a free and democratic system of self-government; and

WHEREAS, the duly authorized representatives of the Government of The United States of America in consenance with the letter and spirit of the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement, have freely offered aid and assistance to this expressed desire for a free government; and

WHEREAS, the peoples, native to the Island of Saipan, Marianas Islands, freely recognized the Government of The United States of America as the Administering power under the terms of the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the peoples, native to the Island of Saipan, Marianas Islands, freely approve of the principle that The United States of America, as the administering power retains the right and privilege, under any and all conditions, to insist upon the adoption of, by the municipality of Saipan, of any proclamation, regulation, rule or law deemed necessary by The United States of America, for the safety, security, education or well being of the native people of Saipan Island, Marianas Islands; and

WHEREAS, the people native of the Island of Saipan, Marianas Islands, freely subscribe to the principle that all men and women are created free and equal and that no person shall be banned from any rights and privileges of the municipality because of race, sex or religion;

NOW, THEREFORE, the municipality of Saipan Island, Marianas Islands, is created, subject to the approval of the following rules of organization by proper authority in the administering power -

I

The municipality of Saipan Island, Marianas Islands shall be composed of a legislative body known as the High Council of Saipan. This body shall be elected by secret, popular vote of all qualified males and females over the age of eighteen (18) years. The members of the High Council shall be designated as Commissioners. They shall serve without pay for a period of one (1) year. There shall be one (1) elected Commissioner for each precinct of four hundred (400) persons, regardless of age or sex. The initial apportionment of precincts shall be made by United States Civil Administration.

Any Commissioner may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the qualified voters in the precinct which shall have previously elected such Commissioner. Commissioners are herewith charged with the responsibilities of carefully determining the wishes of their people and honestly and truly represent their people in any and all meetings of the High Council of Saipan, and at all other times. Meetings of the High Council of Saipan will be held at least one (1) time each week.

A Quorum to transact official business shall be eighty percent (80%) of all Commissioners, except in matters of impeachment.

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The High Council of Saipan will prepare and approve the annual budget of taxation and expenditure. The High Council of Saipan will conduct and annual audit of the finances of the municipality. A representative of The Government of The United States of America shall be present at any and all official meetings of the High Council of Saipan.

II

The Administrative branch of the municipality of Saipan shall be headed by an elected, paid official. The holder of this office will be designated as Chief Commissioner. He shall be elected by a popular vote of all qualified voters. The Chief Commissioner will hold office for a period of four (4) years, unless removed from office by due process. The Chief Commissioner may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of qualified voters. An election to remove the Chief Commissioner from office will be called by the High Council of Saipan. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of all Commissioners is necessary to call a special election to remove the Chief Commissioner from office.

The Chief Commissioner will appoint any and all department heads of the municipality. All such appointments are to be approved by the High Council of Saipan. All dismissals of department heads will be made only by the Chief Commissioner. The organization of the municipal government will be supervised by the Chief Commissioner within the limits of the annual budget of the municipality. The Chief Commissioner is charged to countersign all disbursements of the municipality. The Chief Commissioner is responsible ascertain that his appointed municipal officers make no payments or commitments of any nature not specifically approved in the approved annual budget. Extra expense requests will be submitted by the Chief Commissioner to the High Council of Saipan for approval.

The Chief Commissioner is charged with maintaining close liaison with the Civil Administration of The United States of America.

The Chief Commissioner is charged by the people, native to the Island of Saipan, Marianas Islands, to preserve the peace, to further education, to protect the civil rights of the people, to encourage agriculture and business, to assist in obtaining aid for widows and the aged and infirm, to promote the social advancement of the people, to encourage native arts, and to protect the fundamental rights of the people at all times.

III

Elections will be held on the fifteenth (15) day of August of each year, excepting when this day falls on a Sunday. In such case the election will be held on the day following.

Balloting will be secret. No campaigning will be done within one hundred (100) feet of the polling place or places. No employee of the municipality will be associated in any way with the voting or tabulating of votes. All poll workers will be appointed and approved by the High Council of Saipan.

No poll workers will be paid by the municipality or any other person or persons. Pools will be open from 0600 until 1800 on election days.

Issues and office-holders will be considered approved by a vote of fifty one percent (51%) of qualified voters; unless otherwise provided for in the municipal charter.