

MISSION STATEMENT

The South Carolina Crime Stoppers Council is a broad-based crime fighting and crime prevention association whose mission is to develop and facilitate Crime Stoppers programs through the State of South Carolina.

PURPOSES (GOALS) OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CRIME STOPPERS COUNCIL

In order to accomplish this mission, the South Carolina Crime Stoppers Council will strive:

- To improve the quality of life in South Carolina.
- To promote, through marketing and awareness, the concepts of Crime Stoppers by facilitating the partnership between the community, media, and law enforcement for the purpose of crime fighting and crime prevention.
- To promote, encourage, advise and assist in the creation of local Crime Stoppers organizations throughout the state.
- To provide leadership through continuing education, resources, statistics, and mentoring, as well as maintaining, improving, and expanding training opportunities.
- To communicate through networking and publication.
- To secure and provide funding to meet state association goals and assist local member programs with available funding.
- To certify local member Crime Stoppers organizations so that they may benefit from the privileges and immunities set forth in proposed and enacted state legislation.

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**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
AND BYLAWS OF
THE SOUTH CAROLINA CRIME STOPPERS COUNCIL**

**ARTICLE I
ORGANIZATION**

The name of this organization is: SOUTH CAROLINA CRIME STOPPERS COUNCIL.
Its logo shall be the

CONCEPT OF CRIME STOPPERS

1. Cooperative effort between law enforcement, media, and the citizens.
2. Seeking information on unsolved crimes.
3. Provide caller anonymity.
4. The offering of a cash reward tips.

**ARTICLE II
PURPOSE; NON PROFIT STATUS**

Section 1: Purpose

The purpose of the Council shall be to benefit from each others experience and knowledge in the resolution of problems peculiar to Crime Stoppers associations; to discover and discuss policies and programs that contribute to attaining member association purposes and goals; to assist other municipalities in the initiation and maintenance of local programs; to coordinate statewide member programs; and to promote member Crime Stoppers programs and activities at local, state, national, and international levels.

Section 2: Non Profit Status

The council is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (C) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1: Membership

A. Membership on the Council shall consist of duly constituted Crime Stopper programs in the State of South Carolina. Each member program shall designate one voting member representing law enforcement and one voting member who is a civilian Board representative. No person shall have more than one vote.

B. A duly constituted Crime Stoppers program is one which is a State Certified Program as defined in Art.XIII.

Section 2: Membership is not transferable or assignable.

Membership or associate membership does not entitle any person or organization to any vested rights in any of the Council's assets.

ARTICLE IV

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Council Members)

Section 1: Composition:

The business of the Council shall be conducted by a Board of Directors. Directors are comprised of representatives from member programs (as described in Article III Section A). In addition, the President may appoint an ex-officio member or other person to an advisory position as needed.

Section 2: Number of Board of directors:

The number of Crime Stoppers programs in the State of South Carolina requiring a State Associate representative shall designate the number of Board of Directors.

A Board of Directors representative shall represent no more than one (1) Crime Stoppers program in the State of South Carolina, thus allowing the number of Board of Directors to increase as the number of Crime Stoppers programs increase in the State of South Carolina.

The Board of Directors shall be comprised of not less than ten (10) members.

In no instance shall a Board of Directors member have more than one (1) vote.

No member shall receive any compensation for serving on the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Term of Office:

Except where a Director is chosen to fill a vacancy, a Director's term of office shall begin at the close of the annual meeting and shall normally be for three (3) years.

A Director may be chosen for a one (1), two (2), or three (3) year term, the objective being, insofar as practical, to have no more than one-third (1/3) of the Directors replaced at any one time.

Section 4: Vacancies and Removals:

A. Vacancies:

1. Vacancies in office occur by (a) resignation or (b) removal from office.
2. Any vacancy in office of director shall be filled by the outgoing director's program (unless removed due to actions of said program).

B. Removal:

1. Any Director may be removed by two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting at a meeting of the Board, provided notice of intent to call such a vote, naming the Director, is given no less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to such meeting. Such vote shall be by secret ballot.
2. Any Director missing three (3) unexcused Board meetings without first having given notice to the President may be removed as a member of the South Carolina Crime Stoppers Council

ARTICLE V

MEETINGS

Section 1: Directors Meetings:

A. Regular Meetings:

The Board of Directors shall hold no less than four (4) regular meetings annually, including the first meeting of the fiscal year when officers will be elected. Date, time, and place of meetings shall be determined by the Board of Directors, but such date, time, or place may be changed by the President or such Board by seventy-two (72) hours advanced notice.

B. Special Meetings:

Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President with at least twenty-four (24) hours notice, or by any four (4) Board members, with at least five (5) days written notice. Any such notice shall include a statement of meeting's purpose, as well as date, time, and place of meeting.

C. Board Action:

Unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws, Board action shall be by a majority of those present and voting at a Board meeting at which a quorum is present. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

D. Quorum: A quorum shall be a majority of the Board of Directors, excluding vacancies, or five (5) members, whichever is lesser.

E. Fiscal Year:

Fiscal year is defined as July 1st through June 31st the following year.

ARTICLE VI

OFFICERS AND DUTIES

Section 1: Officers:

The officers of the South Carolina Crime Stoppers Council shall be members of the Board of Directors and shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and such other officers as the Board may elect from time to time to carry out the affairs of the Council.

Section 2: Term:

A term of office shall be for two (2) years. Terms shall begin at the close of the Board of Directors meeting that immediately follows the annual meeting.

Section 3: Vacancies:

A vacancy shall be filled by vote of the Board following a recommendation by the nominating committee. The individual elected shall serve the remainder of the term of the member he or she replaces. No name shall be placed in nomination without the consent of the nominee.

Section 4: Duties and Powers:

The officers shall perform the duties and exercise the powers prescribed by the Bylaws, and the parliamentary authority adopted herein and those assigned by the Board or which normally pertain to the office. These duties and powers shall include but not be limited to the following:

A. The President shall:

1. Preside at all meetings of the membership, Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee.
2. Appoint standing committee chairpersons and members and create special committees and chairpersons and members thereof as the need arises.
3. Be an ex-officio member of every committee except the Nominating Committee.
4. The President shall be excluded from being a State Representative for any specific Crime Stoppers program, but serve as principal officer to oversee all Crime Stoppers programs being reported by the Board of Directors.

B. The Vice President Shall:

1. Assume such duties as may be assigned by the President, the Board of Directors, or the Executive Committee.
2. In the absence of the President, preside at all meetings of the membership, Board of Directors, and Executive Committee meetings.

C. The Secretary shall:

1. Record the proceedings of all meetings of membership, Board of Directors, and Executive Committee.
2. Provide each member of the Board with a copy of the minutes of each meeting of the membership and Board of Directors meeting.
3. Maintain a current roster of the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all Directors and furnish a copy of such letter roster to each Director from time to time.
4. Cause notice to be given of meetings as provided by these Bylaws.
5. Perform such duties as may be assigned by the President, Board of Directors, or Executive Committee.

D. The Treasurer shall:

1. Safeguard and care for all funds of the South Carolina Crime Stoppers Council.
2. Document, maintain, record, and disseminate South Carolina Crime Stoppers council's assets as directed by the Board of Directors.
3. Provide each Board of Directors member a copy of the Treasurer's report at least four (4) times annually.
4. Meet with the Audit Committee annually and provide all necessary documents/records for the annual audit.

ARTICLE VII

COMMITTEES

Section 1: Standing Committees:

There shall be standing committees to deal with the following:

- A. Bylaws
- B. Finance
- C. Publicity
- E. State Certification

The Chairpersons shall be members of the Board of Directors, but committee members need not be.

Section 2: Special Committees:

Special Committees may be created by the President. The Chairpersons shall be members of the Board, but committee members need not be.

Section 3: Executive Committee:

There shall be an Executive Committee composed of the four (4) officers and at least one (1) additional Director, elected following nominations from the floor at the first regular Board meeting following the annual meeting. Should a (non-officer) vacancy occur during the year, the Nominating Committee may, after obtaining consent of a candidate, place that candidate in nomination at the next regular Board meeting. A plurality vote shall elect. The elected person shall serve on the Executive Committee until the close of the next annual meeting.

The Executive Committee, in an emergency, shall have all of the powers of the Board between meetings, except the power to approve expenditures in excess of \$1,000.00, to amend these Bylaws, remove a member from the Board of Directors, or to dissolve the South Carolina Crime Stoppers Council. Meetings may be called by the President or by any two (2) members of the committee and three (3) members shall constitute a quorum. Actions taken by the Executive Committee must be no less than three (3) affirmative votes.

Section 4: Nominating Committee:

A. Membership:

A Nominating Committee of no less than three (3) members of the Board shall be appointed by the President immediately upon adoption of these Bylaws and thereafter at the first regular meeting following the annual meeting of the membership.

Each nomination shall be with the consent of the nominee.

B. Duties:

The Nominating Committee shall continually screen and consider the qualifications of potential candidates for officers of the South Carolina Crime Stoppers Council and shall, from time to time throughout the year, submit to Board members, for comment, the names of persons recommended to fill vacancies. The Committee shall carry out the responsibilities assigned it under Article VII of these Bylaws. To assure proper screening and consideration of candidates to fill vacancies, Board members should make recommendations to the Nominating Committee at least one (1) month prior to the election.

Section 5: Audit Committee

A. Membership:

The Audit Committee shall consist of one Board Member [chairperson] and three [3] other persons, all of which are appointed by the President.

B. Duties:

1. Meet with the Treasurer and view all the records of the treasury to assure all expenses and deposits are proper.
2. Report the committee findings.
3. After reporting to the Directors, the committee is discharged of its duties.

ARTICLE VIII

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1: Nomination and Election of Directors:

A. All Directors will be appointed or elected by member Crime Stoppers programs (as described in Article III Section A).

Section 2. Nomination and Election of Officers:

A. The Nominating Committee, after obtaining each candidate's consent, shall distribute to each member of the Board of Directors, at least by the regular Board meeting prior to the first meeting of the fiscal year, a proposed single slate of candidates for any officer position to be filled. The Board may then strike and add names. The Nominating Committee shall place in nomination the names of persons on the slate, as modified by the Board.

B. No person may be nominated or elected who is not a member of the Board of Directors. If there is more than one nominee for any office to be filled, voting shall be by secret ballot, and tellers of election shall be appointed by the Chair. A plurality vote shall elect.

C. Where an officer vacancy occurs during term of office, the Nominating Committee, after obtaining the candidate's consent, at least twenty (20) days prior to the Board meeting at which election to fill such vacancy is to occur, shall notify each Board member of the name of its nominee and then shall place the name of such person in nomination for such office at such meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor with the nominee's consent. If there is more than one nominee for such office, voting shall be by secret ballot, and tellers of election shall be appointed by the Chair. A plurality vote shall elect. A person elected to fill an officer vacancy shall hold office for the remainder of the un-expired term.

Section 3. Notification:

After any election under this Article, the Nominating Committee shall promptly notify each candidate not present at the election of the outcome of the election.

ARTICLE IX

CONTRACTS

All contracts may be executed only as directed by the Board of Directors. The President or Vice-President shall execute, in the name of the South Carolina Crime Stoppers

Council, all contracts or other instruments so authorized by the Board of Directors and the Secretary shall attest to the same.

ARTICLE X

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised, shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters or procedures not specifically covered by the Bylaws or by special rules of procedure adopted by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XI

The power to alter, amend, or repeal the Bylaws or adopt the Bylaws shall be vested in the membership of the Council. The Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership present and voting at Director meetings or special meeting, provided that any proposed Bylaw changes are mailed to the membership at least fifteen (15) days prior to the action by the membership of the proposed change.

ARTICLE XII

DISSOLUTION

The South Carolina Crime Stoppers Council may be dissolved upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the membership of the South Carolina Crime Stoppers Council taken at a meeting of the membership called for that purpose. Upon the dissolution of the Council, the Council shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the Council, dispose of all the assets of the Council exclusively for the purposes of the Council in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Trustees shall determine.

ARTICLE XIII

STATE CERTIFICATION

Section 1: Preface

A Certification:

The Board of Directors of the South Carolina Crime Stoppers Association is charged with certifying all South Carolina Crime Stoppers Programs seeking membership to the Council

B. Purpose:

As a Certified South Carolina Crime Stopper Program, each Program is:

1. Confirming its part in continuing a united and strong State Association
2. Contributing in making the State Association a statewide Crime Stoppers networking center by sharing statistics and other information

3. Identifying its self as being eligible to appoint or elect Directors to vote on matters/issues relating to the South Carolina Crime Stoppers Council
4. Agreeing to meet Minimum Operating Standards which are intended to create efficiency and success, limit risk, and protect the concept and integrity of Crime Stoppers throughout the state of South Carolina
5. Considered by South Carolina legislation as a certified program and eligible for proposed state legislation (to be amended after legislation is passed to “Considered by South Carolina legislation as a certified program and eligible for state legislation).

Section 2: State Certification

A: Rules and Policies:

All Crime Stopper Programs seeking membership to the South Carolina Crime Stoppers Council must meet the following standards for State Certification:

1. The program must have a civilian voluntary Board of Directors
2. The program must be registered in the State of South Carolina as a non-profit organization
3. The program must be a 501 [c] 3 organization according to a United States Internal Revenue Service determination letter
4. The program must have at least one law enforcement agency that provides a sworn officer [or other designee] as a Crime Stopper program coordinator
5. The program must have a secure phone line for receiving anonymous tips
6. The program shall develop Tip Sheets to be completed by the coordinator or designated representative and a Payout Guideline for paying rewards to anonymous tipsters.
7. The program shall offer anonymity to the callers and offer cash rewards for information that leads to the arrest or indictment of a suspect or for the recovery of stolen property or illicit drugs
8. The program shall maintain recorded minutes of all regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors
9. The program must submit statistics to the South Carolina Crime Stoppers Council on a quarterly basis or as otherwise designated by the Council
10. The program must have an annual bookkeeping verification of their finances. This may be performed externally or internally
11. The program must continuously promote Crime Stoppers and its partnership with the Community, the Media, and Law Enforcement; all working together to Solve and Prevent Crime
12. Any program that fails or refuses to comply with these standards will be subject to a review with possible cancellation of their membership in the South Carolina Crime Stoppers Council

B. Criteria:

Upon implementation of the State Certification Program (2006), all members of the SCCSC are certified for a period of 2 years. Programs are required to submit a copy of the following:

1. South Carolina Crime Stoppers Program Certification Agreement, signed by Board Chair/President and Program Coordinator

2. Articles of Incorporation
3. Proof of Not-For-Profit Status
4. By-Laws
5. Program Tip Sheet and Payout Guidelines
6. Most recent Internal or External Audit, must be within 12 month period of application

Section 3: State Certification/Probation Process

A. Probationary Certification Process: As stated in Section 1, State Certification, the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Crime Stoppers Council (SCCSC) is charged with certifying all South Carolina Programs seeking membership to the Council. As a part of the certification process South Carolina Crime Stopper Programs may enter a probationary period while seeking full certification of the South Carolina Crime Stoppers Council

B. Probationary Certification Procedures shall include the following:

1. The Crime Stoppers program seeking full-certified membership to the South Carolina Crime Stoppers Council shall submit a Letter of Intent to the SCCSC seeking membership. The Letter of Intent shall include the following.
 - a. State an understanding by the Crime Stoppers program requesting certification as to the SCCSC State Certification Rules and Policies (Article XIII Section 2, Paragraph A, Items 1 through 12).
 - b. State intent to work toward implementing and completion of the SCCSC Rules and Policies (Article XIII, Section 2, Paragraph A, items 1 through 12).
 - c. Understand that said probationary certification period is valid for a period not to exceed 6 months from the date of said Letter of Intent, or that time in which full certification is granted.
 - d. Agree to abide by all Articles of Certification and Bylaws of the SCCSC, to include all rules, policies and procedures of the State Council, to include all rules, policies and procedures of the State Council.
 - e. Letter of Intent shall include the official name and other program information of said Crime Stoppers program applying for State Certification/Probationary Status to include: address, telephone numbers, fax numbers, Chairman's name, Coordinator's name, and e-mail information.
 - f. Bear the signature of the Chairman of the Crime Stoppers program, Program Coordinator, and top administrative officer for the supporting law enforcement agency applying for State Certification/Probationary status.

Section 4: Termination of State Certification

A. The Board of Directors of the South Carolina Crime Stoppers Council is charged with certifying all South Carolina Crime Stoppers Programs. To maintain state certification by the SCCSC all Crime Stopper programs must continue to meet and maintain certification standards for state certification set forth in Article XIII State Certification, Paragraph A-Rules and Policies, Items 1 through 12. Crime Stoppers programs must continue to represent and support the Concept of Crime Stoppers (Article 1) to maintain an association, whether certified or probationary, with the SCCSC. Failure to represent and support the Concept of Crime Stoppers (Article I) and the mission of Crime Stoppers may result in the termination of certification, both probationary and full certification, as deemed by the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Crime Stoppers Council.

B. Information presented may cause an investigation conducted by the Board of Directors of the SCCSC, which may include a hearing and may terminate the certification of a South Carolina Crime Stoppers program. Such termination shall be based on information presented at the time to the SCCSC Board of Directors, and by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors present at the hearing.

C. The Board of Directors of the South Carolina Crime Stoppers Council may vote to terminate the certification of any program at any Regular or Special State Board meeting provided:

1. Written notice (certified mail) has been delivered to the Crime Stoppers program so effected a minimum of 30 days prior to the taking of such vote. The President of the Board of Directors of the SCCSC may grant a 60 day extension to such vote if requested by the involved Crime Stoppers program and deemed warranted by the State President.
2. In the event that the South Carolina Crime Stoppers Council Board of Directors votes and approves the termination of any South Carolina Crime Stoppers program, that program may reapply for certification at any time subsequent to the termination of certification.

**CERTIFICATE OF FINAL ADOPTION OF BYLAWS
OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CRIME STOPPERS COUNCIL**

The undersigned, *to be named*, being the Chairman of the meeting and the Interim President of South Carolina Crime Stoppers Council, and Noah Moore, Chair of Bylaws, hereby certify that the forgiven Bylaws were finalized and adopted at a meeting of the membership of the South Carolina Crime Stoppers Council, held on November 29, 2005, at which a quorum was present, and that due notice was given to all members of said membership of the date, time, and place of such meeting and that the Bylaws would be presented for adoption of such meeting.

Dated this 29th day of November, 2005

Noah Moore