

Manzanar

MANZANAR CHARTER

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Preamble

WE THE PEOPLE of Manzanar Relocation Center, in order to advance the cause of responsible, intelligent, democratic, government; to further the common welfare; to provide for the internal peace and order; and to aid in the uplift of morale, do establish this Charter in the creation of a Community Council.

ARTICLE 1. THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL.

Section 1. There shall be established a representative legislative body which shall be known as the "Community Council of Manzanar", which shall function in accordance with the wishes of the people of Manzanar and the regulations of the War Relocation Authority.

Section 2. The Community Council shall be composed of eighteen members.

Section 3. All persons eighteen years of age or over shall be eligible to vote in all elections.

Section 4. Only citizens of the United States who are twenty-one years of age or over shall be eligible to be elected to the Community Council.

Section 5. The Community of Manzanar shall be divided into eighteen electoral districts with each district entitled to elect one Councilman, who must be a resident in that district, to sit as a member of the Community Council. The electoral districts shall be composed of the following two-block areas:

- District 1, Blocks 1 and 2
- District 2, Blocks 3 and 4
- District 3, Blocks 5 and 6
- District 4, Blocks 7 and 8
- District 5, Blocks 9 and 10
- District 6, Blocks 11 and 12
- District 7, Blocks 13 and 14
- District 8, Blocks 15 and 16
- District 9, Blocks 17 and 18
- District 10, Blocks 19 and 20
- District 11, Blocks 21 and 22
- District 12, Blocks 23 and 24
- District 13, Blocks 25 and 26
- District 14, Blocks 27 and 28
- District 15, Blocks 29 and 34
- District 16, Blocks 30 and 31
- District 17, Blocks 32 and 33
- District 18, Blocks 35 and 36

Section 6. The Community Council shall convene at least once a week at the Town Hall of Manzanar. The time and day of regular meetings shall be determined by the Council. Special meetings may be held upon notice of the Chairman or upon petition of six Councilmen.

Section 7. Each Councilman shall hold office for six months and shall be eligible for re-election.

Section 8. Whenever a Councilman has been absent from four consecutive regular meetings of the Council, the chairman shall declare that Council position vacant, unless each absence has been excused by the Chairman.

Section 9. Whenever a Councilman changes his place of residence to a district other than the one from which he was elected, the Chairman shall declare that Council position vacant.

Section 10. A Councilman may be removed from his office by a three-fourths vote of the Council.

Section 11. The Chairman of the Council shall declare an election in an electoral district when three-fourths of the voters of that district have signed and presented a petition to the Council requesting the recall of their Councilman.

Section 12. All Council vacancies shall be filled by special election within the electoral district in which any vacancy occurs, except that no such special election shall be held if a regular election is scheduled within one month from the time the vacancy is declared.

ARTICLE 2. THE OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Section 1. The Community Council at its first regular meeting after election shall elect a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Section 2. Only elected members of the Council shall be eligible to be officers in the Council.

Section 3. The Chairman of the Council shall preside at all meetings but shall not have a vote except in case of a tie.

Section 4. The Chairman may appoint members of the Council to committees which may be deemed necessary to carry on the work of the Council.

Section 5. The Chairman must secure the approval of the Council for the appointment of non-Council members to boards, commissions and committees which the Council may establish. All residents, whether citizens or non-citizens, shall be eligible for membership on appointive committees, commissions, boards, and other appointive administrative positions.

ARTICLE 3. PROCEDURE

Section 1. The Community Council shall be deemed to have a quorum when two-thirds of the Councilmen are present.

Section 2. All regularly scheduled meetings of the Community Council shall be open to the public except that the Council may, by a majority vote of those present, conduct a closed meeting.

Section 3. A majority vote of the Councilmen present at any meeting shall be necessary for the enactment of regulations.

Section 4. No regulation shall be enacted sooner than one week after its introduction. No regulation shall become effective for 10 days after passage, during which intervening time the Council shall provide for adequate publication of its actions.

Section 5. The Council has the authority to abrogate the preceding Section in cases of extreme urgency when the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety requires it by public declaration of the facts constituting the urgency. The Council may introduce at one and the same meeting such regulations which shall become effective upon passage by two-thirds vote of the Councilmen present.

Section 6. A record of the ayes and naves shall be entered in the permanent minutes of the Council on all votes on regulations.

Section 7. The Council shall provide such other rules of procedure as may be necessary for the conduct of its business.

ARTICLE 4. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to this Charter shall be made through a Community election, to be conducted in each electoral district; amendments shall become effective only when approved by a majority of the voters either at a general or a special election.

Section 2. Amendments may be initiated only upon two-thirds vote of the Council or by a signed petition of one-fourth the qualified voters of Manzanar.

Section 3. Amendments shall become effective immediately upon passage.

ARTICLE 5. FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

Section 1. The Community Council of Manzanar shall prescribe regulations and provide penalties for their violation on all matters, other than those defined as felonies by the laws of the State of California, which affect the internal peace and order of Manzanar and the welfare of the residents, insofar as such regulations are not in conflict with any federal law, military proclamation, law of the State of California, or any order issued by an appropriate officer of the War Relocation Authority.

Section 2. The regulations enacted by the Community Council may provide for confinement, suspension of privileges, and other suitable punishment, but they shall not provide for the imposition of a fine. In lieu of a fine, the Council may provide for the suspension of the defendant from work privileges, pay privileges, or other privileges to which he would otherwise be entitled.

Section 3. The Community Council may present to the Project Director resolutions on questions affecting the welfare of the residents of the Center.

Section 4. The Community Council may solicit and receive funds and property for community purposes and may administer such funds and property.

Section 5. The Community Council shall have the authority to license and to require reasonable license fees from evacuee-operated enterprises. The total of such license fees from all sources shall not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for any calendar year. No license fee shall be effective until approved by the Project Director.

Section 6. Any funds available under this provision shall be spent only for purposes which will promote the general welfare of the residents, on the basis of appropriations made by the Council and on warrants against such appropriations issued by the Chairman of the Council.

Section 7. The Council shall not have the authority to manage, operate or conduct business enterprises within the Center.

Section 8. The Community Council may establish such committees, commissions and boards as may be desirable and necessary to facilitate the work of the Council and for the general welfare of the residents.

Section 9. The Community Council shall exercise such other duties and functions as may be conferred upon it from time to time by the War Relocation Authority.

ARTICLE 6. THE JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Section 1. The Community Council shall provide for a Judicial Commission of not less than three members, which shall hear cases and apply penalties for violation of law and order as prescribed by the Council.

Section 2. The Community Council shall provide for orderly methods of arbitration for settling civil disputes between residents.

Section 3. Rules and regulations set forth by the Manual on Judiciary shall be followed by the Judicial Commission and the Arbitration Commission.