

LAWS OF THE FREE STATE OF TAMPA

I) **Limitations of Governmental Power**

- A) All governmental powers for the Free State of Tampa will be split amongst three bodies: the Lord Mayor, the Council, and the Judge. Any right, power, privilege or ability not specifically granted to the government of the Free State of Tampa is reserved to and vested in the citizens and all other kindred who dwell within the Free State of Tampa.
- B) No kindred within the Free State of Tampa may be:
 - 1) Punished for his clan.
 - 2) Punished for his covenant.
 - 3) Punished for protecting themselves or their property, except when the actions of the protecting kindred break the Masquerade.
 - 4) Denied free speech, except as necessary to preserve the Masquerade.
 - 5) Punished for economic, philosophical, religious, moral, or other personal views.
 - 6) Detained without just cause.
 - 7) Denied a trial upon accusations of criminal activity or tried in absentia.
 - 8) Forced into servitude, except as a punishment for criminal activity.
 - 9) Detained or tried for a crime ex post facto.
 - 10) Detained or tried for a crime committed outside of the Free State of Tampa, except for those who accused of committing Amaranth.
 - 11) Deprived of any of the rights contained in this Article absent the approval of two-thirds of the citizens of the Free State of Tampa.

II) **Lord Mayor of the Free State of Tampa**

- A) The Lord Mayor of the Free State of Tampa, will act as the head of the Free State's government and will handle the day to day administration and the defense of the Free State. The citizens of the Free State will, by majority of the popular vote, elect the Lord Mayor for a term of five (5) years with a maximum of two (2) terms. No kindred serving as Councilor, Sheriff, Deputy, Harpy, Master of Elysium or Judge may also serve as a Lord Mayor. Only a citizen may serve as Lord Mayor. The Lord Mayor may be removed by a unanimous vote by the Council of the Free State.
- B) The Lord Mayor is empowered to do any of the following provided the Lord Mayor does not contradict or exceed the Laws of the Free State of Tampa:

- 1) The Lord Mayor may appoint a Sheriff pursuant to article III.
- 2) The Lord Mayor may remove the Judge pursuant to Article IV.
- 3) The Lord Mayor may grant Domain pursuant to Article VII.
- 4) The Lord Mayor grant citizenship in the Free State of Tampa pursuant to Article X.
- 5) The Lord Mayor may sentence kindred to Final Death pursuant to Article XI.
- 6) The Lord Mayor may, establish and appoint assistants as needed for the fulfillment of duties. These assistants hold no official position and wield no authority not specifically delegated to them by the Lord Mayor.
 - a) The position of Seneschal is created to act as assistant to the Lord Mayor and authorizes the Seneschal to act with the Lord Mayor's voice when the Lord Mayor is absent.
 - b) The position of Master of Elysium is created to enforce the laws of Sanctuary.
- 7) The Lord Mayor will conduct the election of the Judge.
- 8) If a question arises about the interpretation of the laws and the council cannot or will not meet in a timely manner, the Lord Mayor may issue an interpretation which the council may overturn at their leisure.

III) Council of the Free State of Tampa

- A) The Council of the Free State of Tampa (hereinafter "the Council") will be composed of five (5) equal seats. Each of the five covenants, the Carthians, the Circle of the Crone, the Invictus, the Lancea Sanctum, and the Ordo Dracul, will be entitled to one of the five seats on the Council. Each covenant will select the Councilor to fill their seat by whatever means they choose. No kindred serving as Lord Mayor, Sheriff or Judge may also serve as a Councilor. Only a citizen may serve as Councilor. The Councilors serve at the whim of their Covenant and are not entitled to a fixed length of tenure.
- B) The Council is empowered to do any of the following provided the Council does not contradict or exceed the Laws of the Free State of Tampa:
 - 1) The Council, by unanimous vote, may enact, revoke, or amend any laws necessary for the continued stable governance and welfare of the Free State of Tampa.
 - 2) The Council may remove the Judge pursuant to Article IV.
 - 3) The Council may revoke domain and establish a Rack pursuant to Article VII.

- 4) The Council may designate certain portions of the Free State of Tampa as Sanctuary pursuant to Article IX.
- 5) The Council grant or revoke citizenship in the Free State of Tampa pursuant to Article X.
- 6) The Council may grant kindred the right to sire and release progeny pursuant to Article VIII.
- 7) The Council may sentence kindred to Final Death pursuant to Article XI.
- 8) The Council may, by majority vote, establish and appoint assistants as needed for the fulfillment of duties. These assistants hold no official position and wield no authority not specifically delegated to them by the Council.
 - A) The position of Harpy is established with all the standard duties and responsibilities. The Harpy is chosen by a majority vote of the Council and is removed in the same fashion.

III) Sheriff of the Free State of Tampa

- A) There shall be only one (1) Sheriff of the Free State of Tampa (hereinafter "the Sheriff") at any time. The Sheriff will be appointed by Lord Mayor. The Sheriff may not also serve as Councilor, Lord Mayor, the Harpy, Master of Elysium or the Judge. Only a citizen may serve as the Sheriff.
- B) The Sheriff serves at the whim of the Lord Mayor. The Sheriff may be removed at any time by the Lord Mayor.
- C) The Sheriff is empowered and required to enforce the Laws of the Free State of Tampa. The Sheriff may use any means of enforcement desired provided he does not violate the Laws of the Free State of Tampa in any way. The Sheriff may appoint Deputies to assist in the fulfillment of duties. Deputies have only those powers specifically delegated to them by the Sheriff. All Deputies serve at the whim of the Sheriff.
- D) The Sheriff is empowered to levy formal accusations of criminal activity against any kindred. The Sheriff and any Deputies are empowered to detain any kindred for purposes of investigation.
 - 1) No kindred shall obstruct or oppose the Sheriff or any Deputies during the course of an investigation into possible criminal activity.
 - (a) Any kindred found guilty of obstructing or opposing the Sheriff or any Deputies during the course of an investigation into possible criminal activity may be sentenced to any punishment up to and including Banishment.
- E) The Sheriff must bring any detained kindred before the Judge for purposes of a trial to determine guilt within one month's time. The Lord Mayor may extend this to 3 months and the Council to 6 months.

F) The Sheriff is the sole officer empowered to present evidence of guilt at the trial before the Judge.

1) No kindred shall take any action intended to destroy, conceal, or tamper with evidence needed by the Sheriff for purposes of trial.

(a) Any kindred found guilty of taking any action intended to destroy, conceal, or tamper with evidence needed by the Sheriff for purposes of trial may be sentenced to any punishment up to and including Enforced Servitude.

G) The Sheriff is immune to the laws of Sanctuary when executing a sentence imposed by the Judge.

IV) Judge of the Free State of Tampa

A) There shall be only one (1) Judge of the Free State of Tampa (hereinafter "the Judge") at any time. The Judge may only be elected by a majority of the popular vote of the citizens of the Free State of Tampa. No kindred serving as Lord Mayor, Seneschal, Councilor, Sheriff, Deputy, Master of Elysium or Harpy may also serve as the Judge. Only a citizen may serve as the Judge.

B) Once elected, the Judge will serve a term of six (6) months. The Judge may not be removed from his position prior to the end of his term unless the Lord Mayor and Council unanimously votes to remove the Judge from office.

C) The Judge will preside over all accusations of criminal activity made by the Sheriff. The Judge is the sole officer empowered to determine the guilt or innocence of any kindred in the Free State of Tampa. Upon a finding of guilt, the Judge shall determine the punishment warranted for the crime(s) committed. The Judge may not impose any punishment specifically prohibited by the Laws of Tampa, but otherwise may exercise his discretion in determining punishment.

D) In the case of a tie amongst the Council, the Judge will serve as the tie-breaker in all votes and decisions.

V) Masquerade

A) No kindred shall take any action that violates the Masquerade by revealing the true nature of kindred to those not of the Blood.

1) Any kindred found guilty of violating the Masquerade by revealing the true nature of kindred to those not of the blood may be sentenced to any punishment up to and including Final Death.

B) No kindred shall attempt to take or assist any action that violates the Masquerade by revealing the true nature of kindred to those not of the Blood.

1) Any kindred found guilty of attempting to violate the Masquerade by revealing the true nature of kindred to those not of the blood may be sentenced to any punishment up to and including Staking and/or Torpor.

VI) **Destruction**

- A) No kindred shall cause the Final Death of another kindred.
 - 1) Any kindred found guilty of causing the Final Death of another kindred may be sentenced to Staking and/or Torpor.
 - (a) Any kindred found guilty of causing the Final Death of the Lord Mayor, the Seneschal, a Councilor, the Sheriff, a Deputy, the Master of Elysium, the Harpy, or the Judge may be sentenced to any punishment up to and including Final Death.
- B) No kindred shall attempt to cause the Final Death of another kindred.
 - 1) Any kindred found guilty of attempting to cause the Final Death of another kindred may be sentenced to any punishment up to and including Banishment.
 - (a) Any kindred found guilty of attempting to cause the Final Death of the Lord Mayor, the Seneschal, a Councilor, the Sheriff, a Deputy, the Master of Elysium, the Harpy, or the Judge may be sentenced to any punishment up to and including Staking and/or Torpor.
- C) No kindred shall commit Amaranth, the devouring of the heart's blood of another kindred. This section applies to any kindred who commit the crime Amaranth outside of the Free State and who later enters the Free State.
 - 1) Any kindred found guilty of committing Amaranth may be sentenced to any punishment up to and including Final Death.
- D) No kindred shall attempt to commit Amaranth, the devouring the heart's blood of another kindred.
 - 1) Any kindred found guilty of attempting to commit Amaranth may be sentenced to any punishment up to and including Staking and/or Torpor.

VII) **Domain**

- A) Any citizen or coterie of citizens of the Free State of Tampa may petition the Lord Mayor for Domain.
- B) The Lord Mayor, may grant any citizen or coterie of citizens a Domain. Each member of a coterie who holds Domain over an area holds it equally with all other members of the coterie.
- C) Domain entitles a citizen or coterie of citizens only the exclusive right to feed within certain boundaries as set by the Lord Mayor.
- D) No kindred shall feed within the Domain of another kindred.
 - 1) Any kindred found guilty of feeding within the Domain of another kindred may be sentenced to any punishment up to and including Enforced Servitude.

- E) The Council may, by unanimous vote, revoke the Domain granted to any citizen or coterie of citizens.
- F) The Council, by unanimous vote, may establish a portion of the Free State of Tampa to serve as the Rack. There may be only one (1) Rack within the Free State of Tampa at any time. Once established as the Rack, the Council must specifically designate the boundaries of the Rack in the Laws of the Free State of Tampa.
 - 1) Ybor City is hereby designated as the Rack. The boundaries of the Rack are as follows: Interstate 4 shall form the northern boundary, 39th Street shall form the eastern boundary, the Crosstown Expressway shall form the southern boundary, and Nebraska Avenue shall form the western boundary.
- G) Any kindred may freely feed within the Rack.
- H) The Lord Mayor is required to keep a public record of all Domains granted within the Free State of Tampa and to whom each Domain belongs.

VIII) **Progeny**

- A) No kindred will sire any childe within the Free State of Tampa without the approval of the Council. Only citizens may petition the Council for permission to sire a childe. The Council may grant the right to sire a childe only by unanimous vote.
 - 1) Any kindred found guilty of siring a childe within the Free State of Tampa without the approval of the Council may be sentenced by any punishment up to and including Staking and/or Torpor.
- B) All unreleased childer are the sole responsibility of their sire. An unreleased childe's sire may be accused of criminal activity for any crime committed by the childe.
- C) All childer must remain under the tutelage of their sire for no less than one (1) year before the sire may petition the Council to release the childe by majority vote.

IX) **Sanctuary**

- A) The Council, by unanimous vote, may designate portions of the Free State of Tampa to be Sanctuary. Any portion designated as Sanctuary will be explicitly listed in the Laws of the Free State of Tampa.
- B) The following locations are the Sanctuaries of the Free State:
 - 1) The Italian Club in Ybor City.
 - 2) Master Yoshi's gardens in Hyde Park.
 - 3) The Settlement House in Ybor City.
- C) No kindred will commit any act of aggression or harm against any other kindred while on the grounds of any Sanctuary nor will any kindred

commit any act that causes, promotes, or invites the destruction, violation, or desecration of any Sanctuary.

1) Any kindred found guilty of act of aggression or harm against any other kindred while on the grounds of any Sanctuary or any act that causes, promotes, or invites the destruction, violation, or desecration of any Sanctuary may be sentenced to any punishment up to and including Staking and/or Torpor.

X) **Citizenship**

A) Citizenship in the Free State of Tampa may only be granted by the Lord Mayor or by the Council with majority vote.

B) No kindred may petition for citizenship prior to two (2) consecutive months of residence within the Free State of Tampa.

C) The Council, by unanimous vote, may grant citizenship to any kindred even absent proper petition.

D) The Council may revoke the citizenship of any kindred by unanimous vote.

E) The Council hereby grants citizenship to any kindred who signed the Decree of Independence (see Appendix A).

F) The Lord Mayor can grant citizenship to any childe upon release.

G) The Lord Mayor is required to maintain a public list of all kindred who are citizens of the Free State.

XI) **Punishments**

A) All crimes committed with the Free State of Tampa shall be sentenced according to this Article and the relevant Article outlining the potential punishments for the listed crime. The permissible punishments within the Free State of Tampa are:

1) Public Reprimand - The guilty kindred is publicly admonished by the Council and/or forced to write a public apology to the kindred of the Free State of Tampa.

2) Loss of Property - The guilty kindred is forced to surrender ownership of certain pieces of property either as repayment to the Lord Mayor for crime against the Free State of Tampa or as repayment to the victim of the guilty kindred's crime. The surrender of ownership may be temporary or permanent, as decided in the sole discretion of the Judge.

3) Enforced Servitude - The guilty kindred is forced to serve either the Lord Mayor, the Council, the Sheriff, or the victim of the guilty kindred's crime for a period of not less than three (3) months but no longer than one (1) year, as decided in the sole discretion of the Judge. During this time, all of the property belonging to guilty kindred is considered the property of the person or persons whom the guilty kindred must serve.

- 4) Banishment - The guilty kindred is ordered to leave the Free State of Tampa and his citizenship is considered unanimously revoked by the Council of the Free State of Tampa. The length of banishment shall not be less than six (6) months and may be as long as deemed appropriate, as decided in the sole discretion of the Judge. The kindred is ordered never to return to the Free State of Tampa for a period of at least not less than six (6) months, as decided in the sole discretion of the Judge.
 - (a) No kindred who has been banished from the Free State of Tampa by the Judge shall return to the Free State of Tampa within the period of time as prescribed by the Judge.
 - (i) Any kindred returning to the Free State of Tampa during the period of banishment as imposed by the Judge may be sentenced to any punishment up to and including Staking and/or Torpor for a first offense, or sentenced to any punishment up to and including Final Death for a second or subsequent offense.
- 5) Staking and/or Torpor - The guilty kindred is incapacitated by being driven into torpor and/or by being staked. The length of the incapacitation shall not be less than one (1) year and may be as long as deemed appropriate, as decided in the sole discretion of the Judge.
 - (a) No kindred shall rescue, free, or resuscitate or attempt to rescue, free, or resuscitate the staked or torpid kindred prior to the end of the imposed sentence.
 - (i) Any kindred who rescues, frees, or resuscitates or attempts to rescue, free, or resuscitate any kindred staked or torpid as punishment for a crime may be sentenced to any punishment up to and including Staking and/or Torpor.
- 6) Final Death - This is the highest punishment that may be imposed against a guilty kindred within the Free State of Tampa. The guilty kindred is destroyed. However, unless otherwise specifically enumerated as a possible punishment for committing a crime, no kindred found guilty of a crime may be put to Final Death. The procedure for the imposition of Final Death is as follows:
 - (a) Upon a finding of guilt at trial, the Judge may recommend that a kindred who has committed a crime specifically enumerated as punishable by Final Death be put to Final Death.
 - (b) Upon a recommendation of Final Death by the Judge, the Lord Mayor and Council may unanimously ratify the recommendation for punishment by Final Death.
 - (c) Upon a recommendation of Final Death by the Judge and the subsequent unanimous ratification of the recommendation by the Lord Mayor and the Council, the Sheriff shall carry out the sentence of Final Death within one month of the final decision.
 - (d) Should the Judge fail to recommend Final Death or the Lord Mayor and the Council fail to unanimously ratify the

recommendation of the Judge, the guilty kindred may be sentenced by the Judge to any other punishment permissible under the Laws of the Free State of Tampa.

B) The Council, by unanimous vote (all 5), may commute any sentence imposed by the Judge or the Council at any time.

XII) Boundaries of the Free State

A) The Free State encompasses all of Hillsborough and Pinellas counties in the State of Florida in the United States of America except for the building known as the Embassy of the Free State in Pinellas County, which is hereby declared as neutral territory under the sole control of the Ambassadors of the Embassy of the Free State of Tampa. The Council of the Free State hereby recognizes that the Embassy of the Free State is not governed by the Laws of the Free State and that the Ambassadors are a sovereign body empowered to enforce the laws of the Embassy without any interference by the government of the Free State of Tampa.

Done with unanimous agreement and consent of the Council of the Free State of Tampa on this 18th night of April 2006.

Liberty Stone, Carthian Movement
Conner Varrick, Circle of the Crone
Abigail Caster, Invictus
Michali Pappas, Lancea Sanctum
Pytr Owein, Ordo Dracul

DECREE OF SOVEREIGNTY

The time has come for us to reclaim our rights, to show that no one stands above us, and to live free once more. Too long have we suffered under the yoke of injustice, inequality, and tyranny. Too long have we watched the few profit at the expense of the many all for the sanctity of ancient wisdom. Too long have we endured the scorn and persecution of those who thought themselves our betters for reasons not even of their own making. Too long have we been deprived of our dignity, our voice, and our will.

Tonight we stand self-empowered, equal, and free once more. We hold these three ideas to be inviolate: all kindred are created equal, all kindred have rights, and all kindred should live free. We reject the antiquated thoughts of ages past and choose to form a government of our own design. We stand united in opposition to any who seek to enslave our free will or the free will of any other kindred. We take back our destiny.

So say we all on this eighth night of January 2005,

Liberty Stone
Edward Blake
Christian van Bourne
Sonny Piazza
Michael de la Croix
Vincent Steele
William Usher
Chloe de Garmont
Rose Bloodmire
Pytr Owein
Nestor Castillo
Iris Westwood
Mary Margaret
Jerome Laleme
Joseph Solomon
Opus Thompson
CPOC
Isaac Jones
Billy Ironcloud
Matthew Hawk
Seth Maddox
Ap Frot
Jonas Blackheart
Luke Blackwelder
Mary Ubino
Aseem Vishvakarma
Chase de Montbard
Coleman
Scar
Joshua Solomon