

BYLAWS OF THE BLACK DEAF ADVOCATES NEW YORK CITY
(Please see Roberts' Rules of Order) **Ratified on June 17, 2011**

CURRENTLY READS 4/27/85	PROPOSED AMENDMENT/CHANGES
ARTICLE I NAME Section 1. The name of this organization shall be Black Deaf Advocates, Inc. New York City Chapter herein referred to as the organization.	Section 1. The name of this organization shall be Black Deaf Advocates, Inc. New York City Chapter 4
ARTICLE II OBJECTIVES Section 1. The objectives and general purpose of the organization are: a. To better inform ourselves and the Deaf community about the rights and responsibilities of Black Deaf citizens b. To take positive action to improve the mutual rights and interest of the Black Deaf person. c. To identify, examine and disseminate information related to the impact of social, economic, educational, political, religious and health issues through the medium of forums, panels, lectures and workshops. person d. To encourage increased leadership development and job opportunities for Black Deaf persons and to further their potentials.	NO recommendations for change
ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP Section 1. Any person supporting or advocating the aims set forth in the bylaws may become a member upon payment of dues. Section 2. There shall be two classifications of membership in the organization, active and associate. a. An active member shall be defined as a person who participates in at least six (6) meetings per year. b. The right of an active member shall constitute 1) Serving in office 2) Serving on the board 3) Serving upon a committee 4) Full voicing and voting privileges 5) A membership ID 6) An annual financial report Section 3. Associate member shall be entitled to: 1) Voicing and voting privileges 2) Serving on committees other than law committee 3) A membership ID card 4) An annual financial report	Section 1. Any person supporting or advocating the aims set forth in the bylaws may become a member in a good standing upon payment of dues. Section 2. There shall be three classifications of membership in the organization, regular, senior and student. a. Regular Member – Such membership shall be conferred to individuals who are members in a good standing. b. Senior Member – Senior citizen membership status shall be conferred to individual at the age of 55. c. Student Member- Student membership status shall be conferred to individuals enrolled full-time at secondary or post-secondary programs. Section 3. Associate member - Omit all

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ARTICLE IV DUES Section 1. Annual dues shall be (20) dollars, fifteen (15) dollars for local membership and five (5) dollars for National membership., Section 2. Dues must be paid in full within three (3) months after filing application for membership	Section 1. Dues for membership shall be paid regularly on or before February 1st of the calendar year. The calendar year shall be defined as January 1st through December 31st. Section 2. Decisions to raise or lower membership shall be authorized by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the general monthly membership meeting.
ARTICLE V OFFICERS Section 1. The elected officers shall be the President, a Vice President, a Secretary and Treasurer. The President and Vice President must be hearing-impaired. The Secretary and Treasurer may be hearing-impaired or hearing. Section 2. To be eligible for office, an individual must be an active member in good standing for at least one year. Section 3 The term of office for each officer shall be two (2) years or until a successor is chosen. Officers may be re-elected for additional terms. The term for office shall begin two (2) months following election. Section 4. Officers shall be elected by ballot at bi-annual election meeting. All officers shall be elected by a majority vote by present members. Section 5. Vacancies in office between terms shall be nominated and voted on by the Board of Directors by a majority vote. Section 6. Nominations of officers shall be made from the floor one month prior to the regular election Section 7. Any officer can be removed from office by the Board of Directors by a majority vote. Section 8. A parliamentarian shall be appointed by the President with approval of the Board of Directors.	Section 1. The elected officers shall be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The President and Vice President must be Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Section 2 - 8 No recommendations for change
ARTICLE VI DUTIES OF OFFICERS Section 1. Duties of Officers a. President 1. The President shall preside at regular meetings. 2. Shall speak for and represent the organization 3. Shall co-sign all checks 4. Shall approve all letters and notices sent by the secretary 5. Sign all legal documents on behalf of the organization 6. Shall Chair the Executive Committee 7. Appoint chairs of all standing committees and adhoc committees. 8. Serve as ex-officio, a member of all committees	a. President 1. Preside at regular meetings 2. Speak for and represent the organization 3. Co-sign all checks 4. Approve all letters and notices sent by the secretary. 5. Sign all legal documents on behalf of the organization. 6. Chair the Executive Committee 7. Appoint chairs of all standing committees and adhoc committees 8. Serve as ex-officio a member of all committees.

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ARTICLE VI DUTIES OF OFFICERS (cont'd) b. Vice President - The Vice President shall preside at the meeting in the absence of the President - He/she shall be chairperson of the bylaw committee - He/she shall perform other duties as assigned by the President and approved by the Board c. Secretary - The Secretary shall take and keep the minutes of the meeting of the organization. - He/she shall receive and send official correspondence - Maintain a membership list for the organization - He/she shall notify members of all regular meetings at least one week in advanced d. Treasurer - The Treasurer shall receive dues and other funds, record same - Transmit the funds to the organization bank account.	b. Vice President - Preside at the meeting in the absence of the President - Chair the bylaws committee - Perform other duties as assigned by the President and approved by the board - Responsible for having a copy of the bylaws at the general meeting and board meetings - Co-sign all checks c. Secretary - Take and keep the minutes of the meetings of the organization - Receive and send official correspondence - Maintain a membership list for the organization - Notify the members of all regular meetings at least one or two weeks in advance d. Treasurer - Receive dues and other funds, record same - Transmit the funds to the organization's bank accounts - Co-sign all checks - Send report to IRS annually - Submit the treasurer's report to the President <u>ADD</u> e. <i>Chapter Representative</i> <i>Representative of this organization.</i> <i>Act as a liaison with the Eastern Regional Chapter Representative and National Black Deaf Advocates.</i> <i>Vote on behalf of NYCBDA chapter</i> <i>Share NYCBDA's concerns before National Black Deaf Advocates.</i> f. <i>Board Member</i> <i>One primary board member shall be added to the bank account and will not co-sign any checks.</i>
ARTICLE VII BOARD OF DIRECTORS Section 1. The Board of Directors shall comprise of four (4) officers of the organization and seven (7) Directors with at least three (3) being hearing.	Section 1. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of four (4) executive officers of the organization; one (1) Chapter Representative and two (2) appointed Board Members. The Board must have a Deaf majority in its membership.

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ARTICLE VII BOARD OF DIRECTORS (cont'd) Section 2. Eligibility requirements for Directors shall be the same for officers. Section 3. Each Director shall be elected by ballot, same as officers. Section 4. A majority by the Board of Directors can remove any director from their position. Section 5. The board shall fill a vacancy in any director position between terms with a majority vote by the board members. Section 6. The duties of the Board of Directors shall be - To conduct the affairs of the organization within the framework of it objectives as described in Article II of these bylaws. - To appropriate and approve the expenditure of funds set aside for the organization's activities. Section 7. Each member of the Board of Directors shall turn over to his/her successor all official material of the organization.	Section 2 - 5 No recommendations for change Section 6. The duties of the Board of Directors shall be - Support and advise executive committee in conducting the affairs of the organization with the framework of its objective as described in Article II of these bylaws. - To monitor and approve expenditures of funds set aside for the organization's activities. - Under the direction of the board of directors the audit committee will review the chapter financial records every six (6) months. Section 7. No recommendation for change
ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS AND QUORUMS Section 1. Regular meeting of the organization shall be held monthly. The election meeting shall be held the month of November. Section 2. One-fourth 1/4 of the members attending and in good standing shall constitute a quorum. Each active member in good standing shall have one vote. There shall be no proxy voting Section 3. The board of directors shall meet regular or as many times as needed but at least four (4) times a year. Special meetings must be called at the request of the President with approval by at least three (3) members of the Board seven(7) members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the Board meeting.	Section 1. No recommendation for change Section 2. One-third 1/3 members attending and in good standing shall constitute a quorum. Each active member in good standing shall have one vote. There shall be no proxy voting. Section 3. The Board of Directors shall meet at least four (4) times a year. Special meetings may be called at the request of the President with approval by at least three (3) members of the Board.
ARTICLE IX COMMITTEES Section 1. - The committees and their functions may be established by the president with the approval of the Board of Directors - The chairperson of each committee may select other members subject to approval by the board of directors - The chairperson of each committee shall submit a committee report when so requested by the Board of Directors	Section 1. The Standing Committee and their functions may be established by the President. - The chairperson of each committee may select other members subject to approval by the President - All standing committees shall submit a committee report at general meeting and give Secretary the written report for general meeting minutes

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ARTICLE IX COMMITTEES (cont'd) Section 2. The auditing committee shall be of three (3) active members. They shall examine all financial report by the Board of Directors and report shall be made at the following general meeting. Section 3. Auditing the financial reports of the organization shall be at least two (2) times a year.	ADD Section 2. Bylaws Committee shall a. Clarify all conflicts in the bylaws b. Recommend adjustments or amendments in bylaws Section 3. Finance/Fundraising shall: a. Develop and recommend budget to the membership b. Explore resources for funds to support the organization c. Investigate (or seek) grants and/or sponsors Section 4. Membership shall: a. Maintain list of members' names, addresses and voting status b. Recommend ways to increase membership Section 5. Auditing Committee shall: a. Select three (3) members b. Examine all financial reports with Board of Director's supervision c. Submit financial reports to be made at the following general meeting d. Audit of the financial reports of the organization shall be at every six (6) months
ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS Section 1. These by-laws may be amended by a two-third (2/3) vote at a general meeting Section 2. Proposed amendments shall be considered only if presented by the law committee members seeking change in the by-laws must transmit proposed changes to the chairperson of the law committee at least thirty (3) days before the date of the next regular meeting Section 3. Any provision in these by-laws may be suspended in unforeseen and urgent circumstances by a majority vote by the Board of Directors.	Section 1. These bylaws may be amended by a two thirds (2/3) vote of attendance at general meeting. Section 2. No recommendation for change Section 3. OMIT
ARTICLE XI PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY Section 1. In Parliamentary Procedure Robert's Rule of Order, current edition shall be the authority unless otherwise provided in these bylaws.	Section 1. No recommendation for change

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ARTICLE XII FORCE OF BYLAWS Section 1. These bylaws effect 4/27/85 and shall be in effect until amended as provided in Article IX. Section 2. If any provision of these bylaws or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remaining provisions shall not effected thereby.	Section 1. These bylaws are effective 6/17/11 and shall be in effect until amended as provided in Article IX. Section 2. OMIT