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# **Harambee House Manifesto**

#### **Preamble**

We the members of Harambee House Cooperative, in order to form a sustainable and just cooperative recognize that it is necessary:

- 1. 1. To promote a clear awareness to the membership of their responsibilities and obligations toward the house; furthermore
- 2. 2. To ensure that said responsibilities and obligations are discharged in a manner efficient, practical, and harmonious; also
- 3. 3. To maintain Harambee House financially and physically in the soundest possible condition; moreover
- 4. 4. To protect the individuals, living in the house, of minority opinion from harsh and unjust rules;

Hereby create this constitution to govern over the Harambee House Cooperative

### **Article I: Definitions**

- 1. 1. 'Constitution' shall refer to this document in its entirety.
- 2. **2.** 'Harambee House Cooperative,' 'Harambee House,' 'Harambee' and 'house' shall be defined as the building located on the property: 427 Hillsdale Street, Lansing, Michigan 48933
- 3. **3.** 'Student Housing Cooperative,' and 'SHC' shall refer to the body that owns the Harambee House Cooperative.
- 4. **4.** A 'member' is any person who has ever held a valid contract with Harambee House Cooperative.
- 5. **5.** An 'active member' or 'house member' is any member currently living in Harambee House privy to the following conditions
  - 1. a. Has a valid contract with SHC.
  - 2. **b.** I currently in good financial standing with SHC.
- 6. **6.** A 'guest' is anyone staying at Harambee House for any length of time without having signed a contract.
- 7. **7.** 'Active membership' or 'membership' is the total number of individuals who are active members, or the entire group of active members.
- 8. **8.** A 'house meeting' shall be defined as a congregation of house members assembled to transact business pertaining to the internal operation of Harambee House subject to the rules and regulations set forth by this constitution.
- 9. **9.** The 'constitutional addendum' or 'addendum' will be where passed rules and regulations will be placed. The addendum is not apart of the constitution, but a supplement to it.
- 10. **10.** The term 'personal living space' is defined as the individual room that an active member lives in.
- 11. **11.** A 'common room' shall be defined as any room that is not an active member's personal living space.

## **Article II: Scope**

- 1. **1.** This constitution shall be subject to all laws and regulations set forth by the United States of America, the State of Michigan, and the City of Lansing.
- 2. **2.** This constitution shall be subject to all rules and regulations set forth by the Michigan State Housing Cooperative (SHC) and all its respective governing bodies.
- 3. **3.** 'This constitution shall supersede and nulls all previous constitutions initiated by Harambee House Cooperative.
- 4. **4.** This constitution shall supersede any rules or regulations that were implemented under the governance of this constitution.
- 5. **5.** All rules and regulations made under the governance of this constitution shall be placed in the addendum section of this constitution upon the approval of the active members during a Regular House Meeting.

#### **Article IV: Governance**

1. **1.** All rules and regulations imposed upon the members and guests of Harambee House shall be adopted at house meetings or be stated within this constitution.

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Last update: 2019/12/13 14:08



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