

1953

Speeches/Documents

Title: ACT OF THE PRC FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF CITY RESIDENTS COMMITTEES

Author:

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Source:. The Criminal Process in the People's Republic of China, 1949-1963 Volume 2 Jerome Alan Cohen pp 110-112

Description:. passed at the 4th meeting of the Standing Committee of the NPC

Article 1. In order to strengthen the organization and work of residents of city streets and to promote their public welfare, residents' committees may be established according to residential districts under the guidance of the people's councils, or their subagencies, of city-administered districts, and undistricted cities.

Residents' committees are mass, autonomous residents' organizations.

Article 2. The tasks of residents' committees shall be as follows:

- (1) To manage affairs relating to the public welfare of residents;
- (2) To report opinions and requests of residents to local people's councils or their subagencies;
- (3) To mobilize residents to respond to calls of the government as well as to observe the law;
- (4) To lead security defense work of the masses;
- (5) To mediate disputes among residents.

Article 3. The organization of residents' committees shall be as follows:

(1) Residents' committees shall be established in accordance with the living conditions of residents and with reference to the area of jurisdiction of public security household list sections. The extent of this area is generally from one hundred to six hundred households of residents. Residents' groups shall be established directly under the residents' committee. Residents' groups generally shall be composed of from fifteen to forty households. No residents' committee may have more than seventeen residents' groups.

(2) Residents' committees shall have seven to seventeen committee members. Each residents' group shall elect one member to the residents' committee. Moreover, a chairman and one to three vice-chairmen shall be selected by and from among the committee members; one of them shall be designated to take charge of women's work.

Residents' groups shall each have a chief. Generally, the member of the residents' committee shall concurrently serve as chief. When necessary, one or two deputy chiefs may be elected by the group. When a committee member is selected as chairman or vice-chairman of a residents' committee, the group that elected him may elect another chief.

(3) Residents' committees [in areas] where the number of residents is relatively small shall generally not establish work committees but the committee members shall divide responsibility for the various items of work [among themselves]. Residents' committees [in areas] where the number of residents is relatively large, if their work actually requires it and if the people's council of the city approves, may establish permanent or temporary work committees which shall conduct their work under the unifying direction of [their respective] residents' committees. Permanent work committees may be

set up according to social welfare (including special compensatory allowances), security defense, culture-education-health, mediation, women's [activities], and other work [categories], with five being the maximum number of permanent committees allowed. The dissolution of temporary work committees shall be announced upon conclusion of their work.

Work committees shall absorb the activists among residents to participate in committee work, but they shall as much as possible assign only one function to each person so that no individual's work burdens are excessive.

(4) Residents who are controlled elements and other elements who have been deprived of their political rights shall [be allowed to] join residents' groups, but they may not serve as members of residents' committees, group chiefs, or members of work committees. When necessary, a group chief has the right to prevent such residents from taking part in certain meetings of the group.

Article 4. Every term of office for residents' committees shall be one year.

When a committee member is for some reason unable to serve in this capacity, he may be replaced at any time in a regular election or a special election.

Article 5. Organs, schools, relatively large enterprises, and other such units generally shall not participate in residents' committees; however, they must send representatives to attend meetings relating to them which are convened by residents' committees. Moreover, they must observe residents' committees' decisions and pacts relating to the public interest of residents.

In staff and worker dwelling districts and in relatively large collective dormitories where staff and workers reside in concentrated groups, residents' committees shall be established under the unifying guidance of the people's councils, or their subagencies, of city-administered districts and undistricted cities; or committees organized by labor unions and composed of members of the families of staff and workers shall concurrently perform the work of residents' committees.

Article 6. In city districts where minority nationality groups reside together, these minority nationality groups may separately set up residents' committees; where the number of minority households is relatively small, they may separately set up residents' groups.

Article 7. If work departments and other organs of the people's council of a city or a city-administered district find it necessary to allocate tasks to a residents' committee or to any of its work committees, they shall, with the approval of the people's council of the city or the city-administered district, do so in accordance with a centralized plan. These work departments may exercise professional guidance over the relevant work committees of residents' committees.

Article 8. Residents shall observe residents' committees' resolutions and pacts relating to the public interest. When conducting their work, residents' committees, following the principles of democratic centralism and voluntarism of the masses, shall fully develop democracy and may not coercively command the masses.

Article 9. Miscellaneous public expenses of residents' committees and subsistence allowances given to their members shall be provided exclusively by the people's council of the province or of the city directly under the central authority, in accordance with standards the provisions for which shall be separately issued by the Ministry of Interior.

Article 10. In order to meet expenses of managing affairs relating to the common welfare, residents' committees, with the consent of the residents concerned and with the approval of the people's council of the city-administered district or of the undistricted city, may solicit contributions among residents in accordance with the principle of voluntarism. Apart from this, residents' committees may not conduct any other solicitations or fund-raising among residents.

The amount of funds solicited for the common welfare and an itemized account of their expenditure shall promptly be made public after the matter has been concluded.