

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE ST. PETERSBURG
ASSOCIATION OF
FIREFIGHTERS,
LOCAL 747 IAFF

AND

THE CITY OF
ST. PETERSBURG
FLORIDA

FIREFIGHTERS, PARAMEDICS,
AND LIEUTENANTS



September 26, 2022 through September 21, 2025

**CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG
AND
ST. PETERSBURG ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS**

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SPECIAL NOTE:

The personal pronouns he, his, and him used in this agreement are to be interpreted to include both sexes. They are used merely for convenience purposes and are not to be considered as any adverse reflection on either sex.

The parties acknowledge that this final Agreement contains provisions that have undergone minor grammatical and typographical editing from the original signed proposals. The parties do not intend the edits to change the meaning or intent of the provisions. Accordingly, the parties agree that the language in the original signed proposals shall be used to settle disputes that arise because of edited language.

ARTICLE 1

PREAMBLE

1.1 In accordance with the State of Florida Public Employees Collective Bargaining Statute, this labor agreement (hereinafter referred to as Agreement) is entered into by and between the City of St. Petersburg, a municipality in the state of Florida, hereinafter called the "Employer", and the St. Petersburg Association of Firefighters, Local 747 I.A.F.F., hereinafter referred to as the "Union." This Agreement is applicable for employees as defined in Certificate Number 97, as amended, issued to the Union by the Public Employees Relations Commission on June 28, 1975.

1.2 The purpose of this Agreement is to promote and maintain harmonious and cooperative relationships between the Employer and the employees, both individually and collectively, and the Union; to provide an orderly and peaceful means for resolving differences which arise concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement; and to set forth herein the basic and entire Agreement between the parties in the determination of wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment.

1.3 Throughout this Agreement, the term employee and member are used interchangeably and both mean "employee member of the bargaining unit" as defined in PERC Certificate 97, as amended.

ARTICLE 2

RECOGNITION

2.1 The Employer hereby recognizes the Union as the exclusive representative for the purpose of collective bargaining with respect to wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment for all employees in the bargaining unit.

2.2 The unit for which this recognition is accorded, as defined in Certificate 97 as amended, comprises all full-time employees within the City of St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue Department classifications of Firefighter, Firefighter/Paramedic and Fire Lieutenant. All other classifications are excluded from this unit.

2.3 The Union hereby recognizes the Mayor, or his representative as the Employer's representative for the purpose of collective bargaining.

ARTICLE 3

EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

3.1 Employees are also entitled to the benefits and rights of the Personnel Management System of the Employer. If any conflicts occur between this Agreement and the City's Rules and Regulations of the Personnel Management System, the Agreement shall take precedence.

3.2 In order to give the employee notice and an opportunity to be informed and for possible refutation, the Fire Chief or designee shall provide the employee with a copy of any non-routine material which is being placed in the employee's personnel file. Non-routine material shall include memoranda documenting counseling or verbal reprimands, Employee Notices, letters of commendation, or any other material which is not generally associated with day to day administrative maintenance requirements.

3.3 The Employer agrees that an employee shall have the right to include in the employee's official personnel record a written and signed refutation (including signed witness statements) of any material the employee considers to be detrimental.

3.4 Application of polygraph examinations shall be administered in accordance with applicable law.

3.5 Employees are entitled to any and all benefits and rights as described in Florida Statutes, Sections 112.80 through 112.84, and any and all benefits and rights that may be added to said Statutes during the term of this Agreement. Any allegations of a violation of these benefits or rights shall not be subject to any arbitration appeal but may be grieved under the provisions of Article 5, Grievance and Arbitration Procedure, through Step 2 only.

3.6 Employees covered by this Agreement are entitled to the provisions provided in Florida Statutes Chapter 401 Part III.

ARTICLE 4

MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

4.1 The Union recognizes the prerogative of the Employer to operate and manage its affairs in all respects in accordance with its responsibilities; and the powers or authority which the Employer has not officially abridged, delegated, or modified by this Agreement are retained by the Employer. Management officials of the Employer retain the rights, in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and provisions of the City's Rules and Regulations of the Personnel Management System, but are not limited to the following:

- A. To determine the organization of City government.
- B. To determine the purpose of each of its constituent agencies.

- C. To exercise control and discretion over the organization and efficiency of operations of the City.
- D. To set standards for services to be offered to the public.
- E. To manage and direct the employees of the City.
- F. To hire, examine, classify, promote, train, transfer, assign, schedule and retain employees in positions with the City.
- G. To suspend, demote, discharge, or take other disciplinary action against employees for just cause.
- H. To increase, reduce, change, modify, or alter the composition and size of the work force, including the right to relieve employees from duties because of lack of work, funds or other legitimate reasons.
- I. To determine the location, methods, means, and personnel by which operations are to be conducted, including the right to contract and subcontract existing and future work.
- J. To determine the number of employees to be employed by the City.
- K. To establish or modify the number, types, and grades of positions or employees assigned to an organization, unit, department, or project.
- L. To establish or modify duties, tasks, responsibilities, or requirements within job descriptions in the interest of efficiency, economy, technological change, or operating requirements.
- M. To modify, or delete any rule, regulation, or policy.

4.2 The City Council has the sole authority to determine the purpose and mission of the City Council and the amount of the budget to be adopted by the City Council.

4.3 If, in the sole discretion of the Mayor, it is determined that civil emergency conditions exist, including, but not limited to riots, civil disorders, hurricane conditions, or similar catastrophes, the provisions of this Agreement may be suspended by the Mayor during the time of the declared emergency, provided that wage rates and monetary fringe benefits and grievance rights pertaining to just cause for disciplinary action shall not be suspended. The parties agree to meet after such an emergency is over to discuss and resolve the impact of the suspension of provisions of this Agreement if members of the bargaining unit are adversely affected.

4.4 Time frames for filing a grievance to appeal disciplinary action taken during a declared emergency shall begin at the end of the emergency conditions, as determined by management. The City will notify the Union in writing as to the date the emergency conditions have ended and the terms of the Agreement are no longer suspended.

ARTICLE 5

GRIEVANCE AND ARBITRATION PROCEDURE

5.1 General

- A. The purpose of this Article is to establish a procedure for the orderly adjustment of grievances and for settlement of disputes between the Employer and employees or groups of employees involving the interpretation or application of this Agreement.
- B. The City has a Personnel Management System Grievance and Appeal Procedure for matters not involving this Agreement. Classified employees shall have the option of using the City Appeal Procedure or the Grievance Procedure established under this Article, but such employees cannot use both for the same grievance. Initial probationary employees do not have grievance rights for disciplinary actions up to and including termination for misconduct or work performance and therefore cannot use either the City or contractual grievance procedure.
- C. Classified employees may file and process grievances with or without the assistance of the Union, provided they comply with the appropriate time limits and other conditions necessary in filing the grievances. If an employee chooses to process a grievance the employee will be responsible for all costs incurred, which might otherwise be paid by the Union. All grievances shall be submitted at Step 1 except for class grievances, Employer grievances, and contract interpretation grievances. In submitting a class grievance, which is non-disciplinary in nature and affects more than one employee regarding the same subject, the Union shall follow the same procedures listed in Article 5.2 below for non-class employee grievances except that the class grievance shall be initially submitted at Step 2 to the Labor Relations Office. All Employer grievances will be filed with the Union President at Step 2. Grievances arising from the interpretation of contract provisions shall also be submitted at Step 2.
- D. A grievance not submitted within the time limits as prescribed for every step shall be considered untimely and deemed null and void. A grievance not appealed to the next step within the time limits established by this grievance procedure shall be considered settled on the basis of the last answer provided by management. A grievance not answered within the time limits prescribed for the appropriate management representative at each step shall entitle the employee to advance the grievance to the next step. The time limits prescribed herein may be extended by request from either of the parties. Extensions of more than thirty (30) calendar days require the consent of both parties.
- E. The requirements in Steps 1 and 2 below for written grievances and answers shall not preclude the aggrieved employee, the Union, if applicable, and the appropriate management representatives from verbally discussing and resolving the grievance. Verbal discussions up through Step 2 shall not cause the aggrieved employee and the Union representative, if applicable, to suffer any loss of pay and shall normally

be held during regular working hours. Time spent during off-duty hours working on matters related to the grievance, including resolution, shall not be counted as time worked.

- F. In advancing grievances, the employee, the Union representative, if applicable, and the Employer may call a reasonable number of witnesses to offer testimony from direct knowledge only. Witnesses who are employees shall suffer no loss of pay or benefits while serving as witnesses in Steps 1 through 2 and shall be excused to testify during working hours provided such absence from their places of work in no way interrupts, delays, or otherwise interferes with proper and effective service to the community. Time spent during off-duty hours attending or testifying on behalf of a grievant shall not be counted as time worked. Employees ordered to attend proceedings to testify on behalf of the City will be placed on duty and paid in accordance with Article 21 of this Agreement if attendance falls outside of their normally scheduled work hours.
- G. In Steps 1 and 2 below, time spent by Union representatives on their duty days in discussing or processing grievances as provided in this Article shall not result in a loss of earnings or benefits. However, time spent during off-duty hours discussing or processing grievances on behalf of a grievant up to and through arbitration, shall not be counted as time worked.
- H. Union representatives shall be allowed reasonable time off without loss of pay during their regular shift hours for investigating, presenting, and appealing Step 1 and Step 2 grievances. Consistent with the above provisions, the time spent during off-duty hours for the benefit of a grievant shall not be counted as time worked. The performance of this function by the Union representative shall in no way interrupt the normal functioning of the department.
- I. Employees will follow all written and verbal directives, even if such directives are allegedly in conflict with the provisions of this Agreement. Compliance with such directives will not in any way prejudice the employee's right to file a grievance within the time limits contained herein nor shall compliance affect the ultimate resolution of the grievance. No employee or group of employees may refuse to follow directions pending the outcome of a grievance.

5.2 Grievance Procedure

Step 1

- A. If the grievance is not resolved informally, the aggrieved employee may submit a written appeal to the Fire Chief or designee within fifteen (15) calendar days after the occurrence of the matter from which the grievance arose.

The written grievance at this step, and at all steps thereafter, shall contain the following information:

1. A statement of the grievance including date of occurrence, and details, and facts upon which the grievance is based;
 2. The article and section of the Agreement alleged to have been violated;
 3. The action, remedy or solution requested by the employee;
 4. Signature of aggrieved employee and the Union representative if applicable;
 5. Employee's reason for rejection of management's answer, if grievance is to be appealed to next step; and
 6. Date submitted.
- B. Within seven (7) calendar days after receipt of the written appeal, the Fire Chief or designee will meet with the aggrieved employee and/or the Union representative to discuss and seek a solution to the grievance. Within five (5) calendar days after this meeting, the Fire Chief or designee shall give his written decision to the grievant.

The written response at this step and all steps thereafter shall contain the following information:

1. An affirmation or denial of the facts upon which the grievance is based;
2. An analysis of the alleged violation of the Agreement;
3. The remedy or solution to be made;
4. Signature of the appropriate management representative; and
5. Date of response.

Step 2

If the grievance is not resolved at Step 1, the aggrieved employee may submit a written appeal to the Labor Relations Office within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of the Fire Chief's or designee's written answer. If appropriate to file the initial grievance at Step 2, the aggrieved employee or Union official may submit a written appeal to the Labor Relations Office within fifteen (15) days after the occurrence of the matter from which the grievance arose. The Labor Relations Manager or designee shall meet with the aggrieved employee, departmental management, and Union representatives within fifteen (15) calendar days of receipt of the written appeal to discuss and seek a resolution of the grievance. Within fifteen (15) calendar days after this meeting, the Labor Relations Manager or designee shall give a written recommendation to the grievant, the Union representative if applicable, and the Fire Chief or designee.

Step 3 Arbitration Referral

- A. If the employee grievance is not resolved at Step 2, the aggrieved employee may, with or without Union assistance, within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of the Step 2 written response, submit a written request for arbitration to the Labor Relations Office.
- B. At arbitration hearings the grievant, the Union if applicable, and the Employer may call a reasonable number of witnesses to offer testimony from direct knowledge only.
- C. For all grievances, either the Union or the City may request to bypass or waive Steps 1 and 2 in order to take the issue or grievance directly to arbitration. Both parties must mutually agree to waive Steps 1 and/or 2.
- D. If the parties fail to mutually agree upon an arbitrator within fifteen (15) calendar days after the date of receipt of the arbitration request, a list of seven (7) qualified neutrals shall be requested from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS). The party initiating the arbitration shall be responsible for paying FMCS's fees. If the grievant is not sponsored by the Union in the arbitration process, the list of arbitrators shall be requested from the American Arbitration Association, (AAA) by the grievant, who shall pay the cost of obtaining the list. Each party has the right to reject one list. A new list will be requested by the Labor Relations Office and the fee for the second list shall be paid by the party requesting the new list. Within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of a list acceptable to both, the parties shall meet and alternately strike names on the list, and the remaining name shall be the arbitrator. A coin shall be tossed to determine who shall strike first.

If the selected arbitrator is not available to conduct the hearing within sixty (60) days, the Labor Relations Office may request a new list and pay the fee for it.
- E. The grievance hearing shall be informal and the rules of evidence shall not apply.
- F. The arbitrator shall not have the power to add to, subtract from, modify or alter the terms of the collective bargaining agreement in arriving at a decision of the issue or issues presented, and shall confine the decision solely to the interpretation or application of the agreement. The arbitrator shall not have authority to determine any other issues not submitted to the arbitrator.
- G. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding upon the aggrieved employee, the Union, and the Employer, except that any party may appeal the arbitrator's decision to a court of law.
- H. The arbitrator's fees and expenses shall be borne by the losing party. In the event of a compromise or split decision, the arbitrator's fees and expenses shall be borne equally by the parties to the arbitration. A compromise or split decision is: (a) a

decision in which discipline was not rescinded in full nor totally upheld by the arbitrator or, (b) one of the positions taken by either party with regard to contract interpretation was not upheld by the arbitrator.

- I. Attendance at any arbitration procedure and the compensation of participants or witnesses shall be the responsibility of the side requesting the participants or the witnesses. Employees ordered to attend proceedings to testify on behalf of the City will be placed on duty if attendance falls outside of their normally scheduled work hours and paid in accordance with Article 21 of this Agreement.
- J. The arbitrator shall be requested to render the decision as quickly as possible, but in any event, no later than forty-five (45) calendar days after the hearing or receipt of post-hearing briefs filed by the parties.
- K. For grievances that include a monetary claim against the Employer, the arbitrator shall not award the accrual of back pay and/or benefits that are more than thirty one (31) calendar days prior to the date the employee filed the written grievance.
- L. Upon receipt of the arbitrator's award, corrective action, if any, will be implemented as soon as possible, but in any event no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of the arbitrator's award.
- M. Either party to this Agreement desiring transcripts of the arbitration hearings shall be responsible for the cost of such transcripts.

**SPAFF GRIEVANCE
CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG**

Grievance No. _____

Please attach any statements or information to support your grievance. Type or print neatly.

NAME (Employee filing) _____ Work Phone _____

Classification/Rank _____ Shift _____ Division _____

Date of Occurrence of Grievance _____

Article & Section of Agreement alleged to have been violated _____

Please check appropriate box: Step 1 Fire Chief Step 2 Labor Relations
 Class Grievance

DESCRIBE all of the facts concerning the grievance (date, time, place, persons involved, etc.):

REQUESTED REMEDY:

EMPLOYEE/UNION

DEPARTMENT/CITY

Signature (Employee filing grievance) Time/Date

Grievance received by
(Signature)

SPAFF Representative Signature Time/Date

Time/Date of receipt

As provided by the SPAFF contract, I wish to appeal my grievance to Step 2.

Signature (Employee filing grievance) Time/Date

Grievance received by (Signature)

SPAFF Representative Signature Time/Date

Time/Date of Receipt

**SPAFF GRIEVANCE
CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG**

Grievance No. _____

RESPONSE

This form is to be used by the Fire Chief/Designee and Labor Relations to respond to Step 1 and Step 2 SPAFF Grievances.

TO: _____
Employee/Grievant or SPAFF Representative

FROM: _____
Fire Chief/Designee or Labor Relations

Date Grievance Filed: _____ Date of Hearing: _____

The following is in response to the above-referenced grievance. (Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

.....

Hearing Officer's Signature
(Fire Chief/Designee or Labor Relations)

Date

ARTICLE 6

PROHIBITION OF STRIKES

6.1 Strike Definition

"Strike" means the concerted failure to report for duty, the concerted absence of employees from their positions, the concerted stoppage of work, the concerted submission of resignations, the concerted abstinence in whole or in part of any group of employees from the full and faithful performance of their duties of employment with the City of St. Petersburg, the Employer, for the purpose of inducing, influencing, condoning or coercing a change in the terms and conditions of employment or the rights, privileges, or obligations of their employment. "Strike" also means participating in a deliberate and concerted course of conduct which adversely affects the services of the Employer, including the concerted failure to report for work after the expiration of a collective bargaining agreement and picketing in furtherance of a work stoppage.

6.2 Strikes Prohibited

Employees covered by this Agreement, the Union, its officers, agents, and representatives, agree that Section 447.505, Florida Statutes prohibits them individually or collectively as public employees or this Union from participation in a strike against the City of St. Petersburg, the Employer, by instigating or supporting in any manner, a strike. Any violation of this section shall subject the violator(s) to the penalties as provided for by law, and the provisions of the Rules and Regulations of the Personnel Management System.

6.3 Affirmation

Employees covered by this Agreement and the Union, its officers, agents, and representatives agree that they will not engage in any "strike" activities or other similar forms of interference with the operation of the Fire Department.

6.4 Penalties

Any employee covered by this Agreement who participates in, is a party thereto, or promotes any of the above actions as outlined in Articles 6.1 and 6.2 above, or other similar forms of interference with the operations or functions of the City shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge.

ARTICLE 7

NON-DISCRIMINATION

7.1 The Employer and the Union agree that the provisions of this Agreement shall be applied equally to all employees in the bargaining unit without regard to Union membership.

7.2 The Employer will not discriminate against any employee covered by this Agreement because of membership in, or legitimate activity on behalf of, the members of the Union.

ARTICLE 8

CHECKOFF

8.1 Employees may authorize, on the prescribed form, the deduction of Union dues and other allowed deductions. Any Union uniform assessments will be certified in writing to the Employer by the Union thirty (30) days prior to implementation date.

8.2 The Employer is expressly prohibited from any involvement in the collection of fines, penalties or special assessments and shall not honor any requests of this nature.

8.3 An employee may revoke payroll dues and/or other authorizations at any time by submitting a stop request form (at the end of this Article) to the Employer and the Union upon thirty (30) days written notice.

8.4 Employees who desire to authorize payroll deduction of Union dues or other allowed deductions shall complete the appropriate authorization form contained at the end of this Article. This form may be duplicated by the employees or Union for this purpose.

8.5 Employees participating in the current dues and other allowed payroll deduction program may continue to do so as long as the Union remains the certified bargaining agent for employees in this bargaining unit.

8.6 The Union shall submit a written request stating, in dollars and cents, the new amount of Union dues and other allowed items to be deducted from the wages of members who have authorized such deductions. This request by the certified bargaining agent shall be submitted thirty (30) days in advance of the effective date of any changes.

8.7 The Union agrees to pay the Employer a fee for the service of dues and other allowed deductions for the term of this Agreement. The fee for total deductions shall be \$20.00 per month.

8.8 The Union agrees to pay the Employer a reasonable fee for any change in membership dues structure, uniform assessment or other type deduction, at the rate of \$20.00 on the effective date of such changes. A check to cover this fee shall accompany any letter of change notice.

8.9 Union dues and any other authorized deductions shall be deducted each applicable pay period and the funds shall be remitted to the Treasurer of the Union within thirty (30) calendar days.

8.10 Additional Insurance Deduction

The Employer agrees to permit a payroll deduction, on a bi-weekly basis, for the purpose of the Union providing supplementing life or other types of insurance for members that desire such coverage. This insurance coverage shall be in addition to any other insurance which may be

provided by the Employer. This deduction will be honored provided a payroll authorization form for such deduction is properly executed by the employee and on file with the Employer. The funds deducted by the Employer for this purpose shall be remitted to the Treasurer of the Union within thirty (30) days.

8.11 The Union will indemnify, defend, and hold the City harmless against any and all claims, demands, suits, or other forms of liability that shall arise out of, or by reason of action taken or not taken by the Employer, on account of these payroll deductions. The Union agrees that in case of error, proper adjustment, if any, will be made by the Union with the affected employee.

8.12 Effect of Stop Dues Deduction

An employee who is not participating in the Union dues deduction program shall not be eligible to participate in the additional insurance programs offered by the Union or any other deduction, with the exception of the supplemental life insurance program. No other deductions wherein funds will be remitted to the Union will be permitted.

**NOTICE TO EMPLOYER AND IAFF
AUTHORIZATION FOR DEDUCTIONS**

_____ I hereby authorize my Employer to deduct from my salary each pay period my Union dues as certified to the Employer by the Union.

_____ I hereby authorize my Employer to deduct from my salary each pay period contributions as indicated below and as certified to the Employer by the Union.

DUES	_____	PREPAID LEGAL	\$ _____
FLAME	_____	PFF INSURANCE	_____
LIFE INS. (CATEG.)	_____	AFLAC	_____
CANCER (CATEG.)	_____	FIREFIGHTERS CHARITY FUND	\$ _____
OTHER	_____		
TOTAL	\$ _____	BI-WEEKLY DEDUCTION	

I understand that these authorizations are voluntary and I may revoke them at any time by giving my Employer and the Union thirty (30) days advance notice.

DATE

SIGNED

JOB TITLE

(PRINT) LAST NAME, FIRST, M.I.

DEPT/DIV/ACTIVITY/PAYROLL #

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

Union Official _____

Date: _____

INCREASE MY TOTAL DEDUCTION FROM \$ _____

TO \$ _____

(Original and copy to Labor Relations Office)

10/2011

NOTICE TO EMPLOYER AND IAFF
STOP DEDUCTION NOTICE
(CHECK APPROPRIATE LINES)

_____ I hereby instruct my Employer, and advise the Union, to stop deducting from my salary my Union dues. It is understood that my deductions for other programs that I may have selected will also stop.

_____ I hereby instruct my Employer, and advise the Union, to stop deducting my contribution for the following programs:

- \$ _____ FLAME
- _____ LIFE INSURANCE
- _____ CANCER INSURANCE
- _____ PREPAID LEGAL
- _____ PFF INSURANCE
- _____ AFLAC
- \$ _____ FIREFIGHTERS CHARITY FUND
- _____ OTHER

This form is executed willfully and it is understood it will take thirty (30) days to execute the stop deduction.

DATE

SIGNED

JOB TITLE

DEPT/DIV/ACTIVITY/PAYROLL NO.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

Union Official _____

Date: _____

DECREASE MY TOTAL DEDUCTION FROM \$ _____ To _____

(Original and copy to Labor Relations Office)

ARTICLE 9

UNION REPRESENTATION

9.1 There may be one (1) steward recognized for each fire station and one (1) for fire headquarters.

9.2 The names of stewards and other Union officials shall be given in writing to the Fire Chief or his designee, as well as any change in such list within seventy-two (72) hours of the assumption of the duties of office.

9.3 Members and Union Representatives shall have the right to communicate during regular working hours provided this shall in no way interrupt, delay, or otherwise interfere with effective and proper service of the department.

9.4 Solicitation on City property of any and all kinds by the Union, including the solicitation of grievances, solicitation of membership, and/or the collection of Union monies, shall not be engaged in during working hours. There are two (2) exceptions to this prohibition: (1) when the Union, with the advance approval of the Fire Chief or his designee, requests donations for individuals facing emergency needs; and (2) when the Union meets with new hires during their orientation program. The Union shall have four (4) hours to meet exclusively with new hires during the first week of orientation.

ARTICLE 10

LEAVE FOR UNION BUSINESS

10.1 Union officials may be granted time off by the Fire Chief, or designee, for conducting Union business.

10.2 Time off for Union business will be without loss of pay by use of Union pool time provided that sufficient manpower is available to properly staff the Department during the absence of the Union official(s) as determined by the Fire Chief or designee. One (1) time-off slot shall be provided by the department for use by the Union President, when using pool time for the purpose of conducting Union business for either of the two (2) Department bargaining units represented by Local 747. The Union agrees not to use the time-off slot nor the pool time for the purpose of representing members employed by other fire agencies in labor disputes nor conducting labor negotiations with other fire agencies. In addition, the time-off slot provided for the Union President may be used instead by the Executive Vice President or the Secretary/Treasurer; these two (2) principle officers may not use the slot for more than a combined total of forty-eight (48) hours per month. This slot shall be separate from the slots described in Article 22.4. The Fire Chief or designee may deny the use of this slot when operational conditions warrant the need for all available manpower. The Fire Chief may also deny the use of this slot when there appears to be abuse or excessive absenteeism due to this slot. Otherwise, use of this slot by the President shall not be unreasonably denied.

10.3 An employee who has exchanged duty time with a Union official so that the Union official may be granted time off to conduct Union business may use Union Pool Time for an equivalent period of leave at a later time. Although this employee's leave is not taken to conduct Union business, the leave shall be covered by Union Pool time if approved by the Union President or designee, once approval for the employee's time off has been granted by the Department.

10.4 All dues paying Union members in good standing will annually contribute five (5) hours from their accrued annual leave account to the Union Pool Time account. The automatic deduction will be made from each member's annual leave account during the first pay period ending in January of each year, or as soon as possible in event of an HRIS/payroll system delay. In the event a member does not have sufficient hours, the hours will be deducted at the first available opportunity.

The Union may reduce this annual contribution of annual leave by notifying the City's Labor Relations Office by December 1 of each year. A member may opt out of this annual contribution of annual leave by executing the Stop Deduction Notice form, which is included in this Agreement at the end of Article 8, and submitting it to the Union Office and a copy to the City's Labor Relations Office by December 1 of each year.

10.5 Employees may voluntarily donate additional hours to the Union Business pool time account from their holiday or annual leave, but not illness leave, by executing the proper form authorized by the department for this purpose. Additional hours donated must be a minimum of four (4) hours for each occasion that a donation is made.

10.6 Each member's contribution will be converted to dollars by multiplying the hourly contribution times the member's current base hourly rate. The pool time hours used shall be subtracted by the same method. A record of hours donated and hours utilized shall be maintained as a dollar value available for use by Union representatives at their respective base hourly rates of pay. A copy of the record shall be provided to the Union on a quarterly basis.

10.7 The pool time balance remaining at the end of the calendar year (December 31) may be carried over to the next year, unless the balance in the pool time account reaches the equivalent of 3,190 hours based upon an average base pay rate of the Firefighter classification at the end of the calendar year. The balance carried over plus the annual and voluntary donations shall not exceed 3,190 hours at any point in time.

10.8 Union officials utilizing pool time shall not be on duty and shall not be eligible, during the time of utilization, for Workers' Compensation benefits in case of injury.

10.9 Donations to the Union Business Pool Time account can be processed at any time.

10.10 Absences from duty for Union business, which require a Union official to be off duty for periods in excess of seven (7) consecutive scheduled work shifts, shall not be approved unless an exception is granted by the Fire Chief.

ARTICLE 11

ANNUAL LEAVE

11.1 Purpose of Annual Leave

The purpose of Annual Leave is to provide employees with the opportunity to be absent from work, with Management approval, due to valid reasons without loss of pay or benefits.

11.2 Use of Annual Leave

A. Scheduled

Scheduled absences are those absences from duty which are able to be requested in advance by 8 p.m. on the employee's shift preceding the absence.

B. Unscheduled

Unscheduled absences are those absences from duty which could not have been foreseen or requested by the employee in advance of 8 p.m. on the employee's shift preceding the absence. Provisions detailing the use of annual leave are further defined in Article 22.4 of this Agreement.

11.3 Annual Leave Accrual Rate

Accrual of paid annual leave shall be earned on the basis of regularly scheduled work hours on active pay status as is reflected in the following schedules:

2,496 Regularly Scheduled Hours

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Accruals Per Pay</u>	<u>Annualized</u>
	<u>Period</u>	<u>Accruals</u>
Emp thru 5 yrs	5.54	144
Beg. 6th year	5.91	153.6
Beg. 7th year	6.28	163.2
Beg. 8th year	6.65	172.8
Beg. 9th year	7.02	182.4
Beg. 10th year	7.38	192.0
Beg. 12th year	7.75	201.6
Beg. 13th year	8.12	211.2
Beg. 14th year	8.49	220.8
Beg. 18th year	8.86	230.4
Beg. 20th year	9.23	240

Annual Leave Accruals
2,184 Regularly Scheduled Hours

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Accruals Per Pay</u> <u>Period</u>	<u>Annualized</u> <u>Accruals</u>
Emp thru 5 yrs	4.85	126.0
Beg. 6th year	5.17	134.4
Beg. 7th year	5.49	142.8
Beg. 8th year	5.82	151.2
Beg. 9th year	6.14	159.6
Beg. 10th year	6.46	168.0
Beg. 12th year	6.78	176.4
Beg. 13th year	7.11	184.8
Beg. 14th year	7.43	193.2
Beg. 18th year	7.75	201.6
Beg. 20th year	8.08	210.0

2080 Regular Scheduled Hours

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Accruals Per Pay</u> <u>Period</u>	<u>Annualized</u> <u>Accruals</u>
Emp thru 5 yrs	4.62	120
Beg. 6th year	4.92	128
Beg. 7th year	5.23	136
Beg. 8th year	5.54	144
Beg. 9th year	5.85	152
Beg. 10th year	6.15	160
Beg. 12th year	6.46	168
Beg. 13th year	6.77	176
Beg. 14th year	7.08	184
Beg. 18th year	7.38	192
Beg. 20th year	7.69	200

NOTE: Accruals per pay period may vary slightly each pay period because of payroll system rounding, but the total hours accrued for the year are as shown in the Annualized Accrual column.

11.4 Miscellaneous Provisions

- A. Employees shall schedule the use of personal leave in accordance with provisions defined in Article 11.7(C).
- B. Paid annual leave may not be taken during the initial six (6) months of employment or re-employment, except for illness.
- C. The Department will make every effort to meet the desires of employees consistent

with the requirements of its operations and will give preference by classifications to the most senior employees per shift, by departmental seniority, in scheduling annual leave requests for vacation purposes at the time of the annual leave (vacation) pick or selection.

In general, requests for annual leave for more than twenty (20) consecutive shifts off (not including R-days) will not be approved with the exception of circumstances covered by FMLA, the ADA, other labor agreement provisions herein or any other legal requirement or upon written approval from the Fire Chief together with the Human Resources Director or their designees as similarly outlined in the policies related to unpaid leaves of absences.

- D. Certain requests for annual leave may qualify and be covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of 1993. When an employee uses annual leave for illnesses or injuries after exhausting illness leave, the employee's annual leave account shall not be reduced below, forty-eight (48) hours for a forty-eight (48) hour work week employee, forty-two (42) hours for a forty-two (42) hour work week employee, or forty (40) hours for forty (40)-hour work week employee unless requested otherwise by the employee.

- E. Accrual conversions required because of transfers to/from shifts with different average work weeks shall be made according to the schedule below:

48-hour work week to 40-hour work week = .833 multiplier;
40-hour work week to 48-hour work week = 1.2 multiplier;
48-hour work week to 42-hour work week = .875 multiplier;
42-hour work week to 48-hour work week = 1.14 multiplier;
42-hour work week to 40-hour work week = .952 multiplier;
40-hour work week to 42-hour work week = 1.05 multiplier;

- F. Employees granted annual leave for medical reasons shall comply with the provisions relating to medical absences as provided in Article 12 of this Agreement. Those provisions will apply as though fully rewritten herein, and shall apply to paid leave under illness leave and annual leave interchangeably.

11.5 Advance Pay

Employees may request advance pay prior to going on annual leave providing the leave request is for one (1) week or more. Requests shall be honored when submitted at least two (2) weeks in advance of going on annual leave.

11.6 Pay Off of Account

Upon separation, an employee with at least six (6) months of full time service will receive the value of the employee's accrued annual leave up to a maximum of twice the employee's annual accrual allowance as outlined in the chart(s) in Section 11.3 of this Article in the employee's VEBA account in accordance with Article 30.3. The value will equate to the number of hours

multiplied by at the employee's straight time base hourly rate at the time of separation.

11.7 Personal Leave Bonus Programs

A. Paramedic Preceptor Training

Paramedic Preceptors as defined in St. Petersburg Fire and Rescue (SPFR) Policy #504 will receive personal leave at a rate of .05 hours for every one (1) hour spent precepting a SPFR provisional paramedic. Selection of preceptors and other guidelines related to that program will be in accordance with SPFR Policy 504.

B. Police Officer Recruitment Bonus

The City agrees to extend a Police Officer Recruitment Bonus to employees in this unit subject to eligibility and administrative criteria established by the City. The purpose of the bonus is to provide an incentive to City employees to assist the Police Department with recruiting new officers. Accordingly, eligible employees will receive eight (8) hours of personal leave for each new person they refer who successfully enters the City of St. Petersburg Police Academy. Those eligible employees would receive eight (8) additional hours of personal leave once the recruited employee becomes classified as a police officer. The parties understand that this benefit is based on the current needs of the Police Department, and that the City can unilaterally remove this benefit at any time.

C. Personal Leave hours will be scheduled and authorized in accordance with the provisions for Annual Leave; will not be considered work time; cannot be donated or transferred to other employees or any other bank or pool time; and unused hours will not be paid out upon separation or employment.

ARTICLE 12

ILLNESS LEAVE

12.1 Purpose

The purpose of the illness leave program is to provide employees with base salary during temporary periods of illness or injury in which they are medically incapacitated and unable to perform their job assignments.

12.2 Accrual Rate

Employees shall accrue eight (8) hours of illness leave for each one hundred and sixty (160) regularly scheduled work hours on active pay status with a maximum accrual of 1,500 hours for forty (40)-hour employees, 1,575 hours for forty-two (42)-hour employees, or 1,800 hours for forty-eight (48)-hour employees.

This equates to a total of 104 hours per year for every 2,080 regularly scheduled hours, 109.2 hours per year for every 2184 regularly scheduled hours, or 124.8 hours per year for every 2,496 regularly scheduled hours an employee either works or is on active pay status.

12.3 Conversion

Accrual conversions required because of transfers to/from shifts with different average work weeks shall be made according to the schedule below:

48-hour work week to 40-hour work week = .833 multiplier;
40-hour work week to 48-hour work week = 1.2 multiplier;
48-hour work week to 42-hour work week = .875 multiplier;
42-hour work week to 48-hour work week = 1.14 multiplier;
42-hour work week to 40-hour work week = .952 multiplier;
40-hour work week to 42-hour work week = 1.05 multiplier;

12.4 General Provisions

- A. Employees shall follow proper departmental notification and absence request procedures unless prior approval specifically waiving this requirement is granted by the Fire Chief or designee.
- B. Certain requests for illness leave may qualify and be covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of 1993. If said leave is covered by this Act, it will be applied to the twelve (12) weeks of leave per rolling twelve-month period. Leave taken in conjunction with Workers' Compensation will run concurrently with approved FMLA leave. The employee will be notified of such concurrent leave in accordance with the FMLA Regulations.
- C. An employee absent from duty for reasons of illness or injury in excess of twenty-four (24) hours will be required to provide a completed Illness/Injury Report from the physician. An employee who fails to present the completed Illness/Injury Report may not receive illness leave pay and will not be permitted to return to work until the form is presented. Misuse or abuse of illness leave privileges shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action.
- D. The City reserves the right in all cases of reported illness leave to require the employee to furnish documentation from a health care provider. Extensive absenteeism may be grounds for disciplinary action. Misuse or abuse of illness leave privileges shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action.
- E. The department may send an employee home who is too ill or injured to work or would cause an unhealthy working condition for other employees.
- F. Illness leave shall be charged by the actual time used. Employees shall not be entitled to apply any illness hours in excess of the amount of such leave accumulated to their credit.

12.5 Illness Recuperation

- A. An employee authorized to be absent from work for medical reasons shall not engage in any recreational or work activities except upon receiving prior approval from the employee's physician and the Fire Chief or designee.
- B. Employees granted illness leave shall assist in promoting their recuperation by remaining at either their residences, or other locations approved in advance by the Fire Chief or designee. Other places of recuperation may be permitted by the Fire Chief or designee under the following conditions:
 - 1. Pre-authorized by a medical doctor in writing with specifics; and
 - 2. Pre-authorization must be on file with the immediate supervisor and is to include the address and phone number, if applicable, where the employee may be reached.
- C. Employees recuperating from a medical condition in which there was no involvement with doctors or hospitals may request, through the chain of command, another place of recuperation. Approval will be required in advance and the address and phone number where the employee can be reached are to be a part of the request.
- D. If, and whenever, illness leave may appear to be abused, the employee claiming/requesting such leave may be required to furnish an illness/injury report from the physician to support the necessity for such absence. The City reserves the right in all cases of reported medical leave, to require the employee to furnish an illness/injury report. Abuse of illness leave privileges shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action.
- E. Department management will use discretion in determining whether or not a visit is required to verify the reason for an employee's medical absence and a report made of the reasons for absence from duty.
- F. Should an employee be absent for reported medical reasons and fail to comply with the provisions of this Article, such employee may be subject to disciplinary action.
- G. Abuse of illness leave privileges shall constitute grounds for discipline.

12.6 Workers' Compensation

Employees sustaining a Workers' Compensation covered lost-time injury may request the Fire Chief or designee to apply any accrued illness leave or annual leave hours in order to obtain full base take home pay while absent from duty from injury. In no case shall the amount of Workers' Compensation and the amounts of illness leave, annual leave or on-duty injury benefit awarded in accordance with Article 18, be more than the employee's base take home pay for that

period. If an employee is able to work light duty as determined by the employee's attending physician, and light duty work is available as determined by the Fire Chief or designee, but the employee chooses not to work light duty, the employee will not be paid Workers' Compensation benefits (i.e., pay) or on-duty injury pay but may use accrued annual or illness leave. It is understood that consistent with Article 18.(B), FMLA leave runs concurrently with leave authorized under Workers' Compensation.

Base take home pay is defined as base salary after it has been reduced by normal federal withholding taxes (income tax and Social Security, if applicable) and other employee-authorized deductions. Base salary is the employee's base straight time hourly rate times scheduled bi-weekly work hours. This does not include certification pay or other supplemental pay.

12.7 Light Duty

Many slight injuries and illnesses may prohibit the performance of regularly assigned duties; however, there may be other duties that employees may be able to perform without aggravating such injuries or illnesses. Provided the physician states that 'light duty' or 'modified duty' work is acceptable, and light duty work is available as determined by the Fire Chief or designee, the employee will report to the Assistant Fire Chief/Administration for assignment to duties related to Fire Department operations. If the employee chooses not to work light duty when it is available, the employee will forfeit Workers' Compensation benefits as described in Article 12.6 above. An employee who chooses not to work light duty will be paid in accordance with the provisions of the annual and illness leave benefits. The time off shall be coded as FMLA leave up to the twelve (12)-week limit. The parties agree that light duty work is temporary in nature and is in no way to be construed as an alternative form of employment for an employee who is either permanently or on a long term basis unable to perform the essential functions of his or her job as a Firefighter, Firefighter/Paramedic or Fire Lieutenant.

12.8 Pay Off Provisions

Upon separation of employment for reasons of either normal or disability retirement, for resignation which occurs once the employee has become 100% vested in the applicable pension plan, or the death of an employee who would otherwise be eligible for normal retirement or is 100% vested, employees or their survivors shall be entitled to the value of the employee's unused illness leave hours which will be credited to the employee's VEBA account in accordance with Article 30.3. The value will equate to the employee's straight time base hourly rate at the time of separation multiplied by the percentage of accrued hours based on the following formula:

- A. 40-hour weekly schedule – twenty-five percent (25%) of the accrued hours up to a maximum of 375 hours.
- B. 42-hour weekly schedule – twenty-five percent (25%) of the accrued hours up to a maximum of 394 hours.
- C. 48-hour weekly schedule – twenty-five percent (25%) of the accrued hours up to a maximum of 450 hours.

12.9 Miscellaneous Provisions

Employees may not use illness leave for illness or injury sustained while engaged in outside employment.

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG
ILLNESS/INJURY REPORT and RELEASE TO RETURN TO DUTY

PATIENT _____
(Printed Name of Employee)

Section 1. PHYSICIAN'S STATEMENT

I examined the above-named patient on _____ (date).

The patient is (or was) unable to work due to injury or illness beginning (date) _____ through (date) _____. Note: if this leave was due to a serious health condition, please notify your supervisor as you may be entitled to protection under the Family Medical Leave Act.

Section 2. RELEASE TO RETURN TO DUTY
PLEASE CHECK ONE:

_____ **Patient may return to full duty with no restrictions on _____ (date).**

_____ **Patient may only work a light duty assignment with the following medical restrictions to his/her performance of his/her job duties** *(Please be specific as to the medical restrictions and include a prognosis as to how long these medical restrictions will be in effect):*

_____ **Patient remains incapacitated and is unable to return to work at this time.** *(Please provide the estimated date of return to work in Section 1 above.)*

Section 3. HEALTH CARE PROVIDER INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE

Attending Physician's Signature _____
Date

Printed Name and Address of Health Care Provider:

The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) prohibits employers and other entities covered by GINA Title II from requesting or requiring genetic information of an individual or family member of the individual, except as specifically allowed by this law. To comply with this law, we are asking that you not provide any genetic information when responding to this request for medical information. "Genetic information," as defined by GINA, includes an individual's family medical history, the results of an individual's or family member's genetic tests, the fact that an individual or an individual's family member sought or received genetic services, and genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or an individual's family member or an embryo lawfully held by an individual or family member receiving assistive reproductive services.

ARTICLE 13

HOLIDAYS

13.1 The following holidays shall be observed:

Veteran's Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	Fourth Thursday in November
Day Following Thanksgiving	Friday Following Thanksgiving
Christmas	December 25
New Year's Day	January 1
Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday	Third Monday in January
Presidents' Day	Third Monday in February
Memorial Day	Last Monday in May
Juneteenth	June 19
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	First Monday in September

13.2 An employee assigned to a forty (40)-hour work week schedule must be on active pay status the calendar day the holiday is observed in order to qualify for the holiday. When a holiday falls on a Sunday, the following Monday shall be designated a substitute holiday and observed as the official holiday for that year. When a holiday falls on a Saturday, the preceding Friday shall be designated a substitute holiday and observed as the official holiday for that year. The City will provide a list of the substitute holidays.

13.3 In accordance with Article 22.5, employees assigned to a forty (40)-hour work week schedule shall have holiday hours counted as work time for the purpose of weekly overtime computation when an employee uses holiday time on the day of the designated holiday. If an employee who is assigned to a forty (40)-hour work week is also assigned to standby duty pursuant to Section 22.7 of the Agreement for any portion of a designated holiday observed by the City the employee shall earn an additional eight (8) hours of holiday pay.

13.4 An employee assigned to a forty-two (42) or forty-eight (48)-hour work week schedule shall earn twelve (12) hours for each of the holidays observed as provided for in Article 13.1. Employees may elect to store earned holiday time to a maximum of two hundred (200) hours; all other holiday time shall be paid or used in the same pay period as earned. When an employee assigned to a forty-two (42) or forty-eight (48)-hour work week transfers to a position requiring a forty (40)-hour work week, the employee's stored holiday hours shall be converted by multiplying the current balance at the time of transfer by .8333. Should an employee assigned to a forty (40)-hour work week have stored holiday hours at the time the employee transfers back to a forty-two (42) or forty-eight (48)-hour work week, the balance would be multiplied by 1.2 to determine the adjusted balance.

13.5 Upon separation from employment, the value of accrued hours in the employee's holiday account shall be placed in the employee's VEBA account in accordance with Article 30.3. The value shall equate to the number of accrued hours multiplied by the employee's straight time base hourly rate at the time of separation.

13.6 Employees assigned to a forty-two (42) or forty-eight (48)-hour work week schedule who take off on annual leave, military leave, jury duty, illness leave, or any other absences from duty on the actual national holiday while remaining on active pay status, shall be charged for the holiday hours earned according to Article 13.3. The two leaves for which an exception has been made and for which holiday time will not be used but will be credited to the employee's holiday leave account are bereavement leave and leave for Union business with pay when covered by Union pool time.

13.7 All holiday time earned will automatically be stored in the employee's Holiday Account. When the maximum accrual is reached, the employee will be automatically paid for all additional holidays at the employee's straight time hourly rate of pay, until the total reduces to less than the maximum. An employee will also be paid at the employee's pre-promotion straight time hourly rate for all stored holiday hours when promoted.

13.8 If additional holidays are declared by the proper City authorities, and are applicable to other City employees, each employee of the Fire Department shall receive the same benefits as earned on the aforementioned holidays.

13.9 When an employee volunteers or is assigned to work an actual national holiday, not the City designated holiday, that the employee would not otherwise work under that employee's normal schedule, the employee will be guaranteed time and one-half regular base rate of pay for hours worked.

ARTICLE 14

MILITARY LEAVE

14.1 Military Leave for employees covered by the Agreement shall be governed by Florida Statutes, Chapters 115 and 250.

ARTICLE 15

BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

15.1

A. Employees covered by this Agreement shall be granted, upon approval by the Fire Chief or designee, time off with pay in accordance with the limits set forth below in 15.1 A(1-3), if needed, to attend the funeral or memorial service (hereinafter service) and/or to attend to related affairs in the event of a death in the employee's immediate family when such service is held in the State of Florida. All bereavement leave days must be taken within thirty (30) calendar days surrounding the date of the service or death if no service is held.

1. Employees assigned to an average work week of forty (40) hours may be granted up to forty (40) hours of in-state bereavement leave.

2. Employees assigned to an average work week of forty-two (42) hours may be granted up to forty-two (42) hours of in-state bereavement leave.
 3. Employees assigned to an average work week of forty-eight (48) hours may be granted up to forty-eight (48) hours of in-state bereavement leave.
- B. Employees covered by this Agreement shall be granted, upon approval by the Fire Chief or designee, time off with pay in accordance with the limits set forth below in 15.1 B(1-3), if needed, to attend the service and/or to attend to related affairs in the event of a death in the employee's immediate family when such service is held outside the State of Florida. All days taken for bereavement leave must be taken within thirty (30) calendar days surrounding the date of the service or death if no service is held.
1. Employees assigned to an average work week of forty (40) hours may be granted up to eighty (80) hours of bereavement leave if the service is held outside the state of Florida.
 2. Employees assigned to an average work week of forty-two (42) hours may be granted up to eighty-four (84) hours of bereavement leave if the service is held outside the state of Florida.
 3. Employees assigned to an average work week of forty-eight (48) hours may be granted up to ninety-six (96) hours of bereavement leave if the service is held outside the state of Florida.
- C. Should the employee not attend the out of state service but need time to make service arrangements or handle related activities, the employee shall, with the approval of the Fire Chief or designee, be granted time off with pay in accordance with the limits set forth above in 15.1 A(1-3).

15.2 For the purpose of this Article, the employee's immediate family shall be defined as the employee's spouse, father, mother, son, daughter, unborn children, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, grandparents, great-grandparents, stepparents, stepchildren, stepsiblings, grandchildren, and spouse's grandparents.

15.3 Bereavement leave shall not be charged to annual leave, holiday leave or illness leave.

15.4 Should an employee require time in addition to the leave provided in Article 15.1, he may request the additional time from the Fire Chief or his designee. Upon approval, any additional time used shall be charged to either accrued annual leave or accrued holiday time.

15.5 The employee may, at the Chief's or his designee's discretion, be required to provide proof of death in his immediate family as defined in this Article before compensation is approved.

ARTICLE 16

JURY DUTY

16.1 In the event employees are summoned for jury duty, they shall receive straight time pay for the hours required to be absent from their currently scheduled work hours due to such jury duty. Employees who perform jury duty for only a portion of their regular scheduled workday are expected to report to work when excused or released by the court.

16.2 Employees called for jury duty shall promptly notify their immediate supervisor so that arrangements may be made for their absences from work.

16.3 Employees on jury duty while on scheduled annual leave shall be allowed to substitute jury duty leave for that time served provided satisfactory evidence of the time served on such duty is presented to the Fire Chief or his designee.

16.4 In the event a holiday occurs during the period of an employee's jury duty, he shall be charged holiday time.

16.5 The employees shall provide the Fire Chief or his designee with proof of jury duty service before compensation shall be approved.

ARTICLE 17

COURT ATTENDANCE AND DEPOSITIONS

17.1 An employee covered by this Agreement who is subpoenaed during his normally scheduled work hours as a witness due to his official position with the City, shall receive pay for the hours he is required to attend court or give a deposition provided he remits to the City any subpoena and witness fees (not including any expense or mileage allowances) received from the court. If the employee is subpoenaed for legal proceedings as a result of his official position with the City that commences during his normally scheduled off-duty hours, he shall be guaranteed two hours pay for the first appearance occurring in any calendar day. The employee will be considered on duty and on the clock from the time the court appearance begins until two hours later or when released by the court, whichever is greater. All time above shall be included with hours worked for overtime calculation purposes.

17.2 If the court appearance is unrelated to his official position with the City, he shall not be considered on duty and will not be credited with time worked whether attending on or off his normally scheduled work hours.

17.3 Employees subpoenaed to attend court shall promptly notify their immediate supervisors so that arrangements can be made for their absences from work.

17.4 Employees who attend court for only a portion of a regular scheduled workday are expected to report to their supervisors when excused or released by the court.

17.5 Employees who attend court while on scheduled annual leave may be allowed to reinstate annual leave hours served in court provided they are eligible for pay as described in this Article and provided satisfactory evidence of the time served on such duty is presented to the Fire Chief or his designee.

17.6 Time spent in court is the actual time required to report as stated on the subpoena or as scheduled continuing until released by the judge or other officer of the court.

17.7 The employee may be required to provide the Fire Chief or his designee with proof of court service before compensation is approved.

17.8 Off-Duty Court Standby

In the event that an employee is required to be on court standby in a matter related to his official position with the City and is not called to attend court within the calendar day, he shall be paid two (2) hours standby pay. In order to be eligible for court standby payment, the employee must check in with the court liaison officer, leaving the phone number where he/she may be reached. The employee will not receive off-duty court standby pay for cases unrelated to his official position with the City. Off-duty court standby hours paid shall not count as hours worked for the purpose of computing overtime pay.

ARTICLE 18

ON-DUTY INJURY BENEFITS

18.1 The Employer agrees to compensate employees covered by this Agreement for on-duty injuries. For the purpose of this Article, an on-duty injury is defined as an injury to an employee determined to have occurred while he was acting within the scope of his employment and is considered a compensable injury under Florida Workers' Compensation Law. Compensation shall be paid as a result of injury to an employee according to the provisions of this Article for the purpose of supplementing the wage benefit provisions of Florida's Workers' Compensation Law.

18.2 On-duty injury pay shall be paid starting with the employee's first scheduled work shift following the date of injury. The length of disability shall be determined by the Employer's physician in accordance with the Workers' Compensation Law. Payments made by the Employer during the period shall not be charged against any leave time which the employee may have accrued. However, the leave hours taken due to the on-duty injury will be designated as leave taken under the provisions of the Family Medical Leave Act, if eligible, consistent with Article 12.7 of this Agreement.

18.3 The amount of on-duty injury pay shall be the amount of the employee's base salary up to the time that Workers' Compensation wage benefits begin. When Workers' Compensation wage benefits begin, the on-duty injury pay shall be the difference between the Workers' Compensation wage benefits and the employee's current base take home pay.

Base take home pay is defined as base salary after it has been reduced by normal federal withholding taxes (income tax and Social Security, if applicable). Base salary is defined as the

employee's straight time hourly rate times his average base bi-weekly work hours (104 or 80 for employees covered by this Agreement).

18.4 In the event the disability extends beyond twenty-one (21) calendar days, the amount of on-duty injury pay paid by the Employer for the first seven (7) days shall be adjusted to equal the employee's base salary, less the Workers' Compensation wage benefits payments.

18.5 The Fire Chief shall eliminate on-duty injury pay for injuries shown to result from an employee's gross negligence.

18.6 Illness and annual leave accruals shall continue for a maximum of twelve (12) months for employees who are receiving Workers' Compensation benefits due to an on-the-job injury.

18.7 On-duty injury pay shall be paid to eligible employees up to a maximum of twelve (12) calendar weeks. In the event that an injury, or recurrence thereof, as determined by the Employer's physician, exceeds the twelve (12) calendar week limit the Fire Chief may grant extensions to the maximum of fifty-two (52) calendar weeks.

ARTICLE 19

SAFETY AND WELLNESS

19.1 Departmental management will make every reasonable effort to provide and maintain safe working conditions. To this end, the Union will cooperate and encourage the employees to work in a safe manner. Also, management will receive and consider written recommendations with respect to unsafe conditions or other safety ideas from any employee or the Union. Within thirty (30) days of receipt, the Fire Chief or his designee shall give a written reply to the employee or the Union regarding the disposition of the recommendation.

19.2 Departmental management will provide proper and necessary safety equipment and devices for employees engaged in work where such special equipment and devices are necessary. Such equipment and devices, where provided, must be used. In addition, items for which employees are reimbursed are also expected to be used when appropriate. Employees who fail to utilize provided equipment, devices, or reimbursed items will be subject to discipline.

19.3 An employee purchasing industrial safety prescription lenses and frames will be reimbursed upon presentation of proof of purchase and a memorandum from the Fire Chief or his designee indicating that the item was required in the performance of his duties to maintain proper safety standards.

- A. Employees will be reimbursed annually for the cost of industrial safety prescription lenses up to the cost of the glasses, or \$150, whichever is less.
- B. Employees will be reimbursed annually for the cost of prescription safety lenses for air mask frames up to \$75 for single vision and standard bifocal lenses and up to \$100 for "no line" bifocal lenses. The lenses need to be made of polycarbonate of a thickness required for safety lenses in order to qualify for reimbursement, and a

statement from the provider to that effect must be provided by the employee.

19.4 An employee who purchases sunglasses with safety lenses which meet ANSI/OSHA standards for impact resistance will be reimbursed for the cost of the safety lenses up to the cost of the lenses or \$50, whichever is less. The employee must present proof of purchase, and the employee/union must present verification from the lens-maker/manufacturee that the lenses meet the ANSI/OSHA standards specified above. The Fire Chief or his designee must verify the item is required in the performance of the employee's duties. Reimbursement for sunglasses with safety lenses may be approved no more frequently than once every two (2) years.

19.5 Employees purchasing ASTM approved safety shoes (with safety toe) or the latest available edition of NFPA 1971 compliant structural firefighting boots will be reimbursed by the City upon presentation of proof of purchase and documentation certifying ASTM and/or NFPA compliance. Employees will be reimbursed for the cost of safety shoes up to a maximum reimbursement of \$150.00, no more frequently than once per fiscal year. The guidelines for proper color, style, and conformation to safety standards shall be promulgated by Management through department policy. Management reserves the right in all cases to inspect and/or remove from service structural firefighting boots that could compromise the health and safety of the employee.

19.6 In lieu of purchasing safety shoes, the employee may replace worn soles and/or heels of existing safety shoes with comparable quality materials and receive reimbursement up to the cost of repairs or \$50, whichever is less. Proof of repair, to include verification that replacement soles or heels were of comparable quality and were used on safety-toe shoes must be furnished in order for reimbursement to be processed.

19.7 In the event an employee leaves the employ of the department, he shall return all uniforms and safety equipment to the department.

19.8 The Fire Chief will actively promote a safe working environment through affirmative interaction with the Safety Committee.

19.9 Reimbursement for safety equipment shall be limited only to those items specifically addressed in this Article.

19.10 Employee Wellness Incentive

During each fiscal year, employees will have the opportunity to earn personal leave time for maintaining physical fitness and wellness standards in accordance with standards set forth in departmental policy. This program is voluntary. Any employee who 1.) successfully completes the department's job simulation assessment; 2.) scores within the fiftieth (50th) percentile or above on the fitness assessment (based on standards set by the Cooper Institute or an alternative standard as approved by the Fire Chief or designee); and 3.) attends at least one (1) live or two (2) online wellness seminars in a fiscal year (sponsored by the City, the City's Health and Wellness Center or the City's health insurance provider) will receive personal leave hours according to the schedule below:

Fitness Assessment Score -

50-60 percentile - 8 hours (40-hour); 8.4 hours (42-hour); 9.6 hours (48-hour);
61-70 percentile - 12 hours (40-hour); 12.6 hours (42-hour); 14.4 hours (48-hour)
71-80 percentile - 16 hours (40-hour); 16.8 hours (42-hour); 19.2 hours (48-hour)
81-90 percentile - 20 hours (40-hour); 21 hours (42-hour); 24 hours (48-hour)
91+ percentile - 24 hours (40-hour); 25.2 hours (42-hour); 28.8 hours (48-hour)

Employees shall schedule the use of personal leave in accordance with other personal leave provisions defined within this agreement. Should the department propose to change the fitness and wellness standards, the City will provide the Union with at least sixty (60) days' notice in advance of the changes in order to provide an opportunity for the parties to consult about the proposed changes.

ARTICLE 20

BULLETIN BOARDS

20.1 The Fire Chief will authorize space within each existing fire station for a Union Bulletin Board. The locations will be determined by the Fire Chief or his designee. The amount of space provided will not be less than that presently found in each station. All notices posted shall be signed by a member of the Union Executive Board. Duplicate copies of all notices posted shall be submitted to the Fire Chief for his file.

20.2 In the event additional fire stations are placed in service and made operational, the Employer agrees to provide bulletin board space for the Union with the amount of space and locations to be determined by the Fire Chief or his designee.

20.3 The bulletin boards authorized for Union use may only be used for posting:

- A. Notices of Union recreational and social affairs;
- B. Notices of Union elections and results of elections;
- C. Notices of Union appointments and other official business; and
- D. Notices of Union meetings and minutes of same.

ARTICLE 21

PAY

21.1 Pay Plans

Effective the first payroll period of fiscal year 2023, pay for the classifications of Firefighter, Firefighter Paramedic, and Fire Lieutenant shall be as shown in Appendix A of this

Article. The pay plan includes a seven percent (7%) general wage increase (GWI) for fiscal year 2023, and a five percent (5%) increase for fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

21.2 Progression in the Pay Plans

Progression of employees from their current step to the next higher step in the appropriate labor grade for their classification shall be automatic and will become effective at the beginning of the pay period in which the employee's anniversary date of classification falls. See Appendix A.

21.3 Acting in Higher Classification

- A. Whenever an employee covered by this Agreement is required and assigned to serve in a supervisory classification the employee shall be compensated at one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) per hour above the employee's base rate of pay for all hours worked in the supervisory classification.
- B. Fire Department management shall assign employees to act in higher classifications, in its judgment, based upon employees' qualifications for such assignment.
- C. An employee who is temporarily assigned to serve in the capacity of a management position for three (3) or more consecutive work days will be compensated with one (1) additional hour of straight time pay for each complete day served in that capacity.

21.4 Paramedic Certification and Assignment Pay

- A. Employees who are not in the classification of Firefighter Paramedic, but who are County-recognized and "certified" paramedics shall receive, in addition to their base rates of pay, \$75.00 per pay period.
- B. Employees who are not in the classification of Firefighter Paramedic, but who are County-recognized and "certified" paramedics, and who are specifically assigned under the direction of the Fire Chief, or designee, to perform as a paramedic or second clinician (seat time), shall receive in addition to base rate of pay and the certification pay provided for in 21.4(A) above, two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) per hour.

21.5 Driver Engineer and Squad Driver Assignment Pay

- A. Those employees assigned under the direction of the Fire Chief, or designee, to perform (seat time) as a Driver Engineer on engines, aerials, heavy rescue, fire boat, hazmat, and/or brush trucks, or as a driver of a Squad truck shall be eligible for Driver Engineer or Squad Driver Assignment Pay. Employees who are certified drivers shall receive preference when driver assignments are made.

- B. Driver Engineers and Squad Drivers shall receive, in addition to their base rates of pay, one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) per hour. The parties agree that this assignment pay will be considered in the determination of the recipient's Supplemental Firefighter's Retirement Plan Earnings Base as defined in City Code section 22-196 through the length of this agreement.

21.6 Hazardous Materials Response Team Assignment Pay

Any employee who meets the current certification guidelines set forth by the Fire Chief or designee and is specifically assigned to and performing on the Hazardous Materials Response Team on a scheduled shift shall receive sixty (\$.60) cents per hour in addition to base rate of pay for all hours worked. These assignments will be made at the discretion of the Fire Chief or designee and will be limited to a maximum of twelve (12) employees, including no more than two (2) officers, at any given time. This limitation excludes major incidents and training exercises requiring more than twelve (12) employees. Employees being compensated as per Article 21.13 of this Agreement will count toward this maximum.

The parties agree that this assignment pay will be considered in the determination of the recipient's Supplemental Firefighter's Retirement Plan Earnings Base as defined in City Code section 22-196 through the length of this agreement.

21.7 Marine Team Assignment Pay

Any employee who meets the current certification guidelines set forth by the Fire Chief or designee and is specifically assigned to and performing on the Marine Team on a scheduled shift shall receive sixty (\$.60) cents per hour in addition to base rate of pay for all hours worked. These assignments will be made at the discretion of the Fire Chief or designee and will be limited to a maximum of twelve (12) employees, including no more than three (3) officers, at any given time. This limitation excludes major incidents and training exercises requiring more than twelve (12) employees. Employees being compensated as per Article 21.13 of this Agreement will count toward this maximum.

The parties agree that this assignment pay will be considered in the determination of the recipient's Supplemental Firefighter's Retirement Plan Earnings Base as defined in City Code section 22-196 through the length of this agreement.

21.8 Technical Rescue Assignment Pay

Any employee who meets the current certification guidelines set forth by the Fire Chief or designee and is specifically assigned to and performing on the Technical Rescue Team on a scheduled shift shall receive sixty (\$.60) cents per hour in addition to base rate of pay for all hours worked. These assignments will be made at the discretion of the Fire Chief or designee and will be limited to a maximum of eight (8) employees, including no more than two (2) officers, at any given time. This limitation excludes major incidents and training exercises requiring more than eight (8) employees. Employees being compensated as per Article 21.13 of this Agreement will count toward this maximum.

The parties agree that this assignment pay will be considered in the determination of the recipient's Supplemental Firefighter's Retirement Plan Earnings Base as defined in City Code section 22-196 through the length of this agreement.

21.9 Headquarters Assignment Pay

An employee assigned to full duty on a full-time basis at Fire Headquarters shall receive two hundred dollars (\$200) bi-weekly per pay period in addition to base rate of pay. Employees assigned to Fire Headquarters shall also be entitled to "acting pay" if they meet the department criteria. This differential pay shall not be applicable to employees temporarily assigned to Headquarters on a restricted duty basis.

21.10 Rescue Assignment Pay

- A. A Lieutenant assigned on either a full-time or acting basis to serve in the EMS Division as a Rescue Lieutenant shall receive one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) per bi-weekly pay period, in addition to base rate of pay. A Lieutenant assigned to the Rescue Division shall also be entitled to "acting" pay if the Lieutenant meets the department requirements.
- B. A Firefighter/Paramedic assigned to the Peak Load Units on a full-time basis shall receive one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) per bi-weekly pay period, in addition to the base rate of pay.

21.11 Tactical Apprehension and Control Team TAC Assignment

Any employee who meets the current certification guidelines set forth by the Fire Chief or designee and is specifically assigned to and performing on the Tactical Apprehension and Control Team on a scheduled shift shall receive sixty (\$.60) cents per hour in addition to base rate of pay for all hours worked. These assignments will be made at the discretion of the Fire Chief or designee and will be limited to a maximum of eight (8) employees, including no more than two (2) officers, at any given time. This limitation excludes major incidents and training exercises requiring more than eight (8) employees. Employees being compensated as per Article 21.13 of this Agreement will count toward this maximum.

The parties agree that this assignment pay will be considered in the determination of the recipient's Supplemental Firefighter's Retirement Plan Earnings Base as defined in City Code section 22-196. This assignment pay will be considered prospectively and will be subject to member contributions as defined in the City Code.

21.12 Promotional Increase

- A. Firefighters who are promoted to Fire Lieutenant shall receive an increase of five (5%) percent above their current rate or the entrance pay step of the classification to which promoted, whichever is greater. If the five (5%) percent is applied and falls somewhere between steps, the higher step shall be used for placement in the

pay range for that classification. In no case shall an employee be granted a rate that is above the maximum step for the employee's assigned classification.

- B. When an employee in the classification of Firefighter is promoted to the classification of Firefighter Paramedic, the affected employee shall be placed in the same numbered step in the applicable Firefighter/Paramedic pay plan as in the parallel Firefighter pay plan.
- C. The Firefighter classification date shall be used for anniversary step raises in the Firefighter Paramedic pay plan until the maximum step in the pay plan is reached.
- D. The Firefighter Paramedic classification seniority date shall be the effective date the Firefighter was promoted to the classification of Firefighter Paramedic.
- E. When an employee in the classification of Firefighter Paramedic is promoted to the classification of Fire Lieutenant, the affected Firefighter Paramedic shall be raised to the pay step in the Fire Lieutenant pay plan which provides a salary increase over what the Lieutenant was receiving prior to the promotion. In the event the Firefighter Paramedic is eligible for an annual step increase within ninety (90) days of the effective date of a promotion, then said employee shall be placed in the appropriate step in the Lieutenant pay plan which provides a pay increase that exceeds the rate of pay the employee would have received for the annual step increase if not promoted.
- F. The Fire Lieutenant classification seniority date shall be the effective date the Firefighter or Firefighter Paramedic was promoted to the classification of Fire Lieutenant.

21.13 Differential Pay

An employee shall not be eligible for more than one (1) differential pay supplement for each hour worked except as provided for in 21.4 (Paramedic Certification and Assignment Pay), 21.9 (Headquarters Assignment), and 21.10 (Rescue Assignment). An employee specifically assigned to and performing the duties of either 21.6 (Hazardous Material Response Team), 21.7 (Marine Team), or 21.8 (Technical Rescue), or 21.11 (TAC Assignment), while at the same time performing as either 21.4 Paramedic Certification and Assignment, 21.5 (Driver Engineer), or while acting in a higher classification, will receive an additional thirty (\$.30) cents per hour.

In addition to the above, when an employee who is assigned to an ALS Unit is receiving Paramedic Certification and Assignment Pay, (seat time per 21.4(B)) and also at the same time either assigned to and performing the duties of a Relief Driver Engineer or acting in a higher classification, said employee shall be eligible to receive an additional thirty (\$.30) cents per hour. Only one Paramedic on each ALS Unit is entitled to receive the additional thirty (\$.30) cents per hour differential payment at a time.

21.14 Special Event Minimum Pay

An employee assigned to work a special event that is scheduled to be at least three (3) hours in length, and is outside of the employee's normal duty schedule, shall be guaranteed a minimum of three (3) hours pay for that assignment provided the employee reported to that assignment and the event was cancelled or ended prior to the scheduled time. The employee will not be eligible for the minimum pay if the employee left voluntarily prior to the assignment ending.

**Appendix A to Article 21 (Pay)
Fiscal Years 2023 through 2025**

FIREFIGHTER

Steps	E	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	M
<u>FY23</u>	\$ 49,804	\$ 52,093	\$ 54,381	\$ 56,657	\$ 58,950	\$ 62,482	\$ 65,479	\$ 68,255	\$ 70,983	\$ 79,431
<u>FY24</u>	\$ 52,294	\$ 54,698	\$ 57,100	\$ 59,489	\$ 61,897	\$ 65,606	\$ 68,753	\$ 71,668	\$ 74,532	\$ 83,403
<u>FY25</u>	\$ 54,909	\$ 57,432	\$ 59,955	\$ 62,464	\$ 64,992	\$ 68,886	\$ 72,190	\$ 75,251	\$ 78,258	\$ 87,573

FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC

Steps	E	1	2	3	4	5	6	M
<u>FY23</u>	\$ 63,892	\$ 66,855	\$ 69,554	\$ 73,724	\$ 77,261	\$ 80,537	\$ 83,761	\$ 93,730
<u>FY24</u>	\$ 67,086	\$ 70,197	\$ 73,032	\$ 77,410	\$ 81,125	\$ 84,564	\$ 87,949	\$ 98,416
<u>FY25</u>	\$ 70,441	\$ 73,707	\$ 76,684	\$ 81,281	\$ 85,181	\$ 88,792	\$ 92,346	\$ 103,337

FIRE LIEUTENANT

Steps	E	1	2	3
<u>FY23</u>	\$ 81,125	\$ 84,564	\$ 87,949	\$ 98,419
<u>FY24</u>	\$ 85,182	\$ 88,792	\$ 92,346	\$ 103,340
<u>FY25</u>	\$ 89,441	\$ 93,232	\$ 96,963	\$ 108,507

***All numbers are approximate due to rounding.**

ARTICLE 22

SCHEDULE, WORK WEEK AND OVERTIME

22.1 Work Schedule and Shift Starting and Ending Time

- A. The current schedule of twenty-four (24) hours on duty and forty-eight (48) hours off duty shall be continued for Fire Suppression and EMS Division employees covered by this Agreement, except that every seventh (7th) shift will be scheduled time off (R-day). This will provide an average work week of forty-eight (48) hours. Articles 22.1-22.5 (A-E) do not apply to those employees on a 42-hour schedule (see Article 22A for details about Peak Load Unit Schedule, Workweek and Overtime).
- B. Twenty-four (24) hour shifts for Fire Suppression and EMS Division employees shall begin at 0800 and end at 0800 the following morning. Other shift positions that currently have different starting and ending times may continue to work a different schedule.
- C. The work hours and work week of employees assigned to other divisions or activities of the Fire Department shall be determined by the Fire Chief to meet the needs of the Department and provide the most efficient service to the community.

22.2 Annual Selection of R-Day

- A. The selection process for relief days (R-days) will be permitted annually, and the selection process shall be conducted each year during the month of November and completed prior to the annual selection of vacation. Employees must submit all selections to their appropriate District Chief on or before November 30 of each year. The newly selected R-day schedule shall be effective February 1 each year. As a result of this annual selection, the number of shifts between R-Days may vary from the seven (7) shifts referenced in Article 22.1(A). Inasmuch as employees covered by this bargaining unit are paid on an “average hours” basis and therefore receive the negotiated annual salary, it is agreed that the hourly rates will not be adjusted to account for the total number of hours worked in a year due to R-Day schedules.
- B. The R-Day selection process will be completed and the results will be available online for all members prior to the effective date.

22.3 Hours Worked

Work hours include all time an employee is required to be on duty. Holidays, annual leave, illness leave, funeral leave, jury duty, Union business leave, military leave and other absences from duty shall not be considered as actual hours worked, except as provided in Article 13.4.

22.4 Time Off Slots

A. Attendance

For all absences from work, employees must have prior approval of the Fire Chief or his designee. Time off slots are reserved for leaves of absence such as annual leave, illness leave (as per Article 22.4(B)), and for other employee needs which could not be foreseen. The parties agree that time off slots are only intended to be used as guidelines to help both parties to this Agreement manage daily attendance. Accordingly, the Fire Chief or his designee retains the right to deny the use of any unscheduled leave, or to approve additional requests for leave, based on operational needs. Unscheduled absences are those absences from duty which were not requested by the employee in advance of 8 p.m. on the employee's shift preceding the absence. By contrast, scheduled absences are those absences from duty which are requested in advance by 8 p.m. on the employee's shift preceding the absence. Employees must comply with all department requirements for notice and obtain prior approval of the Fire Chief or his designee. Once a leave request has been approved, the leave shall not be canceled by Management, except in cases of civil emergency as defined in Article 4.3 of this Agreement.

B. Illness Leave

Illness leave will occupy an available slot commencing on the sixth shift of the absence. If it is estimated prior to the sixth shift that the absence will be longer than five (5) shifts, the occupation of a slot will commence at that time. No more than five (5) slots will be used for this purpose. The five (5) slots shall be allocated as follows: three (3) Firefighters, one (1) Firefighter/Paramedic, and one (1) Lieutenant slot per shift.

C. Allocation of Slots

For the types of leave cited in Article 22.4(A), there shall be eleven (11) combined slots for Firefighters, Firefighter/Paramedics, and Fire Lieutenants. Additionally, the maximum slots per shift per classification are seven (7) Firefighters, four (4) Firefighter/Paramedics and three (3) Fire Lieutenants. Once seven (7) Firefighters, four (4) Firefighter/Paramedics, or three (3) Lieutenants have been counted against the slots, no additional absences in those respective classifications occurring at that same time will be counted against the remaining slots. Approval for absences outside of these maximums may be granted by the Fire Chief or the Fire Chief's designee.

D. Clarification of Use with Example

The parties agree to apply the absences of employees in a given classification to the slots only until the maximum specified above per classification is filled. For example, if seven (7) Firefighters have been given approved leave, an eighth (8th) Firefighter approved for an unanticipated absence does not fill up one of the

remaining slots which can be assigned to either Firefighter/Paramedics or Fire Lieutenants.

E. Annual Leave Selection

For the purposes of Annual Leave Selection, the eleven (11) slots will be allocated as follows: six (6) slots for Firefighters, three (3) slots for Firefighter/Paramedics, and two (2) slots for Fire Lieutenants. The parties agree to have a total of three (3) rounds of Annual Leave selection.

22.5 Overtime Eligibility

- A. Employees assigned to a duty schedule of twenty-four (24) hours on duty and forty-eight (48) hours off duty, who actually work in excess of their normal duty schedule in the established seven (7)-day work period, shall be eligible for overtime pay at time and one-half their regular hourly rate of pay. Normal duty schedule is the schedule that the employee is expected to work.
- B. Employees assigned to a forty (40) hour work week schedule who actually work in excess of their normal duty schedule in the established seven (7) day work period to be eligible for overtime pay at time and one-half their regular hourly rate of pay, except as provided in Article 13.4, if applicable, and Article 22.6(E) of this Agreement. Normal duty schedule is the schedule that the employee is expected to work.
- C. The employee's regular base hourly rate of pay shall be used to compute any overtime earned.
- D. Employees shall be required to work overtime when assigned, and will be paid the premium rate of time and one-half their regular base hourly rate for all hours in excess of the schedules noted in Article 22.5 (A) and (B) above.
- E. When an employee volunteers or is assigned to work an actual national holiday that is not a City designated holiday, which he would not otherwise work under his normal schedule, the employee will be guaranteed time and one-half his regular rate of pay for hours worked.
- F. Both parties agree to the following:
 - 1. Publish known overtime requirements prior to noon daily for the following shift.
 - 2. Maintain a list of personnel who have volunteered to work any portion of the following forty-eight (48) hours on overtime.

3. Maintain a list of personnel (sorted by classification) identifying the most recent date each employee was ordered to serve a mandatory overtime assignment.
4. Assign volunteers, who have submitted their interest in working overtime in advance to work overtime assignments, prior to making mandatory overtime assignments.
5. Increase the pool of volunteers for overtime by permitting a Firefighter/Paramedic to voluntarily accept an overtime assignment that would have otherwise resulted in a mandatory assignment for a Firefighter provided the Firefighter/Paramedic can be placed into a Firefighter/Paramedic or a Firefighter/EMT position during such overtime assignment.
6.
 - a. Increase the pool of volunteers for overtime by permitting a Fire Lieutenant to voluntarily accept an overtime assignment that would have otherwise resulted in a mandatory assignment for a Firefighter provided the Fire Lieutenant can be placed into a supervisory position during such overtime assignment.
 - b. Increase the pool of volunteers for overtime by permitting a Fire Lieutenant, who is a State and County Certified Paramedic, to voluntarily accept an overtime assignment that would have otherwise resulted in a mandatory assignment for a Firefighter/Paramedic, provided the Fire Lieutenant can be placed in a supervisory position during such overtime assignment. When the Firefighter/Paramedic overtime assignment is for a Special Event, the Fire Lieutenant is permitted to voluntarily accept the overtime assignment even if not placed in a supervisory position.
7.
 - a. Exempt the Union President from mandatory overtime assignments, except in emergency situations defined in Article 4.3 of the collective bargaining agreements between the parties.
 - b. Excuse the Union's Executive Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer from mandatory overtime assignments when such an assignment would conflict with a previously scheduled Union activity, except in emergency situations defined in Article 4.3 of the collective bargaining agreements between the parties.
8. Permit employees to volunteer for overtime assignments in increments of time both greater and less than twelve (12) hour shifts.
9. Employees required to holdover one (1) hour or more past the scheduled end time of their regular shift due to waiting for relief personnel will be moved to the bottom of the mandatory overtime list.

The parties additionally agree that the Fire Chief reserves the right to establish the complete terms of the department overtime policy, to monitor department operations, and to make changes to the department policy at his discretion to ensure efficient operations. It is agreed, however, that prior to implementation of any changes to the policy, the Fire Chief will provide advance notice to the Union. It is understood that the Union retains its inherent right to bargain the impact of any changes to this policy and to bargain over mandatory subjects.

22.6 Call Back

Call back is provided to compensate an employee who is contacted off duty and returns to work immediately on an unscheduled basis due to an urgent, unforeseen, or emergency situation. Eligibility for call back pay is as follows:

- A. An employee who is contacted off duty and is required to return to work immediately on an unscheduled basis prior to his next regularly scheduled shift shall be eligible for call back pay.
- B. An employee eligible for call back pay shall be paid for the actual hours worked, plus one (1) hour inconvenience bonus at his straight time base hourly rate. Such employee will receive a minimum guarantee of four (4) hours compensation which will include time worked plus the inconvenience bonus.
- C. An employee who returns to work three (3) hours or less prior to his regularly scheduled starting time shall be paid for the actual time worked plus one (1) hour inconvenience pay at his straight time base hourly rate.
- D. An employee may receive the call back inconvenience pay no more than twice in a twenty-four (24) hour period. If the employee is called back to work more than two (2) times in a twenty-four (24) hour period, he shall be paid at his applicable rate from the time of the third or more notice to the time the employee is released from duty and shall not be eligible for additional call back pay or the call back inconvenience bonus.
- E. All hours actually worked on a call back assignment shall be counted toward computing overtime eligibility for eligible employees.
- F. An employee who is on duty and is directed to return to work at a designated time shall be ineligible for call back pay, but may be eligible for overtime pay.
- G. An employee who has not left the premises and is required to continue working after completion of his scheduled shift shall be ineligible for call back pay, but may be eligible for overtime pay.

22.7 Standby Pay

- A. In order to provide coverage for services during off duty hours, it may be necessary to assign and schedule an employee to standby duty. A standby assignment is made by a department supervisor who requires an employee to be available for work in the event an urgent situation arises on the employee's off duty time.
- B. The department will initially seek volunteers for standby assignments whenever possible, consistent with the equitable distribution of standby time within a work area, classification and shift, and in consideration of the employee's knowledge, skill, and ability. In the event volunteers are not available, employees will be required to take the assignment in order to maintain effective service to the community.
- C. If an employee on standby duty is unavailable or otherwise fails to respond to a call to work, he will forfeit the entire standby pay and may be subject to discipline.
- D. An employee assigned to standby duty is guaranteed standby pay of a minimum of two (2) hours pay at his regular straight time rate for each eight (8) hours of standby time assigned and fulfilled.
- E. An employee who is called to work while on standby duty, will be paid for the actual time worked with a minimum guarantee of one (1) hour's pay for each call to return to work. This compensation is in addition to the standby pay of two (2) hours for each eight (8) hours assigned. For pay purposes, actual time worked starts at the time of notice and ends when the employee is released from duty.
- F. Return to work assignments from standby duty do not qualify an employee for call back pay.
- G. Standby time shall not count as hours worked for the purpose of computing overtime pay.

22.8 Substitution Time

Substitution time shall be maintained by the City in accordance with the current version of Fire Department Policy #701 for the duration of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 22A

SCHEDULE, WORK WEEK AND OVERTIME – PEAK LOAD UNITS

With the exception of Article 22.1-22.5 (A-E) above, all other sections/articles within this agreement apply to employees assigned to work on a Peak Load Unit.

22A.1 Work Schedule and Shift Starting and Ending Time

- A. Personnel assigned to a peak load unit (PLU) will work a two shift schedule with an average normal work week of forty-two (42) hours.
- B. The start time for each shift shall be between the hours of 0800 and 0900. If the Fire Chief deems the peak load schedule needs to change due to operational reasons, the Fire Chief will provide affected employees and the union with at least ninety (90) days' notice prior to bargain the impact of those changes.

22A.2 Assignment to a PLU

- A. The Fire Chief, or his designee, may assign any eligible employee who volunteers to be placed in the PLU. The Fire Chief may also remove employees from that assignment for cause.
- B. If there are not enough volunteers to completely staff the PLU, eligible employees who are hired after October 1, 2016 will be assigned to the PLU in reverse seniority order (least senior will be assigned first). Seniority for purposes of staffing these units will be based on the employee's hire date. In the case that employees have the same hire date, seniority will be based on the highest employee number (highest number is assigned first). If these employees do not wish to remain on the PLU, they will have the option, in seniority order, of being removed from the PLU and placed back on the 48-hour schedule when newly hired Firefighter/Paramedics are qualified and eligible to be placed on the PLU.

22A.3 Hours Worked

Work hours include all time an employee is required to be on duty. Holidays, annual leave, illness leave, bereavement leave, jury duty, Union business leave, military leave and other absences from duty shall not be considered as actual hours worked, except as provided in Article 13.4.

22A.4 Time Off Slot

- A. Attendance

There shall generally be one (1) slot per day for employees in the PLU Division. An available time off slot can be reserved for leaves of absence such as annual leave, illness leave (as per Article 22.4A Section B below), and for other employee needs which could not be foreseen. The parties agree that time off slots are only intended to be used as guidelines to help both parties to this Agreement manage daily attendance.

Accordingly, the Fire Chief or his designee retains the right to deny the use of any unscheduled leave, or to approve additional requests for leave, based on operational

needs. Unscheduled absences are those absences from duty which were not requested by the employee in advance of 8 a.m. on the employee's shift preceding the absence. By contrast, scheduled absences are those absences from duty which are requested in advance by 8 a.m. on the employee's shift preceding the absence.

Employees must comply with all department requirements for notice and obtain prior approval of the Fire Chief or his designee. Once a leave request has been approved, the leave shall not be canceled by Management, except in cases of civil emergency as defined in Article 4.3 of this Agreement.

B. Illness Leave

Illness leave will occupy a slot commencing on the sixth shift of the absence. If it is estimated prior to the sixth shift that the absence will be longer than five (5) shifts, the occupation of a slot will commence at that time.

22A.5 Overtime Eligibility

- A. An employee assigned to the PLU Division who works in excess of his/her normally scheduled work hours in a (7)-day work period shall be eligible for overtime pay at time and one-half the regular hourly base rate of pay.
- B. Employees assigned to the PLU Division may not work more than four (4) consecutive shifts.
- C. Employees working a mandatory overtime assignment to a PLU will be guaranteed time and one-half the regular rate of base pay for hours worked.
 - 1. When an employee volunteers or is assigned to work an actual national holiday that is not a City designated holiday, which the employee would not otherwise work under his/her normal schedule, the employee will be guaranteed time and one-half the regular rate of pay for hours worked.
- D. In addition to the parameters set forth in Article 22.5 (F) which apply to the PLU, both parties agree that PLU vacancies will be filled in the following order:
 - 1. Voluntary O.T. to PLU Paramedics
 - 2. Voluntary O.T. to all department Paramedics.
 - 3. Voluntary O.T. to all EMTs provided the PLU already has one Paramedic assigned.
 - 4. In lieu of mandatory overtime assignments, staff from 24/48 personnel pool provided the shift strength exceeds minimum staffing with eighteen (18) Paramedics.

5. In lieu of mandatory, allow Lieutenant/Paramedic to fill PLU vacancy.
6. Mandatory overtime assignment of PLU personnel.
7. Mandatory overtime assignment of 24/48 EMTs, provided there is already one paramedic on the PLU.
8. Mandatory overtime assignment of 24/48 Paramedics.

ARTICLE 23

SENIORITY, LAYOFF AND RECALL

23.1 Fire Management shall prepare and post a seniority list by department and classification seniority, and post same on all bulletin boards during the month of October. Such list shall be considered correct unless objection is raised within thirty (30) days of posting.

23.2 City seniority is understood to mean an employee's most recent date of employment or re-employment. Seniority will continue to accrue during all types of leave except for leave of absence without pay or suspensions without pay for more than thirty (30) consecutive calendar days, which shall cause this date to be adjusted for an equivalent amount of time. Leaves of absence without pay or suspensions without pay for periods of thirty (30) consecutive calendar days or less shall not cause the City seniority date to be adjusted.

City seniority shall be used for purposes of computing annual leave accrual, service awards, and other matters based on length of service.

23.3 Classification seniority shall be understood to mean length of time in classification. After successful completion of the probationary period, length of time in classification reverts to date of entry, transfer, or promotion to present classification. Seniority will continue to accrue during all types of leave except for leave of absence without pay or suspension without pay for more than thirty (30) consecutive calendar days, which shall cause this date to be adjusted for an equivalent amount of time. Leaves of absence without pay or suspensions without pay for periods of thirty (30) consecutive calendar days or less shall not cause the classification seniority date to be adjusted.

Classification seniority shall be used for purposes of layoff and consideration for step increases and promotion. Seniority for the classification of Firefighter when a Firefighter/Paramedic voluntarily takes a demotion to the classification of Firefighter, shall include the combined total years of service in both classifications.

23.4 All new employees in the classification of Firefighter shall be placed on probation for one (1) year in the classification following graduation from the Fire Academy or for one (1) year in the classification from the date of employment if the new employee has previously fulfilled the requirements of the State of Florida Fire Fighters Standards Council. All newly promoted employees shall be placed on probation for one (1) year in the classification from the date of

promotion. Cumulative absences of thirty (30) calendar days or more, time spent on light duty, and any suspensions from scheduled work shall be added to a probationary period.

For the job classification of Firefighter/Paramedic, a combined probationary period of twenty-four (24) months shall be applicable to the following cases: (1) new employees who are certified paramedics when they are hired by the City, and (2) Firefighters who have not completed their initial probationary period and who are promoted to Firefighter/Paramedic. Cumulative absences of thirty (30) calendar days or more, time spent on light duty, and any suspensions from scheduled work shall be added to the probationary period. Upon successful completion of the twenty-four (24) month probationary period, including the training programs for both Firefighter and Firefighter/Paramedic, the employee will become a classified employee.

The Fire Chief has the authority to extend initial employment probation for three (3) additional months.

23.5 Employees shall lose their seniority as a result of the following:

- A. Voluntary resignation;
- B. Normal Retirement;
- C. Separation from employment;
- D. Layoff exceeding twelve (12) months;
- E. The employee's failure to report to the Employment Office his intent to return to work within seventeen (17) calendar days from the date the City mailed the certified recall notice to the employee's last known address; and/or
- F. Failure to return from military leave within the time limits prescribed by law.

23.6 An employee who retires under a disability retirement and who subsequently recovers from a disability and can perform the essential functions of a Firefighter, may apply to be reinstated to his former position upon application to the City for a vacant posted position. Upon reinstatement, said employee is entitled to pay and benefits at the level to which he had progressed prior to the effective date of his disability retirement. Such employee shall receive seniority credit for actual years of service and have his classification and City seniority restored with an adjustment to exclude the years that he was in the status of disability retirement.

23.7 Layoff

- A. Departmental management will notify the Union in advance of any pending reduction-in-force.
- B. In the event of a layoff for the classification of Firefighter, those who are in a probationary status will be laid off first, starting with the least senior employee as determined by classification seniority.

- C. In the event of a layoff for the classification of Firefighter/Paramedic, those who are in a promotional probationary status will be laid off first by being bumped back to the Firefighter classification provided they have sufficient classification seniority to hold as a Firefighter. For the purposes of this Article, classification seniority shall be considered as the time spent in the classification of Firefighter/Paramedic plus the time spent as a Firefighter. Those hired as a Firefighter/Paramedic shall have the option of being placed in the classification of Firefighter, provided they are able to hold, or to accept the layoff. The date of classification of Firefighter/Paramedic shall serve as their date of classification as a Firefighter to determine their holding ability.
- D. Those employees who were hired as Firefighters and promoted to Firefighter/Paramedic before completing one (1) year of probation as a Firefighter shall have the option of being placed in the classification of Firefighter to determine their holding ability or to accept the layoff.
- E. In the event of a layoff for the classification of Fire Lieutenant, those who are in a probationary status will be laid off first by being bumped back to their immediately prior held classification provided they have sufficient classification seniority to hold. For the purposes of this Article, classification seniority shall be considered as the time spent in the classification of Fire Lieutenant plus the time spent in the classification to which he is bumping back. For example, a Fire Lieutenant, who has worked his way up through the ranks, and is subject to layoff, would bump back to Firefighter/Paramedic. The combined time in both classifications would be used to determine his holding ability as a Firefighter/Paramedic. If unable to hold as a Firefighter/Paramedic, he would then bump back to a Firefighter classification with the time spent in all three classifications used to determine his holding ability as a Firefighter. If the employee was not a Firefighter/Paramedic, he would bump back to the Firefighter classification provided he is able to hold in that classification.
- F. Employees shall be laid off in the inverse order of their length of time in classification. In the event that two (2) or more employees in the same classification have the same amount of time, the employee with the greatest length of department service shall be deemed to be the senior employee. In the event two (2) or more employees have the same classification and department seniority, the employee with the greatest City seniority will be deemed to be the most senior employee. In the event two (2) or more employees have the same classification, department, and City seniority, the employee with the lowest City identification number will be deemed the most senior employee unless one is eligible for Veterans' Preference in accordance with applicable state or federal law.
- G. Employees returning to their immediately prior held classification as a result of a layoff shall receive a rate of pay not more than what they would have attained had they progressed normally within that classification.

- H. Employees affected by a layoff who feel that the provisions of this section have not been properly carried out may appeal through the negotiated grievance procedure.

23.8 Recall

Employees in layoff status will retain recall rights for twelve (12) months and shall have preference to work over applicants on eligibility lists. Recall will be made by certified mail to the employee's last known address in the Employer's records. If the employee declines recall or fails to notify the Employment Office of his acceptance of recall within seventeen (17) calendar days from the date the City mailed the certified notice, the employee shall forfeit all recall rights.

- A. Recall will be offered to laid off employees provided they are qualified to perform the essential functions of the job and provided they still meet all of the City and State requirements for the position to which they are recalled. A laid off employee, when offered recall, who is temporarily unable to accept due to medical reasons as certified by an attending physician, may request a leave of absence not to exceed thirty (30) days, unless eligible under the provisions of the Family Medical Leave Act for a longer recuperation period.
- B. Recall from layoff shall be in the order of classification seniority.
- C. An employee recalled within twelve (12) months shall keep the same classification seniority date as existed before the layoff, although no credit will be given for the time spent on layoff.

ARTICLE 24

GENERAL PROVISIONS

24.1 Travel Pay

Employees shall be paid travel pay at the rate established by Florida Statutes Section 112.061.

24.2 Transfers

- A. All employees in this bargaining unit shall have the right to request a transfer for any opening that occurs.
- B. When an opening occurs in the Fire Department, employees may submit written transfer requests to their District Chief for consideration.
- C. All requests must show present assignment, desired assignment and date of request. Transfer requests will be kept on file for six (6) months and may be renewed at the employee's option.
- D. Departmental seniority shall be considered when filling an opening by transfer. Final authority for any transfer rests with the Fire Chief.

24.3 Transfer of Union Officials

The Employer agrees not to transfer Union officials unless it is necessary for the efficient operation of the Fire Service.

The provisions of this Section do not apply to a Union official who is on probationary status (including promotional probation).

24.4 Appendices and Amendments

Provisions of this Agreement may be clarified, amended, or modified upon the written consent (Memorandum of Understanding) of the duly authorized representatives of the City and the Union. No ratification by the legislative body or represented employees shall be required on said clarification, amendment or modification. Any amendments to this Agreement shall be written, dated and signed by the duly authorized representatives of the parties and shall be subject to all the provisions of this Agreement.

24.5 Printing of Agreement

- A. The Employer agrees to provide the Union forty-five (45) copies of the Agreement within thirty (30) calendar days after Council ratification and signature by the parties.
- B. The Employer will furnish a copy of the Agreement to each Fire Station and Headquarters, in addition to the forty-five (45) copies provided to the Union.

24.6 Prevailing Rights

All rights, privileges and working conditions enjoyed by the employees at the present time which are not included in this Agreement will be presumed to be reasonable and proper and will not be changed arbitrarily or capriciously.

24.7 Uniforms

The Fire Department agrees to continue to furnish uniforms and linens for employees.

24.8 Indemnification

The City agrees to indemnify employees against judgments levied against them as a result of their negligent non-intentional torts committed while acting within the scope of their employment, up to the recovery limits specified in Florida Statutes Section 768.28(5) as amended, subject to the terms and conditions of Florida Statutes Section 111.07.

24.9 Community Service Time Account

The President of the Union or his designee will be allowed up to two hundred forty (240) hours of Community Service Time per year to attend City, County or State public hearings or meetings, Civic Association meetings, or fund raising activities for registered (IRS) charitable organizations. Community Service Time shall not count as hours worked for the purpose of computing overtime.

ARTICLE 25

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS AND WORK PLACE EXPOSURES

25.1 Physical Examination Process and Procedures

- A. Employees covered by this Agreement shall be required to undergo a physical examination once per fiscal year as scheduled by Management. Employees who opt to see a physician of their choosing, will be given until thirty (30) days beyond the one-year anniversary of the employee's last physical each fiscal year as a deadline by which the fitness for duty report must be returned. If an employee who undergoes the department-scheduled exam fails to keep the appointment, the employee may be subject to discipline. If an employee who opts to see the employee's own physician does not complete the exam by the established deadline, that employee also may be subject to discipline.
- B. The Employer shall determine the extent of the examination and bear the cost of each examination, except for those employees who opt to see their own physicians. In those cases, the employee is responsible for the cost of the examination. The results of department-scheduled exams shall be sent to each employee upon completion of the physical.

Physicals shall include the following in accordance with NFPA 1582 guidelines:

- 1. Audiometric Evaluation
 - 2. Vision Testing
 - 3. Comprehensive Metabolic Panel
 - 4. Breast and Cervical Cancer Testing
 - 5. EKG/Stress EKG if applicable
 - 6. Physical Examination
 - 7. Prostate Cancer Test
 - 8. Chest X-Ray
 - 9. Pulmonary Function Test
 - 10. Tuberculosis Test
 - 11. Urinalysis
- C. Any procedure which requires exposure to X-rays may be eliminated at the employee's request with the exception of the chest X-ray if a positive TB test

occurs. Stress EKG's, echocardiograms and/or chest X-rays will be administered to those employees displaying signs and/or symptoms of a heart/lung ailment and only where the attending physician believes that these tests will provide a beneficial diagnostic value.

- D. The provider will mail the results of the annual physical directly to the employee. The Department shall only receive a fitness for duty document with no medical or physical examination information included. The employee will be responsible for any needed follow up with his or her personal physician. Should the employee fail to follow up on a medical problem and that medical problem leads to a work-related illness or injury, the employee may be subject to discipline and will not be eligible for on-duty injury pay.

25.2 Work-Related Exposures

The Fire Department shall maintain a file on each employee which shall contain information about occupational injuries/illnesses and each reported or known event that exposes the employee to known or suspected hazardous materials, toxic products or contagious diseases.

25.3 Hepatitis B Vaccinations

Within two (2) weeks prior to initial station assignment, all employees who may have occupational exposures will be offered the Hepatitis B vaccine unless the employee can show proof of previously receiving the complete Hepatitis B vaccination series, immunity as revealed by antibody testing or the vaccine is contraindicated for medical reasons. If at some point the U.S. Public Health Service recommends routine booster doses, they shall be made available to the employees at no cost.

**St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue
Annual Physical Exam Certification and Checklist**

Notice to Medical Provider: Pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement, employees of St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue are required to undergo annual physical exams to determine if they are fit for duty. The physical exam must include the following procedures:

- Audiometric Evaluation
- Vision Testing
- A Comprehensive Metabolic Panel (Blood Test to Include):
 - Albumin/Globulin Ratio
 - Alkaline Phosphatase
 - ALT (Liver Function)
 - AST (Liver Function)
 - BUN/Creatine Ratio (Kidney Function)
 - Calcium
 - Carbon Dioxide
 - Chloride
 - Globulin (Calculated)
 - Glucose
 - Potassium
 - Sodium
 - Total Bilirubin
 - Total Protein
 - Urea Nitrogen
- Breast Exam (Mammogram Optional at Patient's Discretion)
- Cervical Cancer Exam
- PSA Blood Test (Prostate)
- EKG/Stress
- Physical Examination of Patient (Actual)
- Chest X-Ray
- Pulmonary Function Test
- Tuberculosis Testing
- Urinalysis

I certify that the above tests have been performed and the patient is ___ or is not ___ fit for duty (check one).

Printed Name of Physician

Printed Name of Employee

Signature of Physician

Signature of Employee

Name and Address of Physician's Practice: _____

ARTICLE 26

CONSULTATIONS

26.1 Matters appropriate for consultation between the parties include wages, hours, terms and conditions of employment, and areas of mutual concern. Consultations shall be held upon request of either the employer or the Union in an effort to reach mutual understandings, receive clarification and/or exchange information affecting employees in the Fire Department. Consultation meetings shall not be used for negotiation purposes.

26.2 Consultation meetings between the Union representatives and Management shall be arranged by mutual agreement of the parties upon request of either party. Consultation meetings may be called by the employer consistent with confidentiality, or other legal restrictions to advise the Union of any anticipated major changes affecting the working conditions of bargaining unit employees. Arrangements for any consultation meeting shall be made ten (10) calendar days in advance whenever possible and an agenda of matters to be taken up at the meeting shall be presented in writing at the time a consultation meeting is requested. Matters taken up in consultation meetings shall be those included in but not necessarily limited to the items on the agenda and Union representatives shall be limited to no more than four (4) persons at any one (1) meeting.

26.3 When contact is required by the Union with Management on matters covering consultation, the point of contact is the Labor Relations Manager. Where contact is required by Management with the Union the point of contact is the President of the Union.

26.4 Attendance at consultation meetings during their scheduled working hours shall not cause Union representatives to suffer any loss of pay or benefits. Attendance at a consultation meeting outside of regular working hours shall not be deemed time worked.

26.5 Nothing in this Article shall preclude the parties from bargaining the impact of matters that are mandatory subjects of bargaining.

ARTICLE 27

SUPPLEMENTAL FIREFIGHTER'S RETIREMENT SYSTEM

27.1 It is agreed that the Supplemental Firefighter's Retirement System (City Code Chapter 22, Article IV, Division 4), including all enhanced benefits previously agreed upon, and agreed upon herein shall remain in effect until the parties negotiate changes, if any, in a successor bargaining agreement.

27.2 The parties to this Agreement have previously agreed to enhance certain benefits related to the Supplemental Firefighter's Retirement System through the collective bargaining process. The benefit enhancements have been agreed to on the basis of a mutual expectation that the City would continue to qualify for State premium tax funding pursuant to Florida Statutes Chapter 175, without further increasing benefits except on an incremental basis, and then only to the extent additional premium tax funding becomes available to fully fund those incremental benefits.

Additionally, the parties have agreed to enhance pension benefits effective January 1, 2020 by including certain assignment pays pursuant to Article 21 in the determination of the recipient's Supplemental Firefighter's Retirement Plan Earnings Base as defined in City Code.

27.3 Effective October 1, 2020, the parties mutually consent to use excess assets to fund an enhancement to the number of overtime hours included in pensionable income. Currently, the maximum number of hours of overtime included in the definition of pensionable income is one hundred twenty (120) hours per member per fiscal year. As of September 26, 2022, that maximum will increase to up to two hundred twenty (220) per member per fiscal year provided those additional hours can be funded by excess assets.

27.4 Furthermore, the parties agree that the City shall have the right to reopen negotiations on Article 27 at any point wherein the City, during the term of this Agreement, is advised by the appropriate state agency, or an administrative or judicial court, that the City's pension plan(s) for sworn fire personnel are not in compliance and changes to any of those plans would have to be implemented in order to qualify for the continued receipt of State premium tax funds. The City also agrees to advise the Union at such time as such notice is received from the appropriate agency or court.

ARTICLE 28

PROMOTIONAL PROCESS

28.1 There shall be an exam given for promotion to the position of Fire Lieutenant. A list of those employees who pass the exam shall be maintained in descending final test score order. Duration of the list shall be determined and posted prior to the date of the written exam.

28.2 Those individuals wishing to take the promotional examination for Fire Lieutenant must have six (6) years as a Firefighter and/or Firefighter/Paramedic with the St. Petersburg Fire and Rescue Department immediately prior to the published application closing date. They must also be a classified Firefighter or Firefighter/Paramedic at the time of the examination, except that a probationary Firefighter/Paramedic who has served as a Firefighter in the department for at least six (6) years is also eligible to take the exam.

28.3 In order to take the examination for Lieutenant, applicants must possess a State Fire Officer I Certificate and have passed the following classes: Fire Service Course Design, Firefighting Tactics and Strategy II, Fire Prevention Practices, Private Fire Protection Systems I, and ICS-300, or their equivalent should they change during the tenure of this agreement.

28.4 Applicants must submit a college transcript prior to the published application closing date documenting successful completion of a minimum of thirty one and one-half (31.5) hours of college credit from an accredited educational institution to be eligible to take the exam for Fire Lieutenant.

28.5 The relative weights to be assigned to each element of the examination process and the applicable passing scores shall be based on the most recent job analysis available at the time the promotional examination process is developed.

ARTICLE 29

DRUG FREE WORK PLACE

29.1 The City and the Union agree that providing a drug-free work place is not only desirable from the perspective of the Employer but also from the perspective of the employees and citizens of St. Petersburg. Both the Employer and employees are interested in a safe and efficient work force which has the support and confidence of the citizens it serves and provides those citizens with the best service possible. The policies and procedures contained in this Article are for the purpose of achieving those goals.

29.2 Any employee covered by this bargaining unit shall also be subject to a urine, breath, and/or blood test, accomplished by an accredited testing laboratory, if there is reasonable suspicion based upon observed actions or assumptions on the part of the employee's immediate supervisor and the Fire Chief, or his designee, that the employee is using or under the influence of alcohol, drugs or controlled substances while on duty. Anonymous phone calls, by themselves, will not constitute reasonable suspicion. Random testing is to be strictly prohibited except as referenced in 29.5.

29.3 When an employee's initial test is positive (i.e., a drug or drugs is detected in the urine), a confirmation test, as that term is defined in Florida Statute Section 112.045 (5)(d), will be performed.

29.4 A test result indicating the employee is under the influence of alcohol, or a result indicating the presence of illegal drugs or controlled substances (when taken without a prescription or without being under the care of a physician) while on duty will result in disciplinary action up to and including discharge in accordance with Section 7 of the Rules and Regulations of the Personnel Management System. An employee shall not be disciplined until a positive test result is communicated to the Employer.

29.5 In the event an employee notifies the Fire Chief, or his designee, that the employee wishes to seek assistance for drug/alcohol abuse prior to being directed to report to a testing site, such employee will be given a referral to the City's Employee Assistance Program (EAP). No discipline will result from a positive test result provided the employee successfully completes the program recommended by the EAP. The City retains the right, however, to discipline employees for other offenses that may have been committed during the time the employee was under the influence while on duty.

This applies to the first offense only and does not relieve the employee from discipline for offenses that could be drug or alcohol related. Any employee who uses this one-time option shall be subject to unannounced testing on duty for a period of one (1) year from the time of the voluntary notice or notification of a positive test result.

29.6 Drug Free Workplace Grievance Procedures

- A. Whenever an employee is required to be drug or alcohol tested and believes that the test was ordered contrary to the provisions of this Article, he shall comply with the order, and may simultaneously grieve the order with the communicator of the

order. Said grievance will be limited to whether or not there was reasonable suspicion to require the employee to take the urine, breath and/or blood test; pending the outcome of the grievance, the results of the drug test will remain sealed, and opened only in the event the grievance is denied.

- B. Disputes arising out of such protests shall be arbitrable under the expedited arbitration rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) except that a jointly selected arbitrator shall be used.
- C. The grievance will be submitted directly to arbitration and the hearing will be held as soon as possible, and no later than two (2) weeks after the employee was required to submit to the test unless otherwise decided by the arbitrator. No post hearing briefs will be filed and the arbitrator will respond to the parties in writing within five (5) calendar days after the hearing. In no event will the arbitrator respond orally at the conclusion of the hearing.

29.7 In any event of suspected substance possession, use or abuse, the employee under any circumstance shall not give up his rights under the Florida Firefighter Bill of Rights.

29.8 All new employees shall be put on notice by memorandum to each individual employee as each is hired that the Fire Department is committed to employing a drug free work force. Said notice will also include encouragement for employees who may have a substance use or abuse problem to seek professional assistance on a confidential basis from the City's Employee Assistance Program or a source of their own choosing.

ARTICLE 30

GROUP INSURANCE

30.1 Life and AD&D Insurance

For the duration of this labor agreement, the City shall provide, at no cost to the employee, term life insurance in an amount equal to the employee's annual base pay rounded to the nearest thousand dollars. Coverage of an employee will be effective after ninety (90) calendar days of full-time employment.

30.2 Group Health Insurance

- A. The City agrees to provide employees covered by this Agreement the opportunity to participate in a City group health insurance program, subject to the eligibility criteria established by the provider(s) selected by the City.
- B. The City reserves the right to change carriers if and when deemed appropriate. In the event a carrier change is made, the parties agree that the City shall reopen Article 30.2 of the Agreement in order to bargain over the provisions contained herein if such provisions are impacted by the changes in carriers. Should the City's carrier(s), either current or new, propose an annual rate increase of fifteen percent (15%) or more, the City may also, at its option, reopen Article 30.2 to bargain over

the provisions contained herein. The City further reserves the right to self-administer group health insurance claims if and when deemed appropriate.

- C. The City agrees to pay seventy-five percent (75%) of the total premium cost for employee participation in one (1) of the plans offered through the City group health insurance program. If the employee elects any form of dependent coverage, the City will pay seventy-five percent (75%) of the total premium for the employee and dependents. The rates paid by both the City and the employee shall be adjusted whenever increases become effective as the City is notified by the provider. A copy of said notice shall be provided to the Union.
- D. The fee schedule and benefits for the specific plans shall be as determined and published by the respective plan provider. After the City has contracted with a health insurance provider or providers, all questions or concerns related to fees, benefits, service delivery, or other subjects shall be resolved between the employee-member and the respective provider(s), without involvement on the part of the City.
- E. The City agrees to share the premium expense on the same basis as defined in paragraph C above for employee participation in any of the individual plans offered. It shall be the employee's responsibility to pay the difference between the amount paid by the City and the full amount of the fee established by the provider for the plan selected.
- F. Those individuals participating in City health insurance coverage who are covered by this Agreement who subsequently retire shall be offered the option at the time of retirement of selecting coverage with a lifetime maximum benefit of \$100,000 or the higher lifetime maximum benefit offered to current employees. For those employees hired prior to January 1, 2009, the City will pay seventy-five percent (75%) of the cost of the coverage with a lifetime maximum benefit of \$100,000 or the same dollar amount towards coverage with the higher maximum benefit subject to the maximum City contribution noted in paragraph H. below. The rates paid by both the City and the employee shall be adjusted whenever increases become effective as the City is notified by the provider. Employees hired on or after January 1, 2009, shall be offered the option at the time of retirement of selecting coverage with a lifetime maximum benefit of \$100,000 or any higher lifetime maximum benefit offered to current employees, but will be responsible for paying the entire cost of the coverage with no City contribution toward the premium cost.
- G. For employees hired prior to January 1, 2009, the maximum monthly cost for which the City will be responsible for any retiree health insurance plan coverage will be one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the City's monthly cost (which is seventy-five percent [75%] of the total monthly cost of the coverage with a lifetime maximum benefit of \$100,000) that was in effect on January 1, 2010, for the type of coverage elected by the retiree (single, dual, or family coverage). The City's monthly costs in effect on January 1, 2010 for single, dual and family coverages respectively were \$198.48, \$400.91, and \$555.72.

- H. The parties agree to re-open negotiations specific to Article 30.2 if the Union issues a written notice to the City prior to January 31, 2023. Negotiations would be limited to implementing a group health insurance trust fund for all members of the bargaining unit.

30.3 Post Employment Health Plan

- A. The parties to this Agreement agree to participate in the Post Employment Health Plan (PEHP) in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Plan's Participation Agreement for each eligible employee of the Union. The PEHP Program is a Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association (VEBA) Trust under Section 501(c) (9) of the Internal Revenue Code, and shall be administered by Nationwide Retirement Solutions and will define who is eligible to participate in the plan.
- B. Each eligible employee will contribute \$20.00 (twenty dollars) pre-tax from each pay check to their VEBA account.
- C. Upon separation from employment including for retirement, the Employer shall contribute the value of 100% of any eligible employee's unused vacation leave and holiday accruals and the applicable percentage of unused sick leave accruals in accordance with Article 12 into the employee's VEBA account.
- D. Employees who are already eligible for fully paid family retiree medical benefits shall not be eligible for the Plan.
- E. The Nationwide PEHP is governed by an Advisory Committee comprised of one employer representative and one employee representative. The City and Union will choose their own representative. Either representative may be unilaterally withdrawn, by their sponsoring party, at any time in the future. The other side must be notified in writing of the withdrawal and replacement representative.

ARTICLE 31

SAVINGS CLAUSE

31.1 If any Article or sub-section of this Agreement should be found invalid, unlawful, or not enforceable, by reason of any existing or subsequently enacted legislation, or by judicial or other administrative authority, all other Articles and sub-sections of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect for the duration of this Agreement.

31.2 In the event of invalidation of any Article or sub-section, both the Employer and the Union agree to meet within thirty (30) days of such determination for the purpose of arriving at a mutually satisfactory replacement for such Article or sub-section.

ARTICLE 32

ENTIRE AGREEMENT

32.1 The parties acknowledge that, during the negotiations which resulted in this Agreement, each had the right and opportunity to make proposals with respect to subjects or matters not removed by law from the area of collective bargaining. The understandings and agreements arrived at by the parties after the exercise of such right and opportunity are set forth in this Agreement.

32.2 The Employer and the Union each agree that the other party shall not be obligated to collectively bargain for the duration of this Agreement over any subject or matter addressed within this Agreement or over any other subject or matter not addressed within this Agreement, even if such subject or matter may or may not have been within the knowledge of either or both parties at the time that they negotiated this Agreement, unless otherwise provided for by applicable decisions of the Public Employee Relations Commission under the authority provided to that administrative body by applicable State Statute.

ARTICLE 33

DURATION

33.1 This Agreement shall take effect the first payroll period start date of fiscal year 2023 and shall continue in full force and effect until its expiration date of September 21, 2025.

33.2 Should either party desire to terminate, change or modify this Agreement, it shall notify the other party by March 31, 2025. In the event such notice is given, negotiations for a follow-on Agreement shall begin no later than May 15, 2025.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this Agreement to be signed by their duly authorized representatives.

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

Kristen L.
Mory

Digitally signed by Kristen L. Mory
Date: 2022.10.12 14:48:28 -04'00'

By

**Kristen Mory
Labor Relations & Training Manager
Chief Spokesperson**



By

**Robert P. Bassett
Assistant Fire Operations Chief**



By

**Keith R. Watts
Fire Administration Division Chief**

Digitally signed by Charles
Alexander Jr.
Date: 2022.10.18 17:33:15 -04'00'

By

**Charles H. Alexander Jr.
Senior Labor Relations Officer**

Digitally signed by Richard
Frantz
Date: 2022.10.19 13:18:08 -04'00'

By

**Richard C. Frantz
Labor Relations Officer**

**ST. PETERSBURG ASSOCIATION OF
FIREFIGHTERS, LOCAL 747, IAFF**



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