



2022-2024 Tentative Agreement Between City of Reynoldsburg and OPBA

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**CONTRACT BETWEEN**  
**THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG**  
**AND**  
**THE OHIO PATROLMEN'S**  
**BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION**

**JANUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024**

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## **ARTICLE 1 CONTRACT**

Section 1.1 Contract. This Contract is made and entered into by and between the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio (hereinafter referred to as the “City”), and the Ohio Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association (hereinafter referred to as the OPBA).

Section 1.2 Purpose. This Contract is made for the purpose of maintaining the efficient operation of the Division of Police, for promoting cooperation, and orderly, constructive and harmonious relations between the City, the members of the bargaining units represented by the OPBA (hereinafter referred to as “member” or “members”), and the OPBA.

Section 1.3 Legal References.

- A. Unless otherwise indicated, the terms used in this Contract shall be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 4117 of the Revised Code. Where this Contract makes no specification about a matter, the City, members and the OPBA are subject to all applicable federal and state laws or local ordinances pertaining to the wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment for public employees. However, said laws and ordinances are not incorporated into this Contract. Laws pertaining to civil rights, affirmative action, unemployment compensation, workers’ compensation, and retirement of members are not superseded by this Contract, except where supplemental workers’ compensation or supplemental unemployment compensation have been negotiated and included herein. The conduct and grading of civil service examinations, the rating of candidates, the establishment of eligibility lists from the examinations and the original appointments from the eligibility lists are not subjects of bargaining under this Contract.
  
- B. Should any part of this Contract be held invalid by operation of law or by any tribunal of competent jurisdiction, or should compliance with or enforcement of any part of this Contract be restrained by any such tribunal pending a final determination as to its validity, such invalidation or temporary restraint shall not invalidate or affect the remaining portions hereof or the application of such portions to persons or circumstances other than those to whom or to which it has been held invalid or has been restrained. In the event of invalidation of any portion of this Contract, upon written request by either party, the parties shall meet within a reasonable time (not to exceed 28 calendar days) in an attempt to modify the invalidated provision through negotiations.

Section 1.4 Sanctity of Contract. Unless otherwise specifically provided in this Contract, no changes in this Contract shall be negotiated during its duration unless there is a written accord by and between the parties hereto to do so. Any negotiated changes, to be effective and incorporated in this Contract, must be in writing and signed by the parties.

Section 1.5 Past Practices. The City and OPBA acknowledge that certain customs and practices presently exist on a Division-wide basis with respect to the operation of the Division of Police that are too detailed to be set forth herein. Such customs and practices are defined as having been in effect for a period of time and known to the Chief. One incident does not generally constitute a past practice, but may, by affirmative action on the part of a Lieutenant, Deputy Chief or the Chief

constitute a past practice or custom. The City agrees not to alter such customs and practices without advance notice to the OPBA President, when practicable.

A meeting of the Labor-Management committee to discuss any proposed alterations will be held should the OPBA so request. If the proposed alteration violates any provision of this Contract, then it is subject to the Grievance Procedure.

## **ARTICLE 2 RECOGNITION**

Section 2.1 Recognition. The OPBA is recognized by the City as the exclusive representative for all members identified in the Bargaining units described in Section 2.2 in any and all matters relating to wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment, and the continuation, modification, or deletion of existing provisions of this Contract.

Section 2.2 Bargaining Units. The Bargaining Units consists of all sworn full-time members of the Division who are of the ranks of Sergeant and Lieutenant.

## **ARTICLE 3 OPBA SECURITY**

Section 3.1 Dues Deduction. The City agrees to deduct OPBA membership dues in the amount certified by the OPBA to the City, the first pay period of each month from the pay of any OPBA member requesting the same in writing. The City also agrees to deduct OPBA initiation fees and assessments, in the amount certified by the OPBA to the City, the first pay period of each month, in which such fees and assessments are due, from the pay of any appropriate OPBA member. If an OPBA member has insufficient pay due on that payday, such amount shall be deducted from the next or a subsequent pay.

If a deduction is desired, the OPBA member shall sign a payroll deduction form which shall be furnished by the OPBA and presented to the appropriate payroll clerk. The City agrees to furnish to the Financial Secretary of the OPBA, once each calendar month, a warrant in the aggregate amount of the deductions made for that calendar month, together with a listing of the OPBA members for whom deductions were made. Nothing herein shall prohibit OPBA members covered by this Contract from submitting dues directly to the OPBA.

Any OPBA member may withdraw from payment of dues deduction by submitting a letter to the City Auditor and the President of the OPBA expressing the OPBA member's desire to withdraw his or her dues deduction authorization. The OPBA shall be solely responsible for refunding any dues, fees, or assessments to any member.

The City shall provide the OPBA with additional payroll deductions for the purpose of the OPBA providing additional member benefits on a voluntary basis, providing the City's payroll accounting system possesses sufficient capacity and capability for additional deductions.

No other employee organization's dues shall be deducted from any member's pay for the duration of this Contract.



Section 3.2 Indemnification. The OPBA hereby agrees that it will indemnify and hold the City harmless from any claims, actions or proceedings by any employee arising from deductions made by the City in reliance upon the provisions of this Article.

Section 3.3 Use of Intra-Division Mails and E-Mail. The OPBA shall be permitted to utilize the Intra-Division mail and e-mail systems for the purpose of providing information, pertaining to OPBA business or Bargaining unit representation, to members. The OPBA agrees that the use of the mail and e-mail system will be reasonable and limited to providing information that is necessary for the normal conduct of OPBA business or representation of the bargaining units. All mail placed into the mail system by the OPBA shall be the property of the members to whom it is addressed, and such mail shall not be subject to the City's review. No confidentiality shall attach to the OPBA's use of the e-mail system and the City reserves the right to monitor e-mail content and usage.

Section 3.4 Ballot Box. The OPBA shall be permitted, upon prior notification to the Chief, to place a ballot box at the Division headquarters for the purpose of collecting members' ballots on all OPBA issues subject to ballot. Such box shall be the property of the OPBA and neither the ballot box nor its contents shall be subject to the City's review.

This box shall be portable in nature and of a size large enough to collect the ballots of the affected member. The placement of the box shall be in the Roll Call Room. The box will be placed in position for voting not more than six (6) hours prior to the voting and will be removed immediately after the voting period is completed. Further, the OPBA agrees to hold the City and Division harmless from any claims, disputes or lawsuits pertaining to the tampering or other misuse of the ballot box.

Section 3.5 Bargaining Unit(s) Meetings. The OPBA shall be permitted, upon prior notification to the Chief to hold meetings at Division headquarters or other City buildings, rooms or facilities when such facilities have not been previously scheduled for other City business. The notification required under this section shall be in writing, shall be delivered to the Chief at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the time of the meeting and shall state the date, time and requested location of the meeting.

If it is not practicable for the City to provide the requested location to the OPBA, the City will so notify the requesting party.

No Bargaining unit member or member of the OPBA shall be obligated or asked to divulge to the City information discussed at said meetings.

Section 3.6 Bulletin Board. The OPBA shall be permitted to maintain one (1) bulletin board in each locker room at Division headquarters. OPBA communications and personal communications between members only will be permitted to be posted on this board.

Section 3.7 OPBA Business. The OPBA President, or designee, shall be permitted to transact official OPBA business at Division work sites at reasonable times, provided that normal Division operations shall not thereby be interfered with or interrupted. The Chief, or in the absence of the Chief, the command officer on duty shall be notified in advance of such visitation.

**ARTICLE 4  
NONDISCRIMINATION**

Section 4.1 Joint Pledge. The City and the OPBA shall comply with all applicable laws prohibiting discrimination against any member on the basis of the member's age, race, color, sex, gender, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, political affiliation, veteran's or military status or application for or participation in the State workers' compensation program.

Section 4.2 City Pledge. The City agrees not to discriminate against any member on the basis of his or her membership or non-membership in the OPBA, nor to discriminate, interfere with, restrain or coerce any member because of or regarding his or her activities as an officer or other representative of the OPBA.

Section 4.3 OPBA Pledge. The OPBA agrees not to interfere with the desire of any member to become and remain a member of the OPBA, or to refrain from OPBA membership. The OPBA agrees to fairly represent all members subject to the provisions and procedures set forth in 4117.11(B)(6) and 4117.12 of the Revised Code.

Section 4.4 Interpretation. Whenever the context so requires, the use of words in the singular shall be construed to include the plural, and words in the plural, the singular.

**ARTICLE 5  
GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

Section 5.1 Grievance Defined. A grievance is any unresolved question or dispute based upon the misinterpretation, misapplication or violation of this Contract.

Section 5.2 Qualifications. A grievance can be initiated by the OPBA or an aggrieved member. The OPBA shall not file a grievance on behalf of a member without the member's knowledge. When a group of members desire to file a grievance involving each member of the group in a substantially similar manner, all members shall sign the grievance, and the OPBA may select two (2) members to process the grievance as the designated representatives of the affected group members.

Any OPBA Grievance must be filed in writing at Step 1 within fourteen (14) calendar days of the occurrence which gave rise to the grievance, or within fourteen (14) calendar days of the date on which the OPBA knew or should have known of the occurrence giving rise to the grievance.

A member has the right to present grievances and have them adjusted, without the intervention of the OPBA, as long as the adjustment is consistent with the terms of this Contract and as long as the OPBA has the opportunity to be present at the adjustment.

Section 5.3 Grievance Representatives. Members of the supervisory bargaining unit shall elect one (1) Grievance Representative who shall serve as Grievance Chairman for the unit.

The authorized function of a Grievance Representative shall include the attendance at any City and OPBA joint meetings relating to a grievance and the representation of the OPBA in investigating, processing or coordinating grievances pertaining to the Grievance Procedure contained in the Contract.

A Grievance Representative may be granted release time with pay to perform the function described herein upon approval from the Chief or Chief's designee which approval will not be unreasonably denied. The withholding of approval for release time shall result in an automatic equivalent extension of time limits within which a grievant must appeal his or her grievance or have it heard. Such release time will not be considered for purpose of computing overtime compensation.

Section 5.4 Grievance Procedure The following steps and procedures shall be utilized in the resolution of grievances:

A. Step 1 - Chief of Police To initiate a grievance, a member shall complete a written Grievance Form and present the grievance to the office of the Chief of Police within fourteen (14) calendar days of the occurrence which gave rise to the grievance, or within fourteen (14) calendar days after the member first became aware of the occurrence giving rise to the grievance; otherwise the grievance will be considered to have no force and effect. In no case will a grievance be considered which is submitted later than forty-five (45) calendar days following the date of the occurrence. This forty-five (45) calendar day limit is designed to accommodate members who were on leave status at the time of the occurrence. A member returning from leave has fourteen (14) calendar days to file a grievance over an occurrence during the term of his or her leave, provided the forty-five (45) day limit is not exhausted.

The Chief, or Chief's designee, shall investigate the grievance and schedule a meeting with the member and the Grievance Chairman or Grievance Representative within fourteen (14) calendar days of the receipt of the grievance. A designated OPBA Representative may also attend the Step 1 meeting. The Chief or Chief's designee shall investigate and respond in writing to the member within seven (7) calendar days following the Step 1 meeting.

B. Step 2 - Mayor If the grievance is not resolved in Step 1 and the member wishes to proceed to Step 2, the member shall present the written grievance to the Mayor or Mayor's designee within seven (7) calendar days of the receipt of the response at Step 1. The Mayor or Mayor's designee shall investigate the matter and shall meet with the member and the Grievance Chairman and Grievance Representative within fourteen (14) calendar days of the Mayor or Mayor's designee's receipt of the grievance. A designated OPBA representative may also attend the Step 2 meeting. A response shall be given to the member within fourteen (14) calendar days following the meeting at Step 2.

Section 5.5 Time Off for Presenting Grievances. A member and Grievance Representative shall be allowed time off from regular duties with pay for attendance at scheduled meetings under the Grievance Procedure with prior approval of the Chief, which approval will not be unreasonably withheld. Grievance Meetings at Step 1 and Step 2 shall be held during the grievant's shift hours or immediately before or immediately after said shift hours, as reasonably determined by the Chief.

Section 5.6 Time Limits. It is the City's and the OPBA's intention that all time limits in the Grievance Procedure shall be met. However, to the end of encouraging thoughtful responses at each Step, the Lodge's and the City's designated representatives may mutually agree, at any Step, to extensions of time for response, but any such agreement must be in writing or email communication and acknowledged by both parties. If the City does not respond within the specified time limits, the

grievance shall automatically advance to the next step. Any Step may be waived by mutual written consent of the parties.

If any office specified for the receipt of a grievance or grievance appeal is closed for an entire day, which day is the last day of the time period prescribed for the filing of a grievance or grievance appeal, then the grievant will be permitted to file his or her grievance or grievance appeal on the next day on which such office is open.

Section 5.7 Representation in Meetings. In each Step of the Grievance Procedure outlined in Section 5.4, certain specific representatives shall be given approval to attend the meetings therein prescribed. It is expected that, in the usual grievance, these will be the only representatives attending such meetings. However, it is understood by the parties that in the interest of resolving grievances at the earliest possible Step, it may be beneficial that other representatives, not specifically designated, be in attendance. Therefore, it is intended that either party may bring additional representatives (who, if members, will attend without pay unless the meeting is held during the member's regularly scheduled work time) to any meeting held pursuant to the Grievance Procedure, but only upon advance mutual agreement among the parties specifically designed to attend that such additional representatives have input which may be beneficial in attempting to resolve the grievance.

Section 5.8 Grievance Form. The City and the OPBA shall continue to use their jointly developed Grievance Form which shall be provided by the OPBA for use in filing grievances.

Section 5.9 Calendar Days. For the purpose of computing time, "calendar days" as used in this Contract does not include approved leaves or holidays.

Section 5.10 Grievance Content. After the original grievance is filed, the content and substance of the grievance will not be altered at subsequent Steps, except that additional documentation may be provided in support of or in response to the grievance.

## **ARTICLE 6 ARBITRATION**

Section 6.1 Arbitration Procedure. Should a grievant, after receiving the written answer to the grievance at Step Two of the Grievance Procedure, still feel that the grievance has not been satisfactorily resolved, he or she may, upon approval of the OPBA request that the grievance be heard before an arbitrator. The OPBA, must notify the Mayor in writing of the OPBA's intention to proceed to arbitration within twenty-one (21) calendar days of the grievant's receipt of the written response at Step 2.

Section 6.2 Selection of Arbitrator. Following the receipt of the OPBA President's written notification of the OPBA's intention to proceed to arbitration, the parties will jointly request the Arbitration Mediation Services ("AMS") to provide the parties with a panel of seven (7) arbitrators, with Ohio addresses from which the parties can select an arbitrator. If agreement cannot be reached as to one mutually acceptable arbitrator from the panel, an arbitrator will be selected by the representatives of the parties alternately striking names and selecting the final remaining name. The initial strike is to be determined by a coin flip. The parties may also select an arbitrator by mutual agreement at any time.

Section 6.3 Authority of Arbitrator. The arbitrator shall conduct a fair and impartial hearing pertaining to the grievance. The arbitrator shall afford both the City and the OPBA the opportunity to be heard, to present and examine witnesses, to offer documentary and other evidence and to submit post-hearing briefs. The arbitrator shall issue a written decision setting forth his or her decision and rationale in support of said decision. It is expressly understood and agreed that the arbitrator shall be without jurisdiction or authority to detract from, alter, add to or otherwise amend in any respect, any of the provisions of this Contract or any supplements or appendices thereto. It is agreed and understood that the jurisdiction and authority of the arbitrator shall be expressly limited by the provisions of this Contract. It is further agreed that no grievance shall be arbitrated together with any other grievance except by mutual consent of the parties.

Section 6.4 Arbitration Costs. The costs of any proofs produced at the direction of the arbitrator, the fee of the arbitrator and the rent, if any, for the hearing shall be borne by the losing party. Each party shall be responsible for its respective AMS fees. In the event that the arbitrator's decision fails to grant the requested award of either party and represents a "split decision," the cost and fees of the arbitration shall be borne equally by the parties. The arbitrator shall be requested to rule on the assignment of costs at the time of presentation of the award. The expenses of any non-employee witness shall be borne, if any, by the party calling them. The fees of the Court Reporter shall be paid by the party asking for one; such fee shall be split equally if both parties desire a reporter, or request a copy of the transcripts. Any member in attendance for such hearing shall not lose pay or any benefits to the extent such hearing hours are during his or her normally scheduled working hours on the day of the hearing.

Where necessary, the Grievance Chairman or the Grievance Representative who has been responsible for handling the grievance that forms the basis for the arbitration hearing shall be allowed to adjust his or her work hours on the date of the hearing so that he or she may attend the hearing in paid work status. Such request must be made at least seven (7) calendar days in advance of the hearing. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Contract, in the event of such a work hour adjustment, the Chief has the authority to mandate scheduling changes in order to cover the vacated work hours/shift.

Section 6.5 Arbitrator's Findings. The arbitrator's decision and award will be in writing and mailed to the OPBA President and the Mayor, or their designees, within thirty (30) calendar days after the hearing record is closed. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding upon the parties, subject only to appeal under Chapter 2711 of the Ohio Revised Code.

## **ARTICLE 7 OPBA REPRESENTATION**

Section 7.1 OPBA Release Time. The Grievance Chairman shall be released with pay from regular job duties for up to twenty (20) hours per calendar year to attend grievance training sessions conducted by or sponsored by the OPBA. Approval for such release time shall be obtained from the Chief or designee and shall not be unreasonably withheld.

Section 7.2 OPBA Delegates. Duly elected delegates or alternates to the State Conferences of the OPBA shall be allowed to change their days off to coincide with the Conference dates. Any additional time off will be through the use of vacation time.

**ARTICLE 8  
NO STRIKE/NO LOCKOUT**

Section 8.1 No Lockout. The City agrees not to cause, permit, or engage in any lockout of members.

Section 8.2 No Strike. The OPBA agrees that neither it nor any members covered by this Contract, individually or collectively, shall for any reason, engage in strike activity.

- A. The City and OPBA agree that the Grievance Procedure is adequate to provide a fair and final determination of all grievances arising under the terms of this Contract. It is the desire of the OPBA and City to avoid strikes and work stoppages and any and all other conduct set forth above in this Section.
- B. The OPBA and its officers, agents and members shall not authorize, condone, ratify, permit, sanction or acquiesce in any of the activities described in this Section and, should any such activities occur, the OPBA, by its officers, agents and members, shall be obligated to take affirmative steps to terminate such activities including promptly ordering its members to resume their normal work duties, notwithstanding the existence of any picket line.

**ARTICLE 9  
MANAGEMENT RIGHTS**

To assure that the Division continues to perform its legal duties to the public as required and limited by the Ohio and United States Constitutions, the Ohio Revised Code and Federal Statutes and to maintain the efficient and responsive police protection for the citizens of the City of Reynoldsburg, the City retains the right to determine Division policies and procedures and to manage the affairs of the Department in all respects.

Section 9.1 Management Rights. Except where otherwise specifically limited by this Contract, the City retains right and responsibility to:

- A. Determine the size and composition of the Division workforce, the organization structure of the Division and the methods by which operations are to be performed by members;
- B. Manage the Division's budget;
- C. Determine the nature, extent, type, quality and level of services to be provided to the public by members and the manner in which those services will be provided;
- D. Determine, change, maintain, reduce, alter or abolish the technology, equipment, tools, processes or materials members shall use;
- E. Determine job descriptions, procedures and standards for recruiting, selecting, hiring, training and promoting members;
- F. Assign work, establish and/or change working hours, schedules and assignments as deemed necessary by the Division to assure efficient operations;

- G. Direct and supervise members;
- H. Establish and/or modify performance programs and standards, methods, rules and regulations, and policies and procedures applicable to members;
- I. Hire, evaluate, promote, retain, transfer (permanently or temporarily), or assign (permanently or temporarily) members;
- J. Discharge, remove, demote, reduce, suspend, reprimand or otherwise discipline members for just cause;
- K. Lay off members because of lack of work or funds, or under conditions where continued work would be ineffective, nonproductive or not cost effective;
- L. Determine matters of inherent managerial policy which include, but are not limited to areas of discretion or policy such as the functions and programs of the City, standards of services, its overall budget, utilization of technology, and organizational structure;
- M. Maintain and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the City's operations;
- N. Determine the overall methods, process, means or personnel by which the City's operations are to be conducted;
- O. Determine the adequacy of the workforce;
- P. Determine the overall mission of the Employer;
- Q. Effectively manage the workforce; and
- R. Take actions to carry out the mission of the City.

**ARTICLE 10**  
**INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS, CORRECTIVE ACTIONS**  
**DURATION OF RECORDS AND PERSONNEL FILES**

Section 10.1 Internal Investigations. This Section is designed to address internal investigations of members. During such investigations, the following criteria apply:

- A. Whenever an investigation appears to be leading to the possibility of a member being disciplined, the member will be so advised, provided a copy of any written complaint or a written narrative of any anonymous complaint and advised of the right to OPBA representation prior to any questioning. During such questioning, the member has the right to be represented by an OPBA representative or a OPBA attorney, provided that such representative is not also a subject of the investigation.
- B. Whenever an investigation appears to be leading to the possibility of criminal charges being brought against a member, the member will be so advised and informed of the general nature of the criminal investigation prior to any questioning. The member may assert his or her

right not to answer any questions in a criminal investigation. During any criminal investigation the member has the right to be represented and advised by an attorney.

- C. In all internal investigations, the member's chosen OPBA representative or OPBA Attorney shall have a reasonable period of time to appear for the investigation.
- D. Before a member may be charged with insubordination for refusing to answer questions or participate in any investigation, the member shall be advised that such conduct, if continued, may be the basis for such a charge.
- E. Any interviewing of a member will be conducted at hours reasonably related to his or her shift, preferably during his or her work hours, unless the seriousness of the offense in question warrants otherwise. Sessions shall be for reasonable periods of time, and time shall be allowed during such interviews for rest periods and attendance to other physical necessities.
- F.
  - (1) Members shall be informed of the nature of the investigation prior to any questioning, including whether or not the investigation is focused on the member for either a potential felony or misdemeanor charge if known at the time.
  - (2) The City shall request that a complaining party provide a signed written statement of his or her complaint. An anonymous complaint must be reduced to a written narrative prior to any questioning of a member.
- G. When a member or any other witness is being interviewed in an internal investigation, such questioning shall be tape recorded by the Division.
- H. Any evidence obtained in the course of internal investigations through the use of threats, coercions, or promises shall not be admissible in any subsequent criminal action or internal hearing. However, explaining to a member that potential corrective action could result if the member continues to refuse to answer questions or participate in an investigation shall not be construed as such threats, coercions, or promises. Further, explanation of the potential disciplinary consequences as to the matter under investigation shall not be construed as a threat or coercion.
- I. In the course of internal investigations, a member may be given a polygraph examination, voice stress analysis or other purported truth detection examination only if the member is within the primary focus of the investigation or a known witness to an incident which precipitates the investigation, and at the member's written request directly to the Chief. No such examination shall be administered without the member's written consent. Polygraph examinations shall be administered by a polygraph examiner certified by a school accredited by the American Polygraph Association, provided that the polygraph examiner is from an outside agency and has no interest in the proceedings, and further provided that the selection of the polygraph examiner is made by mutual agreement of the member and the City. No such examination may be given without the advance permission of the Chief or Chief's designee. The results of the examination shall not be used in any subsequent criminal action unless agreed to by both parties. For purposes of this Contract, polygraph examinations include only those instruments that are acceptable to the courts in the State of Ohio.



- J. When a member is to be interviewed in an investigation of any other member, such interview will be conducted in accordance with the procedures established in this Section.
- K. When any anonymous complaint is made against a member and there is no corroborative evidence and none can be found after an investigation, the complaint shall be classified as unfounded but the member shall be informed in writing of the complaint and the outcome of the investigation at the conclusion of the investigation.
- L. A member who is charged with violating Division orders or regulations will be provided access to pertinent data related to the completed investigation. Such access shall be provided no later than fourteen (14) days in advance of any Division hearing related to the charge involved.
- M. All complaints, internal investigations and Division charges shall initially be under the province of the Chief who will designate the Deputy Chief, Sergeant or Lieutenant to conduct an investigation and make recommendations to the Chief through the chain of command. If, at the time the Chief designates an Investigator, the Chief reasonably believes that the allegations, if sustained after investigation, would result in a recommendation to the Safety Director of the member's termination, the Chief will assign the investigation to the Deputy Chief or a Lieutenant to conduct the investigation. The Sergeant is not required to make a disciplinary recommendation.
- N. The Division shall make every effort to complete internal investigations within ninety (90) calendar days. If for any reason the City cannot accomplish this, the Chief shall inform the affected member in writing of the expected completion date, which in any case shall not exceed one hundred twenty (120) calendar days after the date the complaint is filed. At the conclusion of an investigation the Chief shall notify the affected member in writing of the investigation outcome within thirty (30) calendar days thereafter. If an investigation is not completed within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date the complaint is filed or if the Chief does not notify the member within thirty days (30) after the conclusion of the investigation, the member under investigation shall not be subject to discipline. The time periods set forth in this section shall automatically be extended by any delays in the investigation occasioned by the member or OPBA.
- O. If any of these procedures are violated, such violations shall be subject to the Grievance Procedure beginning at Step 2.

Section 10.2 Corrective Action. No member shall be removed, reduced in pay or position, suspended, or reprimanded without just cause.

- A. For charges other than serious offenses, insubordination or violations that could amount to a violation of law, the principles of progressive action will be followed. The progression will at least include documented warning before a written reprimand, a written reprimand before a suspension and a suspension before demotion/removal for the same or related offenses. If the offense is of a serious nature, the Chief may determine that a different sequence of discipline be utilized.

- B. Newly promoted members will be required to serve a probationary period of twelve (12) months. If the employee fails to successfully complete the probationary period or desires to return to his or her previous classification, during the probationary period, for any reason, he or she shall be entitled to return to his or her previous classification. Probationary employees shall be entitled to utilize the grievance and arbitration procedures in this Agreement for all eligible matters, including, but not limited to, all discipline, except for demotion due to failure to successfully complete the probationary period.

Section 10.3 Departmental Hearings. Departmental hearings will be held prior to the imposition of any suspensions, reduction in pay or rank, and/or removal. At least seven (7) calendar days, prior to any Departmental Hearing before the Mayor or his designee the member will receive from the Chief of Police a written statement of all charges and specifications as well as notice of time and date of the Departmental Hearing. At a Departmental Hearing, the charged member shall be allowed to be represented by a Lodge attorney or representative.

The place for the hearings will be determined by the Mayor or his designee. Hearings shall be recorded at the direction of the Mayor or his designee or at the request of either the Division of Police or the member.

A Member who is charged, or his or her Lodge attorney or representative, may make a written request for one continuance of the Departmental Hearing. Such request will be granted where practicable at the discretion of the Mayor or his designee.

The Departmental Hearing shall be closed to the public, press, and others not directly involved in such hearing.

The City will make a good faith effort to notify the affected member of the decision reached as a result of the Departmental Hearing prior to any public statement.

A Member who is charged, or his or her OPBA attorney or OPBA representative, may make a written request, directly to the Chief, to review his or her personnel file. Such request will be granted within a reasonable time by the Chief in the case of a pending Departmental Hearing.

The member and/or his or her OPBA Attorney or OPBA representative shall have the opportunity to confront and cross-examine his or her accusers and offer testimony and call witnesses and present evidence on his or her behalf. Any member who is on duty and called as a witness shall be released with pay in order to attend the hearing. The calling of witnesses shall not unduly interfere with Departmental operations.

Section 10.4 Appeal From Disciplinary Decision. If suspension, reduction or removal is imposed as a result of the disposition of the Departmental Hearing, a member, with the approval of the OPBA President, may appeal such decision directly to binding arbitration under the provisions of Article 6 within twenty-one (21) calendar days after the order is received. In lieu of proceeding directly to arbitration, a member may appeal the decision to impose disciplinary action to the Civil Service Commission, as provided in the Civil Service Commission Rules. If the Civil Service Commission accepts jurisdiction over the member's appeal, the member is precluded from proceeding to arbitration.

Section 10.5 Duration of Records. All actions of record will be maintained in each member's personnel file throughout his or her period of employment, with the exception that any records of documented warnings will be removed from the file, upon the request of the member, one (1) year after such action was taken, provided no further corrective action of the same or similar nature has occurred. When a documented warning is maintained in a member's personnel file because further corrective action of the same or similar nature has occurred, the original documented warning will be maintained for twelve (12) months from the date of any subsequent corrective action.

Any records of written reprimands will be removed from the file, and destroyed upon the request of the member, two (2) years after such action was taken, provided no further corrective action of the same or similar nature has occurred. Where a written reprimand is maintained in a member's personnel file because further corrective action of the same or similar nature has occurred, the original documented written reprimand will be maintained for two (2) years from the date of any subsequent corrective action.

Suspensions shall be removed and destroyed from the file, upon the member's request, four (4) years after such action was taken, provided that no further corrective action of the same or similar nature has occurred and further provided that the City can show no compelling need to retain such records beyond this time limit. Where a suspension is maintained in a member's personnel file because further corrective action of the same or similar nature has occurred, the original suspension will be maintained for four (4) years from the date of any subsequent corrective action.

Reductions in pay or position shall be expunged from the file, upon the member's request, in the event the City should rescind the reduction action.

Although not considered formal discipline, Letters of Counseling shall be retained for six (6) months.

Section 10.6 Request for Removal and/or Destruction. When a member initiates a written request to have a document removed and/or destroyed, the request shall be forwarded to the Chief. The Chief shall act upon the request by either granting the request and forwarding the request to the Human Resources Department for action or disagreeing with the request and returning it to the member with an explanation.

Section 10.7 Review of Personnel File The City and the OPBA agree that members are responsible for periodically reviewing their personnel files. Members shall be allowed to review any of their personnel files at any reasonable time upon written request. Such request may be made to the supervisor directly responsible for the maintenance of such files and review of the file shall be made in the presence of such supervisor or supervisor's designated representative.

Except as required by Section 149.43 of the Ohio Revised Code; except for supervisory and administrative personnel with legitimate need to know; except for the Civil Service Commission and courts of competent jurisdiction which have subpoenaed them, a member's personnel file shall not be made available for review by anyone. Except for the above personnel, no information in a member's personnel file will be shared with anyone outside the Department and City administration, except name, place of employment, dates of employment, rank and pay range; however, additional specified information may be given upon the advance, written approval of the member involved to

the Chief. Any member may copy documents in his or her file. The City may levy a charge for such copying, which charge shall bear a reasonable relationship to actual costs.

Section 10.8 Inaccurate Documents. If upon examining his or her personnel file, any member has reason to believe that there are inaccuracies in documents contained therein, he or she may write a memorandum to the Chief explaining the alleged inaccuracy. If the Chief concurs with the member's contentions, the Chief shall remove the faulty document. If the Chief disagrees with the member's contentions the Chief shall attach the member's memorandum to the document in the file and note thereon his or her disagreement with the memorandum's contents.

Section 10.9 Placement of Material in Personnel File. No document which does not include as part of its normal distribution a copy to the member, or which does not originate with the member, shall be placed in a member's personnel file unless the member is simultaneously provided a copy. The personnel file copy of any disciplinary document shall either bear the signature of a member as to the member's receipt of a copy or bear the signature of a supervisor indicating the member's receipt of a copy but refusal to sign the personnel file copy.

Section 10.10 Performance Evaluations. A member's signature on any performance evaluation shall be viewed as only a representation that the member has read it and shall not be viewed as representation that the member has concurred in any or all of the contents or comments thereon. The member shall be the last person to sign an annual performance evaluation. The member shall receive a copy of the evaluation in its final form when he or she signs it upon request.

Section 10.11 Administrative Leave. Prior to the disposition of the Departmental Hearing, the member may be placed on administrative leave with pay should the Mayor determine there are urgent reasons to take this action. The length of the leave shall be solely at the Mayor's discretion. No member shall be suspended without pay pending a disposition of the Departmental Hearing.

## **ARTICLE 11 WORK RULES AND DIRECTIVES**

Section 11.1 Notification. The City agrees that General Orders, Special Orders, Division Directives, Law Advisories, and like Work Rules shall be reduced to writing and provided to all members in advance of their enforcement. Nothing in this Article shall be construed as limiting the Division's ability to issue lawful verbal orders on a Division-wide basis as may be operationally necessary in an emergency situation.

## **ARTICLE 12 LABOR RELATIONS MEETINGS**

Section 12.1 Informal Discussions. The City and the OPBA recognize the benefit of an exchange of ideas and information. For this reason the Mayor and/or Mayor's designated representative(s) and the Chief welcome the designated OPBA Representative to meet and informally discuss matters of mutual interest and concern. Permission to meet with the Mayor and/or Mayor's designated representative and the Chief will not be unreasonably withheld.

Section 12.2 Labor Relations Meetings. The parties hereto agree to hold labor relations meetings at a mutually agreed time as necessary upon the written request of either party to the other, but labor

relations meetings shall be held no less often than once every four (4) months, upon the request of either party to the other. The request shall include an agenda stating the matters to be discussed. The parties agree to review all outstanding grievances at labor relations meetings. The City and the OPBA may have up to four (4) representatives in attendance at the meetings. The Committee may discuss a matter which is covered by this Contract and may make recommendations to the City and the OPBA as to any modification of the contract.

Section 12.3 Release Time. Efforts will be made to schedule meetings at such times as to minimize City release time. Permission shall be granted to those members who are on duty and whose presence at the scheduled meeting is necessary or appropriate to attend at no loss of pay or benefits. All members are subject to recall to duty if and when needed.

Where necessary, one OPBA Committee Member shall be allowed to adjust his or her work hours on the day of the Labor Relations Meeting so that he or she may attend the meeting in paid work status. Such requests must be made at least twenty-one (21) calendar days in advance of the meeting. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Contract, in the event of such work hour adjustment, the Chief has the authority to mandate scheduling changes in order to cover the vacated work hours/shift.

### **ARTICLE 13 LAYOFFS, JOB ABOLISHMENT AND REINSTATEMENTS**

Section 13.1 Layoffs. When it becomes necessary to reduce the workforce in the Division, the youngest member in point of service shall be first laid off and any layoff thereafter, shall be by reverse seniority, provided that all part-time, intermittent, seasonal, or temporary employees of the Division shall be laid off before any member is laid off.

Section 13.2 Job Abolishment. Members may be laid off as a result of abolishment of positions. When a position above the rank of Police Officer is abolished, the incumbent shall be first allowed to fill any available vacancy in his or her rank. If no such vacancy exists, the incumbent shall displace the next less senior member in his or her rank, or if there is no next less senior member in his or her rank, the incumbent shall displace the next youngest officer in the next lower rank and the youngest member in the next lower rank shall be allowed to displace, and so on down until the youngest member in point of service has been reached, who shall be laid off.

Section 13.3 Notice of Action. The City shall provide a member who is to be laid off or displaced with notice of said action at least fourteen (14) calendar days prior to said action. This notice is to be sent by certified mail to the member's home address of record or hand-delivered to the member such that the notice is received on or before the fourteenth day prior to the layoff or displacement action. The notice shall contain the following information:

1. A rationale for layoff or displacement;
2. The effective date of the layoff or displacement;
3. A listing of the member's seniority in relation to other members of both Bargaining Units;

4. A statement advising the member of his or her responsibility to maintain a current address with the Division.

Section 13.4 Appeals. A member may elect to appeal from a layoff or displacement action either to the Civil Service Commission or, with the approval of the OPBA President, directly to binding arbitration as provided in Article 6. If an appeal is taken to the Civil Service Commission, and the Commission asserts jurisdiction over the matter, the member is precluded from electing to take this matter to arbitration.

Section 13.5 Reinstatement. Should an abolished position be recreated or reestablished within twelve (12) months from the date of abolishment, or should a vacancy occur through death, resignation, or any other cause within twelve (12) months from the date of layoff or displacement, and the City determines to fill the vacancy, the most senior member in the point of service of those laid off shall be entitled to the position, provided said member at the time of separation had successfully completed his or her initial probationary period and is otherwise qualified for the position.

The notice of recall shall be sent to the member's last known address by certified mail and a copy shall be sent to the OPBA. The City shall be deemed to have fulfilled its obligation as to recall by mailing the recall notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last known mailing address provided by the member. The recalled member shall have fourteen (14) calendar days following the mailing date to notify the City of his or her intention to return to work. The member shall then report to work within twenty-one (21) calendar days following the mailing date, unless a different date as to return to work is agreed upon by the Chief and the member.

All members with recall rights (as outlined above) will be given the right to reinstatement if qualified for the available position before any temporary, or less senior full-time members may be rehired or hired by the City for the available position in the Division of Police.

Such twelve (12) month period of time shall be computed exclusive of the time spent in the Armed Services of the United States.

If any member has bumped to a lower rank, he or she shall be reinstated to a vacancy in his or her prior rank before any laid off member shall be reinstated to a position in that rank

## **ARTICLE 14 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

Section 14.1 Equipment. The City will furnish and maintain in the best possible working condition the tools, facilities, and vehicles required to carry out the member's job duties. It is the member's responsibility to report unsafe conditions or practices, to avoid accidents or negligent action and to properly use and care for all tools, facilities, vehicles, supplies and equipment provided by the City.

Section 14.2 Safe Working Conditions. The City shall undertake reasonable efforts to put in place and utilize policies and procedures that provide for the safety of members in the performance of their assigned duties.

Section 14.3 Anti-nepotism

A. Definitions:

1. Family (for purposes of this section only): Mother, father, sister, brother, spouse, son, daughter, or grandparent of the member or member's spouse.
2. Spouse: Those people living together, married or unmarried, in an espoused relationship, which is defined as two (2) people living together, sharing bed and board, siring children, sharing financial, recreational and social activities together without benefit of a marriage license or marriage ceremony.

B. Members of the family (as defined above) will not be considered for employment in the Department if such employment would put the two (2) in a supervisory/subordinate capacity or if one (1) of the individuals is in a position having access to confidential material. The employment of other close relatives is discouraged.

C. Members who enter into a relationship with another employee of the police department that falls within the definition of a family member set forth above shall not be assigned to the same shift as the family member when those family members would be placed in a supervisor/subordinate relationship if working on the same shift. If such a relationship occurs, the two employees will decide who will move to another shift. If the employees cannot or refuse to decide, the employee who changes shifts will be decided by a coin toss.

**ARTICLE 15  
ASSIGNMENTS AND SENIORITY**

Section 15.1 Filling of Patrol Assignments. All Patrol shift assignments shall be posted annually between November 1 and November 15 for the following year. Members may submit their requests for shifts based on seniority during this period. No such request shall be unreasonably denied. The member with the highest seniority will have the first choice of patrol shift assignment. Seniority will be determined in accordance with the provisions of Section 15.3. This process will be followed in shift assignment.

Should any opening occur during the year, one interim bidding process shall be followed to fill the opening, provided that if no member applies for the opening, the Chief retains discretion to fill the opening by assigning the least senior member. The interim process shall be initiated by the posting of the available Patrol assignment, with members being given fifteen (15) calendar days to respond in writing to the posting indicating interest in the assignment. The most senior member indicating interest shall be given the assignment. The interim bidding process shall not apply to subsequent vacancies occurring as a result of this procedure.

Section 15.2 Filling of Non-Patrol Job Assignments. Whenever the City determines that a vacancy occurs in a job assignment, the Division shall post the job assignment opening for fifteen (15) calendar days and shall allow any interested members of the same rank to apply within the posting period. The Division shall provide notice on the job posting as to any specialized training and/or technical skills which will be required for the assignment after the assignment is made. In filling the job assignment, the Division shall give consideration to all applicants who apply. Skill, ability, work record and seniority shall be the criteria for selection of an applicant to fill a job assignment

vacancy. For any Non-Patrol assignment, an applicant must have a minimum of one (1) years of continuous service in a patrol assignment as a sergeant in order to receive consideration. When all other criteria are equal, seniority will be the deciding factor as to such assignment. For purposes of filling vacant assignments, seniority shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of Section 15.3.

Section 15.3 Seniority Defined. Seniority shall be defined as follows:

- A. Seniority shall be the member's length of continuous service as a Sergeant or as a Lieutenant with the Division. If two members are promoted to Sergeant on the same day, the member highest on the eligibility list shall be considered to have greater seniority than the other member promoted on the same day.
- B. Seniority shall be lost upon occurrence of any of the following events:
  - 1. Removal for just cause;
  - 2. Resignation, including resignation for purposes of regular retirement;
  - 3. Layoff for a period of time exceeding twelve (12) months;
  - 4. Unexcused failure to return to work upon expiration of an approved leave of absence; or,
  - 5. Unexcused failure to return to work upon recall from layoff.

Seniority shall not be lost where a member is reinstated due to the disaffirmance of a removal or layoff.

- C. "Continuous service" shall not include any period of time due to:
  - 1. Suspension of more than three (3) days;
  - 2. Unauthorized leave of absence;
  - 3. An authorized unpaid leave of absence which exceeds two (2) work weeks, except where the unpaid absence is due to either a duty-related illness or injury or any other reason for which an applicable law, ordinance, or other provision of this contract would not allow for loss of continuous service credit. The loss of continuous service credit under Section 15.3(d)(3) shall also result in the member being ineligible for vacation accrual eligibility under Section 23.1 for the period of time the authorized unpaid leave of absence exceeds two (2) weeks.

Where there is an occurrence under this paragraph, the member shall receive continuous service credit except for the period of time due to the occurrence.

Section 15.4 Seniority List. A seniority list shall be kept by the Chief and shall be updated yearly. A copy shall be available for inspection in a location designated by the Chief.

## **ARTICLE 16 POLITICAL ACTIVITY**

Section 16.1 Permitted Political Activity In addition to other rights, a member may participate in the OPBA Political Screening Committee which supports partisan activity. A member may serve



on the OPBA political screening committee or take such other action, at the direction of the OPBA, which would fall within the purview of said Committee, provided that such activity is undertaken while the member is off duty and not in identifiable uniform.

## **ARTICLE 17 PROMOTIONS**

Section 17.1 Promotions to Lieutenant. Promotions to the rank of lieutenant shall occur from a competitive promotional examination open to members of the police department who have attained at least three (3) years as a sergeant for the City of Reynoldsburg as of the date of the oral assessment and an Associate's Degree or two years of college education from a community college, college or university that would enable the candidate to be admitted to an under-graduate school as a third year student at an accredited college or university. In the alternative, a Sergeant must have at least seven (7) years of experience at the rank of Sergeant with the Reynoldsburg Police Department immediately preceding the date of promotion. The Civil Service Commission is responsible for the administration of the competitive promotional examination pursuant to rules promulgated by the Commission, except as modified by this Contract.

Employees promoted to sergeant after January 1, 2022, must have an Associate's Degree or two years of college as set forth above to become lieutenant. The seven (7) years' experience in lieu of the degree shall not apply to these employees.

When there are not three (3) or more Sergeant candidates within the Reynoldsburg Police Department eligible and willing to compete for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant, an open posting shall be conducted for potential candidates who are currently certified law enforcement officers through the Ohio Peace Officers Training Council and who possess the relevant minimum qualifications set forth above.

Section 17.2 Notice of Examinations. The Civil Service Commission shall give notice of promotional examinations for the rank of Lieutenant by posting of bulletins in conspicuous places in the Division. Such notice shall be given not less than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the date of the assessment. Applications for promotional consideration shall be submitted during the posting period specified by the Commission.

The notice shall contain a list of the resource material for the assessment. At least three (3) copies of the resource material shall be available to members at the Division at the time of posting of the notice.

Section 17.3 Competitive Promotional Examination Components. The competitive examination for Lieutenant shall consist solely of an oral assessment conducted by an accredited outside agency.

Section 17.4 Addition of Seniority Credit. When the entire examination has been completed and graded, seniority credit, as defined in Article 15, section 15.3 of this Agreement, shall be added to the total score to determine the final promotional examination score. A maximum of 10% of the total possible examination score shall be added for seniority credit. A member's final examination score shall include seniority credit. The date for calculation of seniority credit shall be the date upon which the oral board component is held.

Seniority points will be awarded based upon completion of years of continuous service as a Sergeant within the Division up to an allowable maximum of 10 points. 1 point will be awarded for each completed year during the member’s first four (4) years of continuous service and .6 points will be awarded for each year during the next ten (10) years for a maximum total of 10 points.

Section 17.5 Examination Administration. The Commission shall utilize the services of a professional testing consultant or agency to assist it in the administration of the promotional examination and to insure that the promotional examination is valid under applicable testing standards.

All assessors who participate in the oral assessment shall be from comparable police agencies in Ohio and shall be sworn police officers of the rank of Lieutenant or above who have served in that capacity a minimum of five (5) years.

Section 17.6 Eligible List. The Commission shall establish an eligible list ranking members in the order of their final examination scores. The list shall be established within thirty (30) days of the oral board. The list shall be transmitted by the Commission to the Mayor. This eligible list shall be in effect for a one (1) year period after the oral board.

Section 17.7 Promotional Appointment. The Mayor shall make promotions from the eligible list by promoting from the top three (3) ranked individuals for any vacancy in the rank of Lieutenant, except where there are fewer than three (3) candidates.

**ARTICLE 18  
PAY PLAN**

Section 18.1 Wages

The following pay ranges and rates are established for Sergeants during the term of this Agreement. These pay rates shall be paid to members on the effective dates shown below:

EFFECTIVE DATE		JANUARY 1, 2022 \$1,000 Increase of base & 3%	JANUARY 1, - 2023 \$1,000 increase & 3.25% Increase	JANUARY 1, - 2024 \$1,000 increase & 3.25% Increase
Sergeant	Hourly	\$ 56.84	\$ 59.19	\$ 61.60
	Bi-Weekly	\$ 4,547.06	\$4,734.55	\$ 4,928.12
	Annually	\$ 118,233.38	\$ 123,098.14	\$ 128,131.33

The following pay ranges and rates are established for Lieutenants during the term of this Agreement. These pay rates shall be paid to members on the effective dates shown below:

EFFECTIVE DATE		JANUARY 1, 2022 8% Increase above Sergeants	JANUARY 1, 2023 10% Increase above Sergeants	JANUARY 1, 2024 12 % Increase above Sergeants
Lieutenant	Hourly	\$ 61.39	\$ 65.10	\$ 69.00
	Bi-Weekly	\$ 4,910.82	\$ 5,208.00	\$ 5,519.51
	Annually	\$127,681.25	\$ 135,407.96	\$ 143,507.09

Section 18.2 Retirement Pickup.

- A. The City shall utilize the salary reduction method of Pension Pick Up for the full amount of the statutorily required employee contribution to the Police and Fire Pension Fund (“The Fund”). This full amount shall be withheld from the gross pay of members, shall be “picked-up” by the City, shall be designated as public employee contributions, and shall be in lieu of contributions to the Fund by each such member. No member subject to this “pick-up” shall have the option of choosing to receive the statutorily required employee contribution to the Fund instead of having it “picked-up” by the City or of being excluded from the “pick-up”. The parties agree that the City will not incur any additional costs in the deferment of said Federal and State income taxes. This “pick up” shall be accomplished under applicable regulations of the Fund and the Internal Revenue Service.
- B. The City shall fulfill its income tax reporting and withholding responsibilities for each member in such manner as is required by applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations as they may exist at the time of such reporting and withholding. The City’s understanding is that Federal and Ohio income tax laws and regulations presently require it to report as a member’s gross income the member’s total annual salary exclusive of the amount of the pick-up. Applicable municipal income tax laws require it to report as a member’s gross income the member’s total annual salary without any adjustment for the pick-up.

Section 18.3 Pay Plan Administration.

- A. Sergeants As to Sergeants, upon promotion, a Sergeant shall be paid at the rate of pay set forth in Section 18.1.

Section 18.4 Pay Periods. All members shall be paid on a biweekly basis. The official pay date shall be every other Friday in that the pay date shall be the Friday following the end of the pay period, provided that when a holiday falls on a regular payday, the payroll shall be distributed on the day immediately preceding the holiday.

Section 18.5 Specific Personnel Actions. The rate of pay for members affected by the personnel actions listed below shall be as follows:

- A. Return to Duty When a member is permitted to return to duty in the same rank after separation from City service of not more than one (1) year, which separation was not due to discreditable circumstances, the member shall receive the step rate in the rank corresponding to the step rate received at the time of separation. A member shall also serve thereof for that amount of time as would be required for advancement to the next step, with seniority credit being given for the time previously served prior to the separation.
- B. Return from Military Service Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5903.03, any member who leaves or has left the City service to enter the active service of the armed forces of the United States, or any branch thereof, and who subsequently is reinstated to employment with the Division, shall be entitled to receive compensation at the step rate to which the member would have been entitled had service with the City not been interrupted by service in the armed services. A member shall suffer no loss of seniority or break in service for the time during which the member was in active military service.

- C. Recall from Layoff A member who is recalled from layoff shall be reinstated at the same rate he would have received had the layoff not occurred and shall advance there from suffering no loss of seniority or break in service for the time during which the member was laid off.
- D. Reinstatement from Authorized Leave Time spent on authorized leave shall be credited for purposes of Step advancement and shall not constitute a break in service.

**ARTICLE 19  
SERVICE CREDIT**

Section 19.1 Service Credit A member shall receive, as additional compensation, an annual service credit payment based upon completed years of service, according to the following schedule.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF:	EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2022
4-6 YEARS	\$850.00
7-9 YEARS	\$950.00
10-14 YEARS	\$1,150.00
15-19 YEARS	\$1,300.00
20 OR MORE YEARS	\$1,400.00

Payment of the annual service credit shall be made in a lump sum, by separate check, which shall accompany the regular paycheck in the pay period following the member’s anniversary date of original appointment as a sworn full-time officer in the Division of Police.

Service credit shall be pro-rated based on changes to a member’s anniversary date.

**ARTICLE 20  
SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL**

Section 20.1 Shift Differential. A member who works the majority of his or her shift after 1:00 p.m. and before 6:00 a.m. shall be paid a shift differential according to the following schedule:

EFFECTIVE DATE	SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL PER HOUR
JANUARY 1, 2015	\$1.25

**ARTICLE 21  
HOURS OF WORK AND OVERTIME**

Section 21.1 Hours of Work. The workweek shall consist of forty (40) hours based on five (5) consecutive eight (8) hour workdays and two (2) regularly scheduled days off, except as provided in Section 21.2 of this Article. The wage rates prescribed in Article 18 for the respective ranks are based upon an average workweek of forty (40) paid hours and a work year of two thousand eighty

(2,080) paid hours. Members shall be in paid status for all work hours as well as all hours while on approved paid leave.

Section 21.2 Shift Assignments. It is understood that the Chief may authorize certain members, based upon their regular assignment, to work a ten (10) hour workday; if so authorized, the member's forty (40) hour workweek shall consist of four (4) ten (10) hour workdays and three (3) regularly scheduled days off.

Section 21.3 Overtime. All hours in paid status in excess of the scheduled workday or forty (40) in any workweek shall be compensated at one and one-half (1 - ½) times the member's regular rate of pay. No member shall be paid for overtime which has not been authorized by a supervisor under such directives or policies as the Chief may establish. There shall be no pyramiding of overtime.

For purposes of computing the overtime rate, the following components, where applicable, shall be included in a member's regular hourly rate: (a) straight time hourly rate of pay; (b) shift differential hourly rate of pay; (c) hourly rate attributable to service credit (annual service credit amount divided by 2080 to arrive at hourly rate); (d) working out of rank hourly rate of pay; and (e) Field Training Officer supplement.

If a shift supervisor vacancy occurs that causes the shift to fall below minimum staffing, and the vacancy is known 48 hours prior to the shift vacancy, a sergeant will be given the first opportunity to fill the vacancy. If the vacancy cannot be filled either by a sergeant or an OIC, a sergeant may be ordered to fill the shift vacancy.

Section 21.4 Compensatory Time. A member may choose to take compensatory time in lieu of overtime compensation if such choice is indicated during the tour of duty in which the overtime is worked. Compensatory time shall be credited to the member and accumulated at the rate of one and one-half (1 ½) the member's regular rate of pay hours for each overtime hour worked.

Compensatory time may be taken by a member, upon approval of a management person (one who is outside both bargaining units) on duty. If there is no management person on duty then approval may be granted by the member's shift supervisor, provided that the member's absence does not create a hardship on the operations of the Division. Approval shall not be unreasonably denied.

Each member's compensatory time bank shall be limited to an accrual of sixty-four (64) hours at any one time. At the end of the calendar year, a member shall have the option of either receiving a cash payment for any or all hours accrued but unused in the calendar year, provided that any hours which are not paid out will be carried over to the next calendar year and will be subject to the sixty-four (64) hour accrual. The payment will be made at the member's rate of pay in effect as of December 31 or the calendar year in which the hours are accrued and will be paid no later than January 31 of the next calendar year.

Section 21.5 Deviation. After posting of the master (annual) schedule, the Chief may alter days off scheduled only for the purpose of schooling, training, sick leave, or injury leave relief. After posting of the master (annual) schedule, the work schedule may not be reduced to avoid overtime without the consent of the member.

Section 21.6 Call-in-Pay. When a member is called back to work by his supervisor for hours not abutting his regular shift hours, the member shall be guaranteed a minimum of three (3) hours pay at the member's overtime rate. If the member is called in and works more than three hours the member shall be paid at the overtime rate for all hours worked.

Section 21.7 Court Pay. If a member is required to appear in court as a part of his or her job duties at a time when he or she would otherwise be off duty, the member shall be paid at the applicable rate for the actual hours necessary to fulfill the court appearance, including travel time to and from a court session other than the Mayor's Court however a member shall be guaranteed a minimum of three (3) hours pay at the member's overtime rate. Except in emergency circumstances, the payment of court pay does not require a member to perform any other work other than to appear in court when required. A member shall be permitted to use an available cruiser for travel to and from a court appearance, subject to supervisory approval.

Where a member receives cancellation of a court appearance more than two (2) hours before the start of the scheduled court time, the member shall receive no premium pay under this paragraph. Where the member receives cancellation of a court appearance two (2) hours or less before the start of that scheduled court time, the member shall receive two (2) hours straight time pay. However, if the member is notified of the cancellation of the court appearance during the travel time to court, as specified in Division policy, the member shall receive three (3) hours court pay at the member's overtime rate.

Section 21.8 Separation Upon separation from employment with the City for any reason, a member (his or her spouse or secondarily, his or her estate upon his death) shall be entitled to payment for any accrued but unpaid overtime hours including compensatory time hours accrued but not paid. Such payment shall be at the overtime rate applicable to the member's current rate of pay at time of separation.

## **ARTICLE 22 HOLIDAYS**

Section 22.1 Paid Holidays The following are designated as paid holidays for members:

1. New Year's Day, January 1
2. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in January
3. President's Day, 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in February
4. Memorial Day, last Monday in May
5. Juneteenth, June 19
6. Independence Day, July 4
7. Labor Day, first Monday in September
8. Veteran's Day, November 11
9. Thanksgiving Day, fourth Thursday in November
10. Day after Thanksgiving, fourth Friday in November
11. Day before Christmas, December 24
12. Christmas Day, December 25
13. Day before New Year's Day, December 31
14. Any day, or part of a day, proclaimed as a holiday by the Mayor

Section 22.2 Holiday Pay.

- A. Any member required to work on a holiday listed in Section 22.1 shall be paid at the applicable overtime hourly rate for all hours worked on the holiday, in addition to either eight (8) hours holiday pay at the straight-time rate if the member is regularly assigned to an eight (8) hour shift or ten (10) hours holiday pay at the straight time rate if the member is regularly assigned to a ten (10) hour shift.
- B. If a holiday falls on a member’s scheduled day off the member shall be entitled to an additional eight (8) hours pay at the straight-time rate if the member is regularly assigned to an eight (8) hour shift, or ten (10) hours holiday pay at the straight time rate if the member is regularly assigned to a ten (10) hour shift.
- C. If a holiday occurs when a member is on paid leave, the member will be entitled to eight (8) hours holiday pay at the straight-time rate if the member is regularly assigned to an eight (8) hour shift, or ten (10) hours holiday pay at the straight time rate if the member is regularly assigned to a ten (10) hour shift. No charge will be made against the leave accumulation.
- C. A member may choose to bank holiday pay for each holiday. If a member chooses this option, the member will be paid for his holidays in a lump sum in the first pay period in December of each year.
- D. Effective upon ratification of this contract, a member may choose to establish a holiday leave bank, in lieu of payment under paragraph (B) above, for one or more holidays in calendar year. If a member chooses this option, use of such holiday leave shall be treated the same as use of casual leave under Section 23.6. The maximum number of hours that a member may place in his or her holiday leave bank is forty (40) hours at any one time. A member may make a written request for payment of any hours in his or her holiday leave bank at any time, but only once per calendar year; such payment shall be made at the rate of pay in effect at the time of the member’s request and shall be made as soon as practicable by the City.

**ARTICLE 23  
VACATION LEAVE**

Section 23.1 Vacation Hours A member is entitled to earn vacation leave following completion of the first year of service, and thereafter, in accordance with the following schedule.

<u>Completed Years of Service</u>	<u>Hours Earned Each Year</u>
1 - 5 Years	88 hours
6 -10 Years	128 hours
11-14 Years	168 hours
15 - 19 Years	216 hours
20 or more Years	232 hours

Section 23.2 Vacation Carry Over. A member may carry-over from year to year a maximum of forty (40) hours of accumulated vacation leave. Any vacation balance in excess in this permitted carry-over shall be forfeited, unless the Chief determines that a member may not take all or a portion

of his or her carried-over vacation due to manning requirements. In that event, any vacation balance in excess of the permitted carry-over shall be paid to the member at the current rate of pay upon the conclusion of the calendar year in which the excess balance exists.

Section 23.3 Vacation Conversion. A member with at least seven (7) years of completed service for vacation purposes may, at his or her option, cash in up to forty (40) hours of vacation leave, provided that such hours are cashed in eight (8) hour blocks and further provided that such an option is exercised within twelve (12) months of the date on which the vacation is accrued.

Section 23.4 Vacation Scheduling. The Division shall attempt to accommodate each member's vacation leave request. Prior to February 1, members shall submit annual vacation requests by seniority to the Chief for vacation scheduling. These requests shall be granted as requested unless a conflict in scheduling necessitates that all requests cannot be granted. Seniority, as determined in Section 15.3 shall be the determining factor in the granting of vacation leave requests.

Section 23.5 Payment of Vacation Upon Separation. A member, who is separated for any reason, or his or her spouse or secondarily, his or her estate upon the member's death, shall be paid in a lump sum at the member's rate of pay for all accumulated but unused vacation leave.

Section 23.6 Casual Leave. Casual vacation leave may be granted in one (1) hour segments upon approval of the member's shift Supervisor.

## **ARTICLE 24 SICK LEAVE**

Section 24.1 Credit. Each member is to be credited with 4.6 hours of sick leave for each pay period of continuous service to the City. When used, sick leave shall be paid at the member's current rate of pay.

Section 24.2 Usage. Members may use sick leave, with the approval of the Chief, only for the following reasons:

1. absence due to illness or injury;
2. exposure to a contagious disease which could be communicated to and jeopardize the health of other employees; and
3. an absence due to the illness or injury of a member of the employee's immediate family wherein the employee's presence is reasonably necessary for the health and welfare of the family member.

Immediate family shall be defined as: mother, father, stepparent, brother, sister, child, stepchild, spouse, grandparents. For purposes of funeral leave only, immediate family shall also include: mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, legal guardian or other person who stands in place of a parent.

Section 24.3 Accumulation. Unused sick leave shall be cumulative without limit. Previously accumulated sick leave of a member who has been separated from the City shall be credited to the member upon reemployment by the City. A member who transfers from one department or a division of the City to the Police Department shall be credited with any accumulated sick leave.



Any member hired after January 1, 1986 will not be granted credit for sick leave earned while working for any other political entity unless required by the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 24.4 Verification. The City may require a member to furnish a satisfactory signed statement to justify his sick leave. If professional medical attention is required by the member's immediate family, a certificate from a licensed physician, stating the nature of the condition and prognosis, may be required by the City to justify the use of sick leave. If the physician's statement states that the member is capable of returning to work, the City may cease payment of sick leave until the member returns to City service.

Beginning with the sixth time and each time thereafter a member is granted sick leave in any calendar year, the first three work days of each such leave shall be without pay, except as follows:

- A. Such absence may, with the approval of the Chief, be charged to compensatory time or to vacation leave.
- B. Intermittent period of sick leave for the same illness or injury, when such usage is approved by the Chief, shall be counted as one absence if they occur during a period of not to exceed thirty (30) calendar days from the date the member returns to work.
- C. An employee on approved family medical leave shall not be charged with an occurrence for such leave under this section.

Section 24.5 Sick Leave Payout.

- A. A member with at least ten (10) years of service to the City upon retirement or resignation from the City with at least two weeks' prior notice to the City or upon death shall be paid for his or her accumulated but unused sick leave as follows:
  - 1. Members who have completed at least 10 years service to the City shall be entitled to twenty-five percent (25%) of their accumulated but unused sick leave, not to exceed 320 hours.
  - 2. Members who have completed at least 15 years of service to the City shall be entitled to thirty percent (30%) of their accumulated but unused sick leave, not to exceed 540 hours.
  - 3. Members who have completed at least 20 or more years of service to the City shall be entitled to forty percent (40%) of their accumulated but unused sick leave, not to exceed 760 hours.
  - 4. Members who have completed at least twenty-five (25) years of service to the City shall be entitled to fifty (50%) percent of their accumulated but unused sick leave, not to exceed eight hundred-eighty (880) hours.

Members hired after January 1, 1998 shall not have sick leave earned with an entity other than the City counted for purposes of this section.

In the case of a member’s death, the member’s spouse or secondarily, his or her estate, shall receive this payment. This payment will be paid at the member’s straight time hourly rate of pay in effect at the time of payment.

- B. If a member is killed in the line of duty, the member’s spouse or secondarily, his or her estate will be paid an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the deceased member’s accumulated but unused sick leave. This payment will be paid at the member’s regular hourly rate of pay in effect at the time of payment.

Section 24.6 Annual Sick Leave Conversion. Each calendar year, an eligible member may convert sick leave to vacation leave and/or cash, pursuant to the following formula:

<u>Number of Total Hours of Accrued Sick Leave</u>	<u>Total Number of Hours Eligible for Conversion</u>
500 – 999	16
1,000 – 1,499	24
1,500 and above	40

\*\* The total number of sick leave hours accrued are those hours as of December 31.

A member must give notice to the Chief of Police by January 15 of the following calendar year. The payout shall be made on or about February 15 of that year and shall be based on the rate of pay from the previous year.

Members hired after January 1, 1998 shall not have sick leave earned with an entity other than the City counted for purposes of this Section.

**ARTICLE 25  
INJURY LEAVE**

Section 25.1 Injury Leave.

- A. For each separate injury sustained, injury leave shall be paid to any member who suffers an incapacitating injury arising out of his or her performance of job duties for the City. Such injury may include exposure of the member to a contagious disease which could be communicated to and jeopardize the health of other employees, if such exposure and jeopardy is certified by a physician. Such injury leave shall be paid at the member’s hourly base rate of pay, and be limited to a maximum of one thousand and forty (1040) hours per occurrence.
- B. To qualify for injury leave, it must be established that the injury arose out of performance of job duties, and did not result from misbehavior on the part of the member. It shall be the obligation of the member to report said injury immediately to his supervisor and to receive necessary medical treatment, present to the City a certificate from an attending physician or psychologist stating the nature of the injury and the prognosis, and return to work status at the earliest time permitted by the member’s attending physician. After the member has been given permission to return to work status by the attending physician, and the member is taken off injury leave status, a member may reapply for injury leave and exhaust a total of one

thousand and forty (1040) hours of injury leave per occurrence when continued use of injury leave is appropriate.

- C. The Chief may obtain an additional opinion from a licensed physician or psychologist in order to substantiate the nature of the injury and/or establish conclusively that the injury qualifies for injury leave as defined in this section. Should this additional opinion be necessary, it shall be paid for by the City.
- D. Upon exhaustion of injury leave, a member may use sick leave or other available paid leave.
- E. In lieu of or in addition to injury leave under this Article, an employee may be permitted or required to work light duty in accordance with Article 36 of the Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 26 OTHER LEAVES OF ABSENCES**

Section 26.1 Military Leave. Each member who is a member of a reserve or National Guard unit shall be granted a paid military leave of absence when called to temporary active duty or when called to military field training exercises. Members granted military leave shall be paid their regular wages for the time so served, provided that pay received by such members from the City shall be for a period not to exceed one hundred seventy-six (176) hours during each calendar year. Members who are on paid military leave, or who use unpaid leave for military service, shall accrue vacation leave while on paid or unpaid leave pursuant to the provisions of Section 23.1.

Section 26.2 Jury Duty Leave. Each member shall be excused for any regular scheduled workday when called to and reporting for municipal, county, state, or federal jury duty. Members so excused shall be paid their regular wages for the time so served, without deduction for any amount received from governmental authorities. If jury service is for a period of time less than the member's regularly scheduled workday, excused time will apply only to that portion of the day required for such service including reasonable time for travel and changing clothes. The member shall report to his or her supervisor on a daily basis concerning the expected duration of the leave.

Section 26.3 Funeral Leave. Each member shall be granted a paid leave not to exceed three (3) working days upon a death in the member's immediate family, as immediate family is defined in Section 24.2. It is recognized that situations may develop where a death in other than the member's immediate family warrants the City granting this paid leave. The Chief may grant such paid leave based upon the circumstances peculiar to each case. Such time shall not exceed three (3) working days.

Section 26.4 Voting Leave. A member shall be excused for such time as is reasonably necessary to vote. A member shall be paid for such excused time not to exceed one (1) hour, provided he or she could not otherwise reach the polls to vote during the time the polls are open outside his tour of duty.

Section 26.5 Examination Leave. A paid leave shall be allowed a member who participates in any Reynoldsburg Civil Service test or who must take a required examination pertinent to his or her City employment before a state, county, or federal licensing board, including the member's regularly scheduled tour of duty.

Section 26.6 Unpaid Leave of Absence. Upon a written request by a member, the Chief may grant the member a leave of absence without pay. The maximum leave without pay shall not exceed six (6) months. The maximum duration of a leave for purposes of education, training, or specialized experience, which would benefit the City, or for other related reasons, shall not exceed two (2) years. The authorization of a leave is solely a matter of administrative discretion and each request will be decided by the Chief based upon its own merits. Upon returning from a leave the member is to be placed in his or her original position or another position at a similar level of responsibility with the same pay rate should the original position be abolished. Should a member fail to return to work upon the expiration of an authorized leave, that member shall be considered as having resigned. A member on unpaid leave does not earn sick or vacation leave credit.

## **ARTICLE 27 WORKING OUT OF RANK**

Section 27.1 Working out of Rank. A member who is temporarily required to perform the duties of a higher ranking position, and who performs the responsibilities of the higher ranking position for more than two (2) hours in a workday, shall be paid at the rate of pay equal to that paid the higher ranking position for all hours worked in the higher ranking position.

## **ARTICLE 28 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Section 28.1 Participation. Members are eligible to participate in the Educational Assistance Incentive Program of the City. Participation is voluntary and available to those who elect job-related self-development activities, during non-working hours. All course work must be taken in accordance with a planned program of professional improvement approved by the Chief in advance.

Section 28.2 Allowances. The allowances for assistance are as follows:

For approved courses earning college credit, a maximum of three thousand two hundred and fifty dollars (\$3,250.00), effective January 1, 2010, of tuition expenses for each academic year may be requested by a member, and for approved courses earning other than college level credit, a maximum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) of tuition expenses for each academic year may be requested by a member. Effective January 1, 2012, this amount shall be increased to three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00).

Fifty percent (50%) of the expense incurred for textbooks required for approved courses will be paid, except that for non-college-level courses, a Two Hundred Fifty Dollar (\$250.00) limit is not to be exceeded.

To qualify for assistance, a member shall satisfactorily complete the course(s) by attaining a passing grade. Reimbursement shall be made upon submission of official transcripts, tuition statements and receipts for textbooks.

A member who has received educational assistance must remain a member for one (1) year following completion of the courses for which assistance was received. Should a member separate from

service with the City within the one (1) year period, except in the event of a disability retirement, that member must repay any assistance received in the one (1) year period.

## **ARTICLE 29 UNIFORMS AND ALLOWANCE**

Section 29.1 Initial Issue. The City shall furnish the basic uniforms and new equipment for all members according to the schedule in Section 29.6. Uniform parts and equipment shall be replaced by the City on an as needed basis. All uniforms and equipment purchased by the City remain the property of the City and must be returned when a member is separated from City service for any reason.

Uniform items not accounted for shall be replaced at the member's expense. Failure to do so shall result in the value of the uniform items not accounted for being withheld from the member's separation pay.

Section 29.2 Repair or Replacement of Uniforms. The City shall repair or replace all uniform items damaged or destroyed in the line of duty so long as the damage is not due to the member's misconduct or negligence.

Section 29.3 Repair or Replacement of Eye Glasses. The City shall repair or replace eye glasses damaged or destroyed in the line of duty so long as the damage is not due to the member's misconduct or negligence. This Section shall provide coverage only for a like amount of the damaged eye glasses.

Section 29.4 Plain Clothes. Members assigned to plain clothes or administrative duty shall be permitted to purchase civilian clothing and components up to the reimbursable amount of nine hundred fifty dollars (\$950.00) effective January 1, 2008. Clothing selected shall be at the discretion of the member but shall be moderately conservative in style, cut and color, and shall be acceptable to the local business community.

If not caused by negligence or misconduct of the member, any civilian clothing and/or components damaged to the point of unserviceability or lost, in the line of duty, shall be replaced by the City as soon as possible at no charge to the current or subsequent allowance. Replacement does not include normal wear and tear.

Section 29.5 Dry Cleaning. Members shall be reimbursed for necessary dry cleaning of uniforms or plain clothes items. Members shall utilize the dry cleaning facility or facilities designated by the City.

Section 29.6 Clothing/Equipment Schedule The following items shall be provided by the City:

Belt Keepers - 4	Name Plate - 2
Belt (Trouser) - 1	Protective Vest - 1
Boots - 1 pair	Raincoat - 1
Breast Badge - 2	Service Weapon - 1 (with 3 magazines and gun lock)
Cite Bookholder - 2 (one large, one small)	Shirts - Summer - 5
Flashlight - 1	Shirts - Winter - 5

Flashlight Holder - 1	Shoes - 1 pair
Gloves - 1 pair	Ties - 3
Glove Holder - 1	Tie Bar - 1
Gun Belt - 1	Toboggan Hat - 1
Handcuffs - 1 (with Key)	Traffic Vest
Handcuff Case - 1	Trousers - 5
Hat Badge - 1	USB Flash Drive
Hat - 1 (8 pt. hat and raincover)	Walkie Holder - 1
Holster - 1	Walkie Radio
Jacket - all season - 1	Whistle - 1
Mace Holder - 1	Whistle Chain - 1
Magazine Pouches - (double)	Wrist Watch - 1

### **ARTICLE 30 SPECIAL DUTY**

Section 30.1 Rate of Pay. A member shall be permitted to work special duty assignments so long as any such special duty does not conflict with his or her regular work schedule. The rate of compensation for special duty shall be set by the Mayor. The Chief may promulgate rules and procedures for administering special duty, but no such rules or procedure shall be in conflict with this Contract.

Section 30.2 Authority. While working under special duty assignment, the member shall be considered to be acting under, and subject to, the terms of his or her employment with the City. A member shall be entitled to utilize City uniforms and clothing, and be covered by the City's workers' compensation policy while performing special duty, if not covered by the special duty employer's workers' compensation policy.

Section 30.3 Conduct. While on special duty assignment, a member shall perform such assignment subject to the wishes of the special duty employer, except that the member is bound by departmental rules and regulations and procedures governing the duty and responsibilities and good conduct of the police service. A member shall not perform any act that would tend to demean the Department or the uniform, nor be contrary to law or official departmental directives. In the event of an emergency declared in accordance with departmental policies and/or directives, or in the event a member is required to perform in an arrest situation, the member will revert to on-duty status. A member shall obey orders issued by supervisory personnel. The working of a special duty assignment does not relieve a member from taking appropriate police action when confronted with a situation requiring such action.

Section 30.4 Administration. The Chief, or designee, shall administer the special duty program according to the following criteria:

- A. All special duty assignments shall be offered to members who sign up on a fair and equitable basis with no preference shown to any individual. The current assignment policy shall be used as provided in General Order 5.20.06 as of December 1, 1985. No member shall be permitted to work special duty assignments until he has obtained an Ohio Police Officer

Training Course Basic Training Certificate and has satisfactorily completed the Department Field Training Program.

- B. Once a member has accepted a special duty assignment, he or she shall report to that assignment in a timely manner, prepared for duty. If a member should wish to withdraw from a special duty assignment that he or she has accepted, the member shall find a replacement to insure that the assignment is filled. Repeated violations of this provision or of other rules pertaining to special duty, as determined by the Chief, may make the member subject to removal from the special duty roster for a period of time as is determined by the Chief to be appropriate.
- C. Members desiring to work a special duty assignment during a scheduled tour of duty may request vacation time to work such assignment. Any such request for leave shall be processed and granted subject to the same criteria as any other request for leave if the request does not involve the paying of overtime to another member to cover the vacancy created by such leave or violate any other provision of this Contract.
- D. During emergency circumstances (such as a scheduled employee marking off sick from a special duty assignment, etc.), or when a request for special duty is received on short notice (less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to reporting time) the individual administering the special duty program may fill the vacancy by assignment to the most available member after making good faith attempt to comply with the provisions of this Article.
- E. Members shall not be deprived of the special duty assignments because they have used any Articles or Procedures set forth in this Contract.
- F. Unless otherwise authorized in writing by the Chief, a member shall not work more than twenty (20) hours in excess of his or her scheduled workweek.
- G. Any member marked off sick shall not be allowed to work special duty during that calendar day.
- H. Any member with four (4) or more sick markoffs in a twelve (12) month period shall not be allowed to work special duty for a period of seventy-two (72) hours after his return to duty.

### **ARTICLE 31 INSURANCE**

Section 31.1 Medical Insurance. The City shall provide hospitalization, surgical, major medical and drug participation coverage for bargaining unit employees on the same basis as these benefits are offered to non-bargaining unit employees of the City, including any opt out payments.

Effective January 1, 2022, the City shall contribute to the health savings account of each member sixty-six percent (66%) of the in-network deductible. For those members participating in the wellness program, upon presentation of proper documentation, the City shall reimburse bargaining unit employees for out of pocket costs between the City's HSA contribution and the in-network deductible. Employees eligible for the additional reimbursement must submit the request and proper

documentation no later than March 31 of the following year. Such reimbursement is subject to the maximum allowed by federal law.

For the purpose of any Health Savings Account to which the City may contribute, employees hired after January 1 will have their HSA contribution pro-rated based on their date of hire. In addition, current members who have an insurable event (e.g. marriage, birth or adoption) will have their contribution pro-rated based on the date of the insurable event.

Notwithstanding the previous paragraph, a member shall be entitled to the full HSA contribution upon the birth of a child or a life threatening illness causing serious harm to the member or a covered member of his/her family.

Insurance coverage is effective the first day of the month after hire.

Section 31.2 Life Insurance. The City shall pay for life insurance for each member in the amount of \$100,000 with double indemnity for accidental death.

Section 31.3 Dental Coverage. Dental insurance coverage shall be provided by the City on the same basis as this benefit is provided to non-bargaining unit employees of the City.

Section 31.4 Vision Insurance. Vision insurance coverage shall be provided by the City on the same basis as this benefit is provided to non-bargaining unit employees of the City.

Section 31.5 Liability Coverage. The City will defend and indemnify members as required by O.R.C. Chapter 2744 for the good faith performance of their duties within the scope of their employment.

Section 31.6 Premium Contribution. Effective January 1, 2019, each member shall contribute-12% of the premium. Premium contribution for dental and vision coverage shall remain at 7% for the duration of this agreement.

## **ARTICLE 32 NEGOTIATIONS**

Section 32.1 Committees. The OPBA and the City have the right to select their own Negotiations Committee for both Units and to change Committee members at will. The parties agree to engage in multi-unit bargaining. Negotiations teams shall consist of no more than four (4) committee members, excluding consultants.

Section 32.2 Good Faith Bargaining. The parties are obligated to bargain collectively with one another in a good faith effort to reach an agreement. Each side will provide supporting data and rationale for its own proposals and counter-proposals, and will not arbitrarily or capriciously reverse positions previously taken. Such good faith bargaining does not mean that either party is compelled to agree to a proposal nor does it require the making of a concession.

Section 32.3 Information Furnished. The parties are obligated to provide each other with relevant financial and other information, as requested, which is necessary for each party to develop proposals, and counter-proposals, and to negotiate in good faith.



Section 32.4 Private Meetings. The parties agree to negotiate in private meetings pursuant to 4117.21 of the Ohio Revised Code. These meetings will be held as mutually agreed.

Section 32.5 Spokesperson. The Negotiation Committees will formally communicate with each other through a spokesperson named by each party.

Section 32.6 Informal Minutes. Each party may informally keep its official own minutes or written records of the negotiations. No official transcript of the negotiations will be maintained.

Section 32.7 Proposals. At the initial negotiations meeting, each party will explain the basic structure and content of its proposals, except that either party may reserve its presentation as to economic matters to a later date. Nothing herein precludes either party, by mutual agreement, from making a preliminary written submission of its proposal to the other party prior to the initial meeting.

Section 32.8 Caucus and Adjournment. Either party has the right to call a caucus at any time or to adjourn the negotiations session.

Section 32.9 Release time for Negotiations. If all members of the OPBA Negotiating Committee are on duty at the time of the scheduled negotiations sessions, two (2) members will be given release time with pay and full benefits for time actually spent in negotiations. However, time spent and paid for in negotiations will not be counted as hours worked for purposes of overtime compensation. If negotiations end prior to the last thirty (30) minutes of the released member's scheduled quitting time, the release officer shall report to his/her supervisor for duty.

Section 32.10 Applicable Law. The City and the OPBA agree that all matters pertaining to negotiations, impasse, ratification and/or rejection of a tentative Contract shall be governed by Ohio Revised Code 4117.10 and 4117.14.

### **ARTICLE 33 MISCELLANEOUS ECONOMIC PROVISIONS**

Section 33.1 Travel Allowances. If a member uses a personal vehicle for City or Department business, including travel to and from court appearances as authorized by the Chief, he or she shall be reimbursed for such use at the current rate allowed by Internal Revenue Service Regulations.

Section 33.2 Field Training Officer. A member who serves as a field training officer ~~for bargaining unit members~~ shall receive a pay differential for each hour of training time spent with the trainee. Effective January 1, 2013, this pay differential shall be \$2.50 per hour.

Section 33.3 Leave Donation. A member may voluntarily donate sick leave or vacation leave time to other members in a manner to be established by agreement of the City and the OPBA through the Labor Relations Committee.

### **ARTICLE 34 WAIVER IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**

Section 34.1 Declaration of Emergency. In cases of emergency declared by the Mayor or Chief, such as acts of God or civil disorder, the following conditions of this Contract may be temporarily suspended by the City:

- A. Time limits for the processing of grievances; and,
- B. All work rules and/or agreements and practices relating to the assignment of members.

Section 34.2 Termination of Emergency. Upon the termination of the emergency, grievances filed prior to the emergency shall be processed in accordance with the provisions outlined in the grievance procedure of this Contract and shall proceed from the point in the grievance procedure to which the grievance(s) had properly progressed prior to the emergency.

## **ARTICLE 35 FAMILY LEAVE**

### Section 35.1 Family and Medical Leave.

- A. Pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, FMLA leave may be granted to a member who has been employed for at least twelve (12) months by the City and who has provided at least 1,250 hours of service during the twelve (12) months before the leave is requested. The leave may be granted up to a total of twelve (12) weeks during any twelve (12) month rolling period for the following reasons:
  - 1. Because of the birth of a child or placement for adoption or foster care of a child;
  - 2. In order to care for the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or one who stood in place of a parent of the employee, if such spouse, son, daughter, parent, or “in loco parentis” has a serious health condition;
  - 3. Because of a serious health condition that makes the member unable to perform his/her employment functions.
  - 4. A qualifying exigency relating to an immediate family member’s call to active duty in the military.

In addition, eligible members may take up to 26 weeks of leave in a single twelve (12) month period to care for a spouse, son, daughter, parent or next of kin who is a current member of the Armed Forces with a serious injury or illness arising out of such service.

- B. The member must provide the Department with thirty (30) days advance notice of the leave, if such leave is reasonably foreseeable, or such notice as is practicable if thirty (30) days notice is not possible. The member must provide the Department with certification of the condition from a health care provider. The City, at the City’s expense, may require a second opinion (which is binding) on the validity of the certification.

A member seeking FMLA leave must first use paid sick time (if applicable), vacation and holidays and compensatory time before going on unpaid leave. The total amount of family

leave paid and unpaid will not exceed a total of twelve (12) weeks. In any case in which a husband and wife entitled to family leave are both employed by the City, the aggregate number of workweeks of leave to which both may be entitled may be limited to twelve (12) weeks during any twelve (12) month rolling period if such leave is taken because of the birth of a child or placement for adoption or foster care of a child. The member will be responsible for his/her share of the health insurance cost (if any) during the unpaid FMLA leave. If the member does not return from the FMLA leave for reasons unrelated to the FMLA leave, he/she is responsible for the total insurance premium paid by the City. The City may, at its sole discretion, waive the repayment of insurance premiums. The City will be responsible for the 30 day premium under COBRA.

It is intended that this article comply with the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 and the City may promulgate policies in furtherance of the Family and Medical Leave Act that are not inconsistent with this Contract.

Generally, paid sick leave for the father of a newborn child shall be limited to the first ten (10) work days after the birth of the child. Additional paid sick leave will be available to the father upon presentation of proper documentation of a serious health condition warranting the use of paid sick leave.

## **ARTICLE 36 LIGHT DUTY**

### Section 36.1 Light Duty.

Light duty is defined as a temporary work assignment that will not conflict with or compromise the medical evaluation of a member who is subject to a work-related injury/illness or off-duty injury/illness. Duties may be of a nature not normally performed by the member but shall be ones the member is capable of performing. The member's supervisor and scheduled days and hours of work may differ from his or her normal supervisor and work schedule.

Light duty will normally be limited to no more than thirty (30) work days (6 calendar weeks); however the Chief, for good reason, may modify or extend that time on a case by case basis.

At a member's request to the Chief, a member may be allowed to perform light duty as opposed to being on or continued on injury leave, sick leave or unpaid leave. Light duty may also be allowed when requested by a member who has applied for disability retirement through the state pension fund. The member shall give the Chief notice as to the date upon which his or her application is made. Light duty will only be considered if an operational need is determined for the duties to be performed.

The City may also require a member on injury leave to perform light duty in lieu of injury leave. Any such light duty must be within the medical limitations placed on the employee.

The City may require that the member requesting light duty obtain, at his or her own expense from a physician, a release that the member is medically capable of performing those duties for a period of time. The City retains the right to have a physician, at the City's expense, determine if a member being considered for light duty is medically capable of performing the job duties for a period of time.

The City may require that the member requesting light duty obtain, at his or her own expense from a physician, a release that the member is medically capable of performing those duties for a period of time. The City retains the right to have a physician, at the City's expense, determine if a member being considered for light duty is medically capable of performing the job duties for a period of time.

**ARTICLE 37  
DURATION**

Section 37.1 Duration. The provisions of this Contract are effective January 1, 2022, except where otherwise indicated, and remain in full force and effect through December 31, 2024.

Section 37.2 Successor Contract This Contract shall remain in full force and effect until a successor Agreement is reached by the parties or a final settlement award is reached through the use of Ohio Revised Code Section 4117.14.

Section 37.3 Understanding. The parties recognize that this Contract represents the full agreement between the parties for this term of bargaining. This recognition in no way is meant to interfere with or limit any other rights to bargain that may be awarded to either party by any section of Chapter 4117 of the Ohio Revised Code, except that 4117.14(G)(11) shall not apply.

**SIGNATURE PAGE**

Signed and dated this 26th day of July, 2022.

FOR THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG:

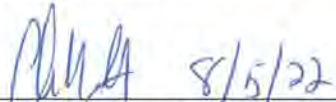
FOR THE OHIO PATROLMEN'S  
BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

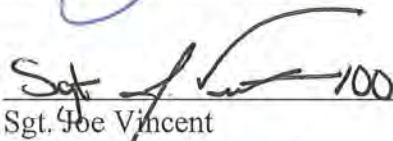
  
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Joe Begeny, Mayor

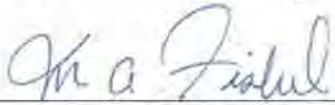
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Hegedus, OPBA Counsel

  
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Curtis Baker, Chief of Police

  
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Sgt. James Costlow

  
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Chris Shook, City Attorney

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sgt. Joe Vincent

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marc A. Fishel, Labor Counsel

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lt. Mike Binder

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

**Except as otherwise provided in Article 21, section 21.3,** the parties agree to continue the current practice of permitting sergeants to find another sergeant to replace a sergeant vacancy when practicable. However, the failure of a sergeant to find a voluntary replacement, standing alone, is not a sufficient reason for the City to deny a request for paid leave. The Chief may deny vacation requests for operational reasons. Any denial must be reasonable.