

AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
CITY OF BRIGANTINE  
ATLANTIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
AND  
TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION  
NO. 331

January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026

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## **ARTICLE I**

### **PURPOSE**

This Agreement is entered into pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 123, Law of 1974 of the State of New Jersey, to promote and ensure harmonious relations, cooperation, and understanding between the City and the employees; to prescribe the rights and duties of the City and employees; to provide for the resolution of legitimate grievances, all in order that the Public Service shall be expedited and effectuated in the best interest of the people of the City of Brigantine, the City and its employees.

**ARTICLE II**  
**RECOGNITION**

- A. The City recognizes the Union as the exclusive bargaining representative for all "blue collar" Public works laborers, drivers, operators and custodial employees employed by the City of Brigantine, excluding all "white collar" employees, professional employees, Policemen, Crossing Guards, Firemen, Officials, Heads and Deputy Heads of Departments and Agencies, members of Boards and Commissions, managerial executives, and all supervisors having the power to hire, discharge, discipline, evaluate employees, promote or effectively recommend same.
- B. The title "employee" shall be defined to include all bargaining unit members, the plural as well as the singular, and to include males and females.
- C. Part-time and seasonal workers shall be excluded from the bargaining unit; however, if there are part-time employees who work more than thirty-two (32) hours a week for a six (6) month period or more, the City will create a full-time position. A seasonal worker is one who is employed on a temporary basis during the period between May 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>. Seasonal workers will not operate any equipment or drive any vehicles which require a Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

## **ARTICLE III**

### **MANAGEMENT RIGHTS**

- A. The City of Brigantine hereby retains and reserves unto itself, without limitation, all powers, rights, authority, duties, and responsibilities conferred upon and vested in it prior to the signing of this Agreement by the laws and Constitution of the State of New Jersey and of the United States, including, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the following rights:
1. The Executive Management and Administrative control of the City Government and its properties and facilities and activities of its employees by utilizing personnel, methods and means of the most appropriate and efficient manner possible as may from time to time be determined by the City,
  2. To make rules of procedure and conduct, to use improved methods and equipment, to determine work schedules and shifts, to decide the number of employees needed for any particular time and to be in sole charge of the quality and quantity of the work required. Employees shall be given two weeks' notice of a permanent change of departments except in the event of an emergency.
  3. The right of Management to make, maintain and amend such reasonable rules and regulations as it may from time to time deem best for the purposes of maintaining order, safety and/or the effective operation of the Department after advance notice thereof to the employees to require compliance by the employee is recognized.
  4. To hire all employees and subject to the provisions of law, to determine their qualifications and conditions of continued employment, or assignment and to promote and transfer employees.
  5. To suspend, demote, discharge, or take any other appropriate disciplinary action against any employee for good and just cause according to law.
  6. The City reserves the right with regard to all other conditions of employment not reserved to make such changes as it deems desirable and necessary for the efficiency and effective operation of the department.
- B. In the exercise of the foregoing powers, rights, authority, duties and responsibilities of the City, the adoption of policies, rules, regulations and practices and the furtherance thereof, and the use of judgment and discretion in connection therewith, shall be limited only to the specific and express terms of the Agreement and then only to the extent such specific and express terms hereof are in conformance with the Constitution and laws of New Jersey and of the United States.
- C. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to deny or restrict the City of its rights,

responsibilities, and authority under R.S. 40A, or any other National, State, County or local laws or regulations.

**ARTICLE IV**  
**NON-DISCRIMINATION**

- A. The City and the Union agree that there shall be no discrimination against any employee because of race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin or political affiliation, ancestry, age, marital status, civil union status, domestic partnership status, affectional or sexual orientation, genetic information, sex, gender identity or expression, disability or atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait of any individual, or because of the liability for service in the Armed Forces of the United States or the nationality of any individual, or because of the refusal to submit to a genetic test or make available the results of a genetic test to an employer. The City and Union further agree that all provisions of this agreement shall apply equally to all employees.
  
- B. The City and the Union agree that all members covered under this Agreement have the right without fear of penalty or reprisal to form, join and assist any employee organization or to refrain from any such activity. There shall be no discrimination by the City or the Union against any member because of the member's membership or non- membership or activity or non-activity in the Union.



## **ARTICLE V**

### **MAINTENANCE OF WORK OPERATIONS**

- A. The Union hereby covenants and agrees that, during the term of this Agreement neither the Union nor any person acting in its behalf will cause or authorize, nor will any of its members take part in any strike (i.e., the concerted failure to report for duty or willful absence of any employee from his position, or stoppage of work, or absence in whole or in part, from the full, faithful and proper performance of the employee's duties of employment), work stoppage, slow-down, walk out or other illegal job action against the City. The Union agrees that such action would constitute a material breach of this Agreement.
- B. The Union agrees that it will make a reasonable effort to prevent its members from participating in any strike, work stoppage, slow-down, or other activity aforementioned of supporting any such activity by any other employee or group of employees of the City and that the Union will publicly disavow such action and order all such members who participate in such activities to cease and desist from same immediately and to return to work and take such other steps as may be necessary under the circumstances to bring about compliance with the Union order.
- C. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to limit or restrict the City in its right to seek and obtain such judicial relief as it may be entitled to have in law in equity for injunction or damages, or both, in the event of such breach of the Union or its members.
- D. The City agrees that it will not engage in the lock out of any of its employees.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

- A. The purpose of this procedure is to secure, at the lowest possible level, an equitable solution to the problems which may arise affecting the terms and conditions of employment under this Agreement.
- B. Preliminary Informal Procedure: An employee may orally present and discuss a grievance with their immediate supervisor on an informal basis in the presence of a steward.
- C. The Union steward may raise any grievance or dispute informally with the supervisor in an endeavor to reach a satisfactory solution.
- D. The term "grievance" as used herein means an appeal by the Union steward or the Union on behalf of an individual employee or group of employees, from the interpretation, application or violation of policies, agreements and administrative decisions affecting them.
- E. With respect to any grievances, no grievance may proceed beyond Step 1 herein unless it constitutes a controversy arising over the interpretation, application or alleged violation of the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Disputes concerning terms and conditions of employment controlled by statute or administrative regulation, incorporated by reference in this Agreement, either expressly or by operation of law, shall not be processed beyond Step 1 herein.
- F. The following constitutes the sole and exclusive method for resolving grievances between the parties covered by this Agreement and shall be followed in its entirety unless any step is waived by mutual consent:

Step 1: If no solution can be reached in Sections B or C, the steward or the Union shall institute action under the provisions hereof within ten (10) working days after the event giving rise to the grievance has occurred or knowledge thereof and an earnest effort shall be made to settle the difference between aggrieved employee and the head of their department for the purpose of resolving the matter informally. Failure to act within said ten (10) working days shall be deemed to constitute an abandonment of the grievance.

Step 2: If no agreement can be reached orally within ten (10) working days of the initial discussion with the head of their department, the steward of the Union may present the grievance in writing within five (5) working days to the City Manager. The within grievance at this step shall contain the relevant facts and a summary of the preceding oral discussion, the applicable section of this contract violated, and the remedy requested by the grievant. The City Manager will have a hearing on the within grievance and will answer the grievance in

writing within ten (10) working days after the hearing has been closed.

Step 3: If the grievance is not settled through Steps 1 and 2, the Union may, at its discretion, submit the grievance to arbitration pursuant to the rules and regulations of the New Jersey Public Employment Relations Commission within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of the written decision of the City Manager. The cost for the services of the arbitrator shall be borne equally between the City and the Union. Any other expenses, including, but not limited to the presentation of witnesses, shall be paid by the parties incurring the same.

- G. The parties direct the arbitrator to decide as a preliminary question whether they had jurisdiction to hear and decide the matter in dispute.
- H. The arbitrator shall be bound by the provisions of this Agreement and the Constitution and Laws of the State of New Jersey and be restricted to the application of the facts presented to them involved in the grievance, The arbitrator shall not have the authority to add to, modify, detract from, or alter in any way the provisions of this Agreement or any amendment or supplement thereto. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding.
- I. Upon prior notice to and authorization of the City Manager or their designated representative, in his absence, the designated Union representatives shall be permitted as members of the grievance committee to confer with employees and the City on specific grievances in accordance with the grievance procedure set forth herein during work hours of employees, without loss of pay, provided the conduct of said business does not diminish effectiveness of the City of Brigantine or require the recall of off-duty employees.
- J. The time limits expressed herein shall be strictly adhered to. If any grievance has not been initiated within the time limits specified, then the grievance shall be deemed to have been abandoned. If any grievance is not processed to the next succeeding step in the grievance procedure within the time limits prescribed thereunder, then the disposition of the grievance at the last preceding step shall be deemed to be conclusive. Nothing herein shall prevent the parties from mutual agreeing to extend or contract the time limits for processing the grievance at any step in the grievance procedure.

**ARTICLE VII**  
**DUES DEDUCTION**

- A. The City agrees to deduct from the salaries of its employees, subject to this Agreement, dues for the Union. Such deductions shall be made in compliance with Chapter 123, Public Laws of 1974, N.J.S.A. (R.S.) 52:14-15.9e, as amended.
1. A check off shall commence for each employee who signs a properly dated authorization card supplied by the Union and verified by the City Treasurer during the month following the filing of such card with the City.
  2. If during the life of this Agreement there shall be any change in the rate of membership dues, the Union shall furnish the City written notice thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of such change and shall furnish to the City either new authorization from its members showing the authorized deduction for each employee or an official notification on the letterhead of the Union and signed by the President of the Union advising of such changed deduction.
  3. The Union will provide the necessary "check-off authorization" form and the Union will secure the signatures of its members on the forms and deliver the signed folios to the City Clerk.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATION**

- A. The Union must notify the City as to the names of stewards and an accredited representative. No more than one (1) steward and alternate are to be designated for each facility.
- B. Agents of the Union who are not employees of the employer or who are employees of the employer, shall be permitted to visit job sites and work locations after first notifying the employer in their offices for the purpose of discussing Union matters as long as such visitations do not interfere with the general operations of the employer. The Union shall furnish the names of all such agents to the employer upon the specific written request of the employer.
- C. The steward and accredited employee representatives shall be permitted to visit with employees during working hours at their workstations for the purposes of discussing union representation matters by obtaining permission from the Department Head; provided the Union provides the City with at least two (2) hours advance notice (or such shorter time as the City may approve in a specific case) of its intent to meet with employees.
- D. Members of the negotiating committee shall be permitted to attend negotiating sessions without loss of pay.
- E. Employees have the right to be represented by their designated Union representatives. The employee shall notify their supervisor or employer if he or she wants Union representation at any meeting that may result in disciplinary action.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**PERSONNEL FILES**

- A. The City shall establish personnel files or confidential records which shall be maintained by the City Personnel Officer under the direction of the City Manager.
- B. Upon prior notice to and authorization of the City Manager or his designated representative, all employees shall have access to their individual personnel file, provided a representative of management is present while the employee reviews the file. Any such request shall not be unreasonably denied.
- C. The City shall not insert any adverse material into any file of the employee unless the employee has had an opportunity to review, sign and receive a copy of and comment in writing upon the adverse material unless the employee waives this right.
- D. The Union, Business Agent or their representative shall have the right to examine time sheets and other relevant records pertaining to the computation of compensation or fringe benefits of any individual whose pay is in dispute upon reasonable notice, provided such records are not confidential; if so, the Union must obtain the employee's approval to do so.

**ARTICLE X**  
**DISCHARGE AND SUSPENSION**

- A. No permanent employee who has completed the ninety (90) day probationary period and has received a written statement of permanent appointment by their department head and City Manager. shall be discharged, suspended, or otherwise disciplined without just cause. With respect to suspension and discharge, the City will notify the steward within two (2) working days of the discharge or suspension and shall have a meeting within five (5) days thereafter at the Union's request. Failure to provide notice on time shall not invalidate the discipline.
- B. A grievance by an employee claiming that they have been unjustly discharged or suspended must be submitted to the City in writing within ten (10) working days of the disciplinary action; otherwise, the same will be considered to have been made for just cause.
- C. Disciplinary warnings, if in writing, will be issued to the employee and a copy given to the steward and mailed to the Union. All warnings shall include the reason for the warning. No grievance disputing the warning will be considered unless it is submitted in writing within ten days of its issuance.
- D. The Union may grieve and obtain binding arbitration under the provisions of this Agreement as to whether an employee has been discharged, suspended, or otherwise disciplined for just cause.

**ARTICLE XI**  
**WORKWEEK**

- A. The basic work week shall consist of forty (40) hours per week. The basic workday shall consist of eight (8) hours per day excluding a one half (1/2) hour lunch period. The normal starting time shall be 7:00 a.m. and the quitting time 3:30 p.m.
- B. The parties agree that they shall discuss changes in the basic work week or workday and the City will give two weeks' notice to the employees and the Union prior to the implementation of any changes.
- C. In the event that the City chooses to have any employees covered by this agreement work a basic work week that includes Saturdays and/or Sundays, the City will assign qualified personnel on the basis of seniority, giving senior qualified employees first option to take or refuse the weekend assignment. In the event that no qualified employee volunteers for a weekend assignment, then the City will assign the least senior qualified employee.
- D. During the summer season, the City may utilize seasonal employees to work on weekends to perform tasks that do not require a commercial driver's license. Seasonal workers shall not work in excess of forty (40) hours per week unless all regular employees have refused an overtime assignment.
- E. Employees covered by this Agreement shall be entitled to one (1) fifteen (15) minute break in the morning and one (1) fifteen (15) minute break in the afternoon. Such breaks shall be non-cumulative.



## ARTICLE XII

### OVERTIME

- A. All holidays when worked shall be paid at the overtime rate in addition to the employee's regular day's pay.
- B. All time worked in excess of eight (8) hours per day or forty (40) hours per week shall be considered overtime.
- C. If an employee is recalled to duty, he shall receive a minimum guarantee of two (2) hours compensation at the overtime rate provided said recall duty is not contiguous with the employee's normal shift. The City shall have the right to retain the employee on duty for the minimum time period. If the City does not retain the employee on duty, all callouts within the same two (2) hour period shall count as one. Callouts that occur after the first two hours have elapsed shall be counted separately.
- D. At the option of the employee, an employee may elect to receive compensatory time off in lieu of overtime and in proportion to the hourly rate for the overtime hours substituted. (Example - an employee eligible to receive double time under Section E, who elects compensatory time off in lieu of overtime pay, shall receive two (2) hours of compensatory time for each hour worked.). Use of compensatory time shall be approved by the Department Head. All employees comp time bank is capped at 480 hours. Accumulated compensatory time may be carried over from calendar year to calendar year. Compensatory time off will be paid at the straight time rate.
- E. All overtime shall be compensated at one and one-half (1 ½) times the employee's regular established hourly rate except for the Sunday work which shall be compensated at twice the employee's established hourly rate except when said Sunday work is part of the employee's regular work week. Payment for all overtime shall be made in the employee's regular bi-weekly paycheck.
- F. All time worked on the sixth scheduled day will be paid at 1 ½ times regular hourly rate. Time worked on the seventh scheduled day will be paid at two (2) times the regular hourly rate.
- G. Any employee placed on "standby" for a storm/snow emergency shall receive the same compensation as in section K of this article. If any employee that has been placed on standby fails to report to work from standby when called, that employee shall lose all entitled compensation from the start of the standby shift and may face disciplinary action for failing to report to work.
- H. Overtime shall be distributed as equitably as possible so long as the employee is available

and has the ability to perform the overtime work.

- I. The opportunity for scheduled overtime shall be given on a rotating basis. An overtime "wheel" shall be developed by the Superintendent in consultation with the steward who shall be notified as promptly as reasonably possible whenever overtime is turned down by an employee.
- J. In the event subcontractors are utilized for snow plowing, overtime shall be offered to all employees (excluding custodians) subject to the availability of equipment. Where a snow event requires that plowing be commenced after 6 p.m. or before 6 a.m., the City shall assign two men per truck. Clean up operations after snow events, including salting and sanding, shall not require two men per truck, regardless of when commenced.
- K. City agrees to pay any employee who is required to carry a phone three (3) hours pay for each day that he is required to carry such phone. The employee must call within five (5) minutes and respond on site within twenty (20) minutes.
- L. When the City requires an employee to work overtime at the end of the employee's regularly scheduled day shift, the employee will be notified by 1:00 p.m. of that day, except when the need for overtime is caused by unforeseen circumstances, and then notice shall be made as soon as practicable.

**ARTICLE XIII**  
**SALARIES**

A. The annual base salaries for all employees covered by this agreement shall be as set forth in the salary guide below.

<b>LABORER(L)/CUSTODIAN(C)/OPERATOR(O)/DRIVER(D)</b>			
<b>SALARY SCHEDULE</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>
(L/C) STEP 1	\$37,000	\$38,295	\$39,444
(L/C) STEP 2	\$39,476	\$40,882	\$42,339
(L/C) STEP 3	\$41,952	\$43,469	\$45,234
(L/C) STEP 4	\$44,428	\$46,056	\$48,129
(L) STEP 5	\$46,904	\$48,643	\$51,024
(L) STEP 6	\$49,380	\$51,230	\$53,919
(O/D) STEP 7	\$51,856	\$53,817	\$56,814
(O/D) STEP 8	\$54,332	\$56,404	\$59,709
(O/D) STEP 9	\$56,808	\$58,991	\$62,604
(O/D) STEP 10	\$59,284	\$61,578	\$65,499
(O/D) STEP 11	\$61,760	\$64,165	\$68,394
(O/D) STEP 12	\$64,236	\$66,752	\$71,289
(O/D) STEP 13	\$66,712	\$69,339	\$74,184
(O/D) STEP 14	\$69,188	\$71,926	\$77,079
(O/D) STEP 15	\$71,664	\$74,513	\$79,974
(O/D) STEP 16	\$74,140	\$77,100	\$82,871
(O/D) STEP 17	\$76,619	\$79,684	

1. Employees hired by the City as Laborers will be hired at Step 1 of the guide and will advance to a maximum of Step 6 on the guide, to include any current Laborers.
  - a) Laborers, who obtain a Commercial Driver’s License (CDL), will advance to Step 7 at the beginning of the next pay period upon the completion of obtaining the CDL and providing the Superintendent with the proper license and documentation.
2. Employees hired by the City as Custodians will be hired at Step 1 of the guide and will advance to a maximum of Step 4 on the guide, to include any current Custodian(s).
3. Employees hired by the City who have obtained a CDL prior to employment, will be hired at Step 7 of the guide upon providing the proper license and documentation.

4. All employees will advance in Step on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
  5. All employees hired prior to December 31, 2023 will be slotted in to the new salary guide for 2024 as follows. Employees that are in Step 17 in 2025 will move to Step 16 in 2026.
    - a) Step 17- Blair, DiMatteo, Flickenger, Ford, Gargel, Joyce, Marrandino, Mingoia, Trockenbrod, Walsh, Welch, Williams
    - b) Step 16- Buchbinder
    - c) Step 13- O'Brien, Sooy, Storino
    - d) Step 8- Lakes, Ludy, Riley
    - e) Step 7- Valentin
    - f) Step 4- Islam, Solari
    - g) Step 2- Howe, Kabala, Myers, Rogers
    - h) Step 1- O'Neill, Porpora
  6. Any employee who is hired prior to November 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year shall move on the guide on the next January 1<sup>st</sup>.
    - a) For example: An employee hired on October 15, 2024 will move to Step 2 of the guide on January 1, 2025.
  7. Those employees hired after November 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year will move to the next step on the guide the following January 1<sup>st</sup>.
    - a) For example: An employee hired on November 15, 2024 will move to Step 2 of the guide on January 1, 2026.
- B. Any employee promoted to Foreman shall receive premiums above the top step in the amount of five thousand (\$5,000) dollars, which will be added to their base salary to make up their annual salary.
- C. Any employee promoted to Senior Foreman shall receive premiums above the top step in the amount of ten thousand (\$10,000) dollars, which will be added to their base salary to make up their annual salary.
1. There will be two total Senior Foreman positions, one in the Water & Sewer and one in Public Buildings & Grounds. To be considered for a Senior Foreman position, you must have served as a Foreman for at least 1 year.

- D. Any employee assigned as Mechanics shall receive a premium of \$2,500 above their current step in the pay scale, which will be added to their base salary to make up their annual salary. Any previous agreements pertaining to mechanics premiums, are null and void.
- E. All employees' base salaries are as listed in section A above. An employee's annual salary equals an employee's base salary plus longevity (for those employees entitled to longevity) plus special license premium. An employee's hourly rate is computed by dividing the employee's annual salary by 2,080. An employee's daily rate of pay shall be computed by dividing his/her bi-weekly salary by 10.
- F. Employees who obtain special licenses (Pesticide Applicator, Sewer, Water or ASE Master Automobile Technician) shall receive a premium (not included in the employee's hourly rates for overtime purposes) of Eight Hundred Dollars (\$800) per calendar year provided their certification/license is in good standing on the dates specified hereafter. One properly certified "Right to Know Officer" selected by and at the discretion of the City to perform in this role shall receive a stipend of \$800. The premiums specified in this paragraph shall be added to the employee's base salary. If the employee fails to maintain the special licenses and/or is no longer designated the "Right to Know" officer, the amount set forth in this paragraph shall be deducted from the employee's base salary.
- G. The city will send laborers to complete the Commercial Driver's License Class B training under the following circumstances:
1. The city will send up to two (2) laborers annually to the training course. Additional laborer's may be sent to training with the approval of the City Manager.
    - a) The laborers will be sent to training by the city during their employment while they are in Steps 4 through 6 in the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.
    - b) The Superintendent, along with the Supervisor from the laborer's department, will make recommendations to the City Manager, with the City Manager having final decision on which laborer will attend training.
    - c) Under certain circumstances, the Superintendent may request to send an employee to CDL training prior to Step 4 with the approval of the City Manager.
  2. The city will cover the cost of the course tuition being offered at the Cumberland County Technical Education Center.
    - a) The laborer is responsible for the cost of anything required to obtain the CDL-B over and above the course tuition, to include additional road test fees, permit fees, doctor physical fees, licensing fees, or any other fees not

mentioned in this section that is in addition to the course tuition.

3. The Public Works Department will provide a non CDL Class B vehicle for the laborer to use for travel to and from the education center.
4. The city will provide release time to the laborer to attend CDL Class B training during working hours.
5. The employee agrees that upon completion of their CDL Class B training, which is funded by the city, they will remain employed by the City of Brigantine for a period of 3 years or they will be required to refund the entire cost of the training course tuition back to the city, unless removed from the position by the City.

## **ARTICLE XIV**

### **LONGEVITY**

- A. Employees whom were eligible for longevity on January 1, 2014 had their longevity amount added to their base salary to be included in their annual salary. Effective January 1, 2014, longevity shall be eliminated and shall cease to exist.

## **ARTICLE XV**

### **HOLIDAYS/PERSONAL DAYS**

A. The City shall recognize 15 public holidays with pay which will be released by the City Manager prior to January 1 of each calendar year. Included in the 15 public holidays will be traditional bank closure holidays.

#### **B. PERSONAL DAYS**

1. Three (3) personal days shall be granted to employees to attend to personal business that cannot be scheduled outside of the normal work week schedule. Personal days will be pro-rated for the first year of employment and at retirement/resignation. Personal days are non-cumulative from year to year. Unused Personal days will not be paid out at retirement/resignation.



**ARTICLE XVI**  
**VACATIONS**

- A. All employees hired prior to January 1, 2014 shall receive vacation leave as follows.
- B. During their second calendar year of employment and thereafter, all employees shall accrue vacation leave on a pro-rata monthly basis based upon the number of vacation days specified below. The accrued time will be available to be taken as vacation time during the following calendar year of employment.

<u>Years of Service Completed in Calendar Year</u>	<u>Vacation Days</u>
11 to 15 Years	23 Working Days
16 Years	26 Working Days
21-25 Years	27 Working Days
26-30 Years	28 Working Days
31 Years and Above	30 Working Days

- C. All employees, hired on or after September 1, 2014, shall receive vacation leave as follows, which shall be pro-rated for their first year of employment.

Years 1 through 7	10 Working Days
Years 8 through 14	15 Working Days
Years 15 through 20	18 Working Days
Year 21 and above	23 Working Days

- 1. Effective January 1, 2024 all vacation leave will be earned for the current year and will no longer be earned and taken the following year.
- 2. All employees hired after September 1, 2014 will have their vacation leave that they earned in 2023 that would have been used in 2024, added to their 2024 vacation leave balance on January 1, 2024. This is a one-time occurrence.

- D. It is the intent of this Article to assure personnel covered by this Agreement that they shall receive the maximum of actual vacation days to which they are entitled. Days that they are normally scheduled off or that are holidays that fall during the vacation period of at least five (5) days shall not be computed as part of the vacation days.
- E. The vacation period shall be from January 1 to December 31.
- F. Employees who terminate their employment with the City shall only be entitled to pay for those vacation days actually earned up to their terminating date and proportionate thereto.
  - 1. Employees who return to employment within one (1) year, may be placed on their previous vacation schedule with approval of the City Manager.
- G. Employees who are called back to work or volunteer to work and are called back while on vacation leave shall be compensated at twice the employee's normal rate of pay. Normally scheduled days off at the beginning, middle, or end of a vacation period are not considered vacation leave and are not eligible for compensation according to this section during a call back. The Superintendent or his designee shall approve vacation time on a departmental basis and shall coordinate vacation approvals with the Steward. Vacation may be taken in half day increments, with prior approval of the Superintendent.
- H. Employees in a particular department who submit vacation request by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the preceding year shall be granted vacation based on their employment seniority subject to the City's ability to spare employees during the requested period. Employees who submit vacation requests after January 1 shall be granted vacation on a first come, first served basis to the extent that the City can spare employees during the requested period. Employees may change their approved vacation periods, provided that they submit such request for a change at least ten (10) days prior to the date that the vacation was to commence and receive written approval from the Superintendent.
- I. Employee's may carryover up to a maximum of ten (10) days of unused vacation into the next calendar year only, unless additional vacation time was denied by the employer due to work load. Carryover in excess of ten (10) days, due to the above, must be approved in writing by the Department Head and the City Manager. The City and the Union will communicate with the other to determine the number of employees that could be off on vacation at any one time.

## ARTICLE XVII

### SICK LEAVE

- A. Sick leave is hereby defined to mean absence from post or duty by an employee by reason of personal illness or accident. Sick leave may also be used for short periods because of the attendance of the employee upon a member of their immediate family who is seriously ill.
- B. The term "immediate family" is hereby defined to include the following: spouse, Life Partner, child, grandparent, parent, brother, sister or spouse's parent.
- C. An employee who is absent for reasons that entitle him to sick leave shall notify his supervisor promptly but no later than thirty (30) minutes before the employee's usual reporting time. Failure to give such notice may be cause for the denial of the use of sick leave for that absence and may constitute cause for disciplinary action. Absence for five (5) consecutive days without notice shall constitute a resignation on the employee's behalf.
- D. All regular full-time employees shall accrue sick leave at the rate of one (1) day per month during the first calendar year of employment and one and one quarter (1¼) working days per month in every calendar year of employment thereafter and shall accumulate from year to year.
- E. A certificate of a reputable physician in attendance or nurse practitioner or physician's assistant or chiropractor shall be required as proof of need of the employee's leave:
  - 1. after three (3) consecutive workdays absence whether due to the employee's sickness or while in attendance of a member of the employee's family; or
  - 2. for each subsequent sick day absence after an employee has used ten (10) sick day incidents in one calendar year. Any employee who reaches 10 sick days in one calendar year will be subject to provide said example of excuse provided above for 6 months after they were put on mandatory DRS. Notes. All incidents will be cleared after the 6 months is up.
  - 3. Partial sick time used will become a (incident) once the employee reaches 4 hours of partial sick time used.
  - 4. The Superintendent of Public Works may at any time require proof of illness of an employee on sick leave whenever such a requirement appears reasonable to the Superintendent of Public Works.

- F. In cases of leave of absence ordered by the "City Health Department" a certificate from the Department of health shall be required before the employee may return to work and time lost will not apply to sick leave time or any loss of pay.
- G. Employees shall be subject to random verification checks during Sick Leave.
- H. Any employee using sick time on more than one occasion during a calendar year before or after a holiday or vacation day or compensatory day must provide a doctor's note to receive the holiday pay or vacation pay for each occasion after the first.

## **ARTICLE XVIII**

### **TERMINAL LEAVE**

#### A. Terminal Leave

1. All current bargaining unit members (hired on or before December 31, 2013), effective January 1, 2014 who retire under the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) shall be paid for their unused accumulated sick leave based on the number of sick leave hours they have accumulated and are unused on their date of retirement as follows:
  - a) A bargaining unit member with more than One Thousand (1,000) hours shall be paid on the basis of four (4) hours pay for every eight (8) hours of accumulated sick leave not to exceed Twenty-Five Thousand (\$25,000.00) Dollars (for employees hired prior to May 22, 2010) or Fifteen Thousand (\$15,000.00) Dollars (for employees hired on or after May 22, 2010), computed upon the employee's base hourly rate of pay at time of retirement as noted in paragraph B below.
  - b) A bargaining unit member between Seven Hundred Fifty (750) hours and One Thousand (\$1,000) Dollars shall be paid on the basis of four (4) hours pay for every eight (8) hours of accumulated sick leave not to exceed Twenty Thousand (\$20,000.00) Dollars (for employees hired prior to May 22, 2010) or Fifteen Thousand (\$15,000.00) Dollars (for employees hired on or after May 22, 2010), computed upon the employee's base hourly rate of pay at time of retirement as noted in paragraph B below.
  - c) A bargaining unit member with less than Seven Hundred Fifty (750) hours shall be paid on the basis of four (4) hours pay for every eight (8) hours of accumulated sick leave not to exceed Fifteen Thousand (\$15,000.00) Dollars computed upon the employee's base hourly rate of pay at time of Retirement as noted in paragraph B below.
2. Any bargaining unit member hired on or after January 1, 2014 who retires under the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) shall be paid for their unused accumulated sick leave based on the number of sick leave hours they have accumulated and are unused on their date of retirement as follows:
  - a) Two hours (2) pay for every eight (8) hours of accumulated sick leave not to exceed Fifteen Thousand (\$15,000) Dollars computed upon the

employee's base hourly rate of pay at time of retirement, as noted in paragraph B below.

- B. In order for an employee to be eligible for the benefits enumerated in Section A of this Article, the employee must have completed his full twenty (20) years of employment and be eligible for full retirement under the P.E.R.S. At the City's option, an employee may also become eligible for terminal leave benefits enumerated in Section A of this Article if the employee is eligible for disability retirement under the P.E.R.S.
- C. An employee terminating his employment for any reason other than retirement under the P.E.R.S. shall not be reimbursed for any unused accrued sick leave.
- D. Terminal leave shall be paid in one (1) lump sum at the time of retirement.
- E. Employee's terminating employment shall notify the City of their retirement by October 1 of the year before they retire. Employees who fail to notify the City or fail to provide an actual retirement date, may have to wait for an approved budget to receive their payment under this article.

## **ARTICLE XIX**

### **INJURY LEAVE**

- A. In the event an employee becomes disabled by reason of a service-connected injury or illness and is unable to perform his duties, then, in addition to any sick leave benefits otherwise provided for herein, he may be entitled to full pay for a period of up to one (1) year. In the event any employee is granted said injury leave, the City's sole obligation shall be to pay the employee the difference between regular pay and any compensation, disability or other payments received from other sources provided by the City.
- B. Any employee who is injured, whether slight or severe while working, must immediately, or as soon as practically possible, report said injury to the Superintendent of Public Works.
- C. It is understood that the employee must file an injury report with the Superintendent of Public Works so that the City may file the appropriate Worker's Compensation Claim. Failure to report said injury may result in the failure of the employee to receive compensation under this Article.
- D. The employee shall be required to present evidence by a certificate of a physician designated by the insurance carrier that he is unable to work and the City may reasonably require the employee to present such certificate from time to time.
- E. If the City does not accept the certificate of the physician designated by the insurance carrier, the City shall have the right, at its own cost, to require the employee to obtain a physical examination and certification of fitness by a physician appointed by the City.
- F. In the event the City appointed physician certifies the employee fit to return to duty, injury leave benefits granted under this Article shall be terminated, unless the employee disputes the determination of the City appointed physician. Then the City and the employee shall mutually agree upon a third physician who shall then examine the employee. The cost of the third physician shall be borne equally by the City and the employee. The determination of the third physician as to the employee's fitness to return to duty shall be final and binding upon the parties. In the event the third physician also certifies the employee fit to return to duty, injury leave benefits granted under this Article shall be terminated.
- G. The City, at its option, and upon certification by the City appointed physician may extend the injury leave for no more than one (1) additional year. The City appointed physician must certify that the employee is incapable of performing his duties for the additional time period. The City will not exercise the option provided in this Section in a discriminatory fashion.

H. If the City can prove that an employee has abused his privileges under this Article, the employee will be subject to disciplinary action by the City. If the employee is found to be in violation of this Article, he shall be subject to disciplinary action by the City to the extent which is provided within this Agreement and any Ordinance in effect governing the City of Brigantine.



## **ARTICLE XX**

### **DEATH IN FAMILY LEAVE**

- A. In the event of death in the employee's immediate family, the employee shall be granted time off without loss of pay not to exceed Five (5) working days. Five (5) additional days will be granted for the loss of spouse, life partner, child, step-child, or adopted child.
- B. The term "immediate family" shall include grandparent, grandchild, parent, brother, sister, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, or spouse's parent, or any other relative living in the employee's household.
- C. The employee shall be granted time off for the day of the Funeral of a spouse's grandparent.
- D. Sick time may be utilized beyond the maximum listed in this section, with Superintendent approval.

## **ARTICLE XXI**

### **MILITARY LEAVE**

- A. Military leave will be provided consistent with the then current State and Federal law. No employee shall be prohibited from entering in to service within the United States Armed Forces.

## **ARTICLE XXII**

### **UNIFORMS**

- A. Employees shall receive an annual allowance of One Thousand Dollars (\$1000.00) for the purchase of uniforms to be paid in the first pay of April, which will be pro-rated for new hires during their first calendar year of employment.
- B. Employees must be always dressed in uniform and must maintain their uniform in a presentable fashion, or face possible disciplinary actions.
- C. The City agrees to replace worn out or damaged foul weather uniforms on an "as needed" basis.

## **ARTICLE XXIII**

### **HOSPITALIZATION INSURANCE**

- A. All employees and their eligible dependents shall be afforded comprehensive medical/hospital and prescription under the City's current plan that is substantially equivalent to the State Health Benefits Direct 10 plan. The parties agree that the City may, at any time during the term of this Agreement, change its health insurance plan to a comprehensive medical/hospital and prescription plan that is substantially equivalent to the State Health Benefit Plan Direct 15 plan. The city may offer a subsequently lower premium plan that the employee may voluntarily choose.
- B. Employees may opt-out in accordance with Chapter 2, P.L. 2010 or until State/federal law changes. Employee contribution to health benefits shall be governed by Ch. 78 P.L. 2011 (including applicable retirees) and will stay in force until State/federal laws change. At that point, the City will discuss the State and/or Federal regulations with the Teamsters Local Union No. 331 prior to changing City policy. Any dispute regarding whether benefits are substantially equivalent to State Health Benefit Plan Direct 15 plan shall be resolved pursuant to the remedies available under the New Jersey Public Employer-Employee Relations Act.
- C. The City agrees to pay the premium for life insurance (\$10,000 coverage for each employee, \$1,000 coverage for spouse and \$500 for children) for all bargaining unit Employees'. The City agrees to continue covering all bargaining unit employees within the present prescription plan coverage.
- D. The City agrees to pay the premium for inclusion of all bargaining unit employees in the Teamsters Union Local 331 Legal Fund.
- E. Bargaining unit employees retiring from employment with the City shall have the option of continuing medical insurance coverage through the City. Retiring bargaining unit employees shall pay the full premium to the City in which case the City shall then pay the insurance premium. Any other benefits extended to retiring bargaining unit employees by the Union is solely through an agreement between the Union and its members and is in no way the responsibility and/or liability of the City.
- F. New hire bargaining unit employees shall become eligible for the above insurance coverages after a 60-day waiting period.
- G. The City agrees to make a payroll deduction for any employee who authorizes deductions

for disability insurance.

- H. The City shall have the right to change insurance carriers or institute a self-insurance plan so long as benefits remain at least substantially equivalent to the current level of benefits. Any dispute regarding whether benefits are substantially equivalent to the current level of benefits shall be resolved pursuant to the remedies available under the New Jersey Public Employee Employers Relations Act.

## **ARTICLE XXIV**

### **SENIORITY**

- A. All employees of the City shall be credited with seniority from the first day of employment within the bargaining unit without a break in service which shall be called employment seniority.
- B. All employees shall serve an initial ninety (90) day probationary period. During this probationary period, employees will accrue benefits such as vacation leave, sick leave and personal leave but shall not be entitled to take said time off until the end of the probationary period or any other time period described in this Agreement and will become a permanent employee after receiving a written letter from the Department Head and City Manager.
- C. In cases of layoff, the City will make layoffs by seniority, unit wide, with the least senior employee to be laid off first, except that if an employee to be laid off performs duties that the next senior employee cannot perform then the more senior employee can be laid off first. Employees will have re-employment rights for a period of 12 months after being laid off and will be called back in reverse order of lay off.
- D. In the event that an employee has a break in service (i.e. moves into a management position or leaves the bargaining unit) that employee would have Ninety (90) days to return back to employment within the bargaining unit before he or she would lose their seniority.

## **ARTICLE XXV**

### **PROMOTIONS AND TRANSFERS**

- A. The City shall have the right to make promotions based upon criteria established by the City Manager in consultation with the Union.
- B. No employee, excluding current Foreman, shall be eligible for promotion to the position of Foreman unless he shall have first completed seven (7) years of service, with a minimum of 3 years as a CDL holder.
- C. No employee shall be eligible to be promoted to Senior Foreman without first holding the title of Foreman for a minimum of one (1) year.
- D. Where two or more employees are deemed equally qualified as determined by management for promotion after the promotion process, the most senior qualified employee shall be promoted first.
  - 1. When promoting to the position of Foreman and Senior Foreman, the city will take in to account the experience level of the employee and their knowledge and ability to operate equipment that is normally used in the respective departments.
  - 2. Additional consideration for the position of Senior Foreman shall be placed on the employee's ability to perform administrative duties within the department.

**ARTICLE XXVI**  
**WORKING CONDITIONS**

- A. When a vehicle or any machinery is found to be unsafe, no employee who is covered by this Agreement shall be disciplined for his/her refusal to operate said unsafe equipment. Any dispute between the employee and the Supervisor as to the safety of the vehicle or machinery shall be resolved by the City Mechanic subject to the grievance procedure.
- B. When a review is conducted on an accident that involves any employee covered by this Agreement, the employee in question should be present at the Safety Committee hearing.
- C. There shall be two employees from the bargaining unit chosen by the Union on the Safety Committee.



**ARTICLE XXVII**  
**SEPARABILITY AND SAVINGS**

- A. Each and every clause of this Agreement shall be deemed separable from each and every other clause of this Agreement to the extent that in the event any clause or clauses shall finally be determined to be in violation of any law, then in such event, such clause, or clauses, only to the extent that any may be so in violation shall be deemed of no force and effect and unenforceable without impairing the validity and enforceability of the rest of the Agreement including any and all provisions on the remainder of any clause, sentence or paragraph in which offending language may appear.

## **ARTICLE XXVIII**

### **DURATION**

- A. This agreement shall be in full force and effect as the date of signing and shall remain in effect to and including December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026 without any re-opening date. This Agreement shall continue in full force and effect from year to year thereafter, until one party or the other gives notice, in writing, no sooner than one hundred fifty (150) nor no later than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the expiration of this agreement of a desire to change, modify or terminate this agreement.

**ARTICLE XXIX**  
**BARGAINING UNIT WORK**

A. No supervisor or management employee shall perform the duties done ordinarily by the employees in the bargaining unit on a regular basis.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals at the City of Brigantine, New Jersey, as of this \_\_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_

TEAMSTERS LOCAL NO 331  
EGG HARBOR CITY, NJ

CITY OF BRIGANTINE  
ATLANTIC COUNTY, NJ

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