

AGREEMENT
AMONG
OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AND
OCEAN COUNTY SHERIFF
AND
TEAMSTERS LOCAL #97 REPRESENTING
PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS

April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2024

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AGREEMENT

This Agreement, executed this 6th day of October, 2021 between the Ocean County Board of Commissioners and Ocean County Sheriff, hereinafter jointly referred to as "Employer", and Teamsters Local #97, which organization has been certified by the Public Employment Relations Commission as an appropriate bargaining unit hereinafter referred to as the "Union". When the term "Public Safety Telecommunicators" or "Employee" is used in this Agreement, each designation shall be interchangeable and have the same meaning and effect.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the Public Employment Relations Commission has certified the Teamsters Local #97 as the exclusive representative for the purpose of collective negotiations with respect to wages, hours, terms and other conditions of employment, for those Public Safety Telecommunicators in the Ocean County Sheriff's Department set forth in the certification to the Public Employment Relations Commission and employed by the County of Ocean and all rules and regulations of the New Jersey Civil Service Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, the County, the Sheriff and the Union mutually agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1 **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Agreement is to set forth herein all terms and conditions of employment to be observed between the parties hereto.

ARTICLE 2 **RECOGNITION**

- A. Unit – The County and Sheriff hereby recognize Teamsters Local #97 as the exclusive and sole representative for collective negotiations concerning grievances and terms and conditions of employment for all provisional and permanent civilian Senior Public Safety Telecommunicators, Public Safety Telecommunicators and Public Safety Telecommunicator Trainees employed in the Ocean County Sheriff's Department, but excluding all other employees.
- B. Modification – This Agreement shall not be modified in whole or in part by the parties except by an instrument in writing duly executed by both parties.

ARTICLE 3

MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

The Sheriff and Board hereby retain and reserve unto themselves, without limitations, all powers, rights, authority, duties and responsibilities conferred and vested in them prior to the signing of this Agreement by the laws and Constitutions of the State of New Jersey and of the United States; including, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the following rights:

1. All management functions and responsibilities which the Sheriff and Board have not expressly modified or restricted by a specific provision of this Agreement.
2. The right to establish and administer policies and procedures related to personnel matters, control activities, training, operational functions, performance of services and maintenance of the facilities and equipment with the Department.
3. To reprimand, suspend, discharge or otherwise discipline employees.
4. To hire, promote, transfer, assign, reassign, lay-off and recall employees to work.
5. To determine the number of employees and the duties to be performed.
6. To maintain the efficiency of employees; to establish, expand, reduce, alter, combine, consolidate or abolish any job or job classification, department or operation or service.
7. To determine staffing patterns and areas worked, to control and regulate the use of facilities supplies, equipment, materials and any other property of the Department.
8. To determine the number, location and operation of divisions, the assignment of work, the qualifications required, the performance standards and the size and composition of the work force.
9. To subcontract for any existing or future services as determined necessary by the Sheriff and Board.
10. To make or change departmental rules, regulations, policies and practices consistent with the specific terms and provisions of this Agreement.

11. And otherwise to generally manage the affairs of the Department, attain and maintain full operating efficiency and productivity and to direct the work force.
12. The exercise of the foregoing powers, rights, authority, duties and responsibilities of the Sheriff and Board shall only be limited by the language of this clause.

In recognition of the rulings of the Courts of New Jersey the parties recognize that the exercise of managerial rights is a responsibility of the Sheriff and Board on behalf of the taxpayers and that the Sheriff and Board cannot bargain away or eliminate any of its managerial rights. Therefore, no grievance may be filed under this Agreement which in any way interferes with, undermines or restricts the exercise of any managerial right by the Sheriff and Board or any of its authorized managerial executives or supervisory personnel.

ARTICLE 4 **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

Definitions

A "grievance" is a claim by an officer or the Union, based upon interpretation, application or violation of this Agreement, affecting an employee or group of employees.

An "aggrieved person" is the person or persons or the Union making the claim.

1. The grievant or the Union must file a grievance within fifteen (15) days of its occurrence.
2. Grievances may be initiated at the step of the procedure at which relief can be granted.

Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to secure, at the lowest possible level, equitable solutions to the problems which may from time to time arise affecting employees. Both parties agree that these proceedings will be kept as informal and confidential as may be appropriate at any level of the procedure.

Procedure

1. Time Limits – The number of days indicated at each level should be considered as a maximum and every effort should be made to expedite

the process. The time limits specified may, however, be extended by mutual agreement.

2. Level One – Division Commander (Captain) – An employee with a grievance shall first discuss it with his/her Division Commander, either directly or through the Union's designated representative, with the objective of resolving the matter informally.
3. Level Two – County Sheriff – If the aggrieved person is not satisfied with the disposition of his/her grievance at Level One, or if no decision has been rendered within ten (10) working days after the presentation of the grievance, he/she may file the grievance in writing with the Union within ten (10) working days after the decision at Level One or ten (10) working days after the grievance was presented, whichever is sooner. Within ten (10) working days after receiving the written grievance, the Union shall refer it to the Sheriff.
4. Level Three – County Administrator – If the aggrieved party is not satisfied with the disposition of his/her grievance at Level Two, or if no decision has been rendered within ten (10) working days after the grievance was delivered to the Sheriff, whichever is sooner, he/she may request in writing that the Union submit his/her grievance to the County Administrator disposition.
5. Level Four – Arbitration – Within ten (10) days, if the aggrieved party is not satisfied with the disposition of his/her grievance at Level Three, he/she may request in writing that the Union submit his/her grievance to Arbitration. If the Union determines that the grievance is meritorious, it may submit the grievance to arbitration within twenty (20) days after receipt of a request by the aggrieved person.

Within ten (10) days after such written notice of submission to arbitration, the County and the Union shall attempt to agree upon a mutually acceptable arbitrator and shall obtain a commitment from said arbitrator to serve. If the parties are unable to agree upon an arbitrator or to obtain such a commitment within the specified period, a request for a list of arbitrators may be made to PERC by either party. The parties shall then be bound by the rules and procedures of PERC.

The arbitrator's decision which shall be in writing and shall be submitted to the County and the Union shall be final and binding on the parties.

In the event that arbitrability of a grievance is at issue between the parties, jurisdiction to resolve the issue shall rest solely with the arbitrator selected in accordance with the provision of this Article.

The costs for the services of the arbitrator, including per diem expenses, if any, and actual and necessary travel, subsistence expenses and the cost of the hearing room shall be borne equally by the County and the Union. Any other expenses incurred shall be paid by the party incurring same.

An arbitrator shall be empowered to hear only one grievance for each appointment he/she receives; provided, however, that in the event there is more than one grievance presented and the grievances arise out of the same set of facts or involve the same materially and substantially identical issues, a single arbitrator shall be empowered to adjudicate all such grievances. It is expressly understood and agreed that the grievance procedure shall be the sole and exclusive remedy for all grievances which are arbitrable under this Agreement.

Rights of Employees to Representation

1. Employees and Union – Any aggrieved person may be represented at all stages of the grievance procedure by himself/herself, or, at his/her option, by representative(s) selected or approved by the Union. When an employee is not represented by the Union, the Union shall have the right to be present and to state its views at all stages of the grievance procedure.
2. No Reprisals – No reprisals of any kind shall be taken by the County or by any member of the administration against any party in interest, any representative, any member of the Union or any other participant in the grievance procedure by reason of such participation.

Miscellaneous

1. Written Decisions - Decisions rendered at Level One which are unsatisfactory to the aggrieved person and all decisions rendered at Levels Two and Three of the grievance procedure shall be in writing setting forth the decision and the reasons therefore and shall be transmitted promptly to all parties in interest and to the Union. Decisions rendered at Level Three shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Section.
2. Separate Grievance File – All documents, communications and records dealing with the processing of a grievance shall be filed in a separate grievance file and shall not be kept in the personnel file of any of the participants.
3. Forms – Forms for filing grievances, serving notices, taking appeals, making reports and recommendations and other necessary documents shall be prepared by the Union and given appropriate distribution so as to facilitate operation of the grievance procedure.

4. Meetings and Hearings – All meetings and hearings under this procedure shall not be conducted in public and shall include only such parties in interest and their designate or selected representatives, heretofore referred to in this Article. The Union will be informed within 48 hours by mail or "FAX", whichever is more feasible, when major discipline of any nature is to be imposed.

ARTICLE 5

NO STRIKE CLAUSE

During the period of time of this Agreement and notwithstanding any change in existing law, the Union and its employees shall not have the right to engage in any slowdown, work stoppage, strike or similar type of concerted action activities. The sole method for resolving any disagreement concerning this Agreement or any other elements of employment relationship shall be covered by the procedure contained in this Agreement or legal remedies available to the parties that do not constitute strikes or work stoppages.

The Union agrees that if any type of concerted activity occurs as noted above, the Union will immediately take all necessary steps to terminate such activities and will condemn such activities.

ARTICLE 6

NON-DISCRIMINATION

The parties agree that they will comply with all State and Federal statutes regarding discrimination.

ARTICLE 7

HOLIDAYS

Each full-time employee covered by this Agreement shall enjoy the following holidays with pay, to be observed on the dates annually specified by the Board of Commissioners:

Martin Luther King Day
Presidents' Day
Good Friday
Memorial Day
Labor Day

Columbus Day
Veteran's Day
General Election Day
Thanksgiving Day

In addition, each full-time employee covered by this Agreement shall enjoy as holidays January 1st, July 4th and December 25th of each year. If the Board of Commissioners designates a different date for the County celebration of these three holidays, said designation shall not apply to members of this bargaining unit.

All unit employees required to perform duties on any of the holidays enumerated above, plus Easter Sunday, shall be compensated at a rate equal to two and one-half times (2-1/2X) the rate of pay which would apply on a normal work day for all hours worked on the holiday; e.g., an individual working sixteen (16) hours on one of the designated holidays shall receive a total of forty (40) hours pay of straight time for that holiday. For example, an employee with an hourly rate (straight time) of \$10.00 shall receive \$400.00 pay for working 16 hours on that holiday.

ARTICLE 8

SICK LEAVE

- A. Sick Leave shall accumulate at the rate of one and one-quarter (1-1/4) days per month credited in hours in the first year of service, commencing on the first month or major portion thereof from the date of hire. It is assumed that an employee shall remain in the service of the County for the remainder of the calendar year, and the total number of sick days, pro-rated, shall be credited to the employee in hours. If separation occurs, before the end of the year, and more Sick Leave has been taken than appropriated, on a pro-rated basis, the per diem rate of pay for the excess days shall be deducted from the final pay. Sick Leave shall accumulate from year to year with an additional fifteen (15) days credited in hours to the employee at the beginning of each successive calendar year. Days lost due to injury or illness arising out of, or caused by, County employment for which the employee has a claim for Workers' Compensation, shall not be charged to Sick Leave. Paid holidays occurring during a period of Sick Leave shall not be charged to Sick Leave.
- B. Employees in the bargaining unit are also eligible for coverage under the County's reimbursement for unused sick days at retirement policy. This policy provides for reimbursement for unused sick days at retirement on the basis of one-half (1/2) pay for earned and unused Sick Leave hours to a maximum of \$15,000. Employees are responsible for following all of the conditions and controls of this policy and all pertinent forms must be submitted to the Department of Employee Relations at least sixty (60) days prior to the date retirement commences. Employees have a choice of selecting either a lump sum payment or payments spread over a three (3) year period.

- C. Sick Leave may be used as credited even though it has not technically been earned, provided that the employee has worked for the Board in good standing and without any pattern of leave abuse for a period of one (1) full calendar year after the calendar year in which employment began, subject to proper notification.
- D. All other proper and authorized leaves as provided in the rules of the New Jersey Civil Service Commission shall be recognized and constitute a part of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 9

UNION LEAVE

Members of the bargaining unit may use up to a total of seven (7) days for Union business leave during each subsequent contract year. Union Officers or Shop Stewards must request utilization of the leave from the Employee Relations Director at least five (5) days before it is to commence and the taking of such leave shall not impede the operation of the Sheriff's Emergency Services Division, when taken. All use of such leave shall be reported to the Union to insure that the employees are actually utilizing the leave for Union business. Use of Union Leave must directly pertain to the Public Safety Telecommunicators represented by this contract. Joint County/Union discussions, authorized by the Director of Employee Relations about matters of mutual concern, shall not be applied against this benefit.

ARTICLE 10

VACATION TIME

Vacation Leave will be granted to each full-time employee in hours on the following basis:

1. For any employee with no more than twelve (12) months of service....one (1) day, in hours, for each calendar month employed.
2. For an employee who has served one (1) year and one (1) day up to a total of four (4) years....twelve (12) working days, in hours, per year.
3. For an employee who has served four (4) years and one (1) day up to eleven (11) years....fifteen (15) working days, in hours, per year.
4. For an employee who has served eleven (11) years and one (1) day up to nineteen (19) years...twenty (20) working days, in hours, per year.

5. For an employee who has served nineteen (19) years and one (1) day....twenty-five (25) working days, in hours, per year.

New full-time employees, both provisional and permanent, shall earn, but are not permitted to use, vacation leave during the first three months of employment. Employees who are not retained at the conclusion of the three month period shall not be entitled to any leave accumulated during that time.

Each employee shall be informed of his/her vacation time through utilization of the County's computer system. Any employee leaving the service of the County shall have unused vacation time paid to him/her on a pro-rated basis. If separation of service occurs, unearned vacation time used will be deducted from the employee's last pay along with any other unearned time that the employee has utilized.

ARTICLE 11 **LONGEVITY PAY**

Longevity Pay for all classified permanent employees covered by this Agreement hired before July 29, 2013 will be based upon the schedule set forth below:

7 years	3.0% of base salary
12 years	4.6% of base salary
17 years	5.7% of base salary
22 years	6.5% of base salary
27 years	7.3% of base salary
32 years	8.0% of base salary

ARTICLE 12 **OVERTIME**

- A. Overtime shall be compensated at the rate of time and one-half (1-1/2X) for each hour actually worked in an overtime status. Overtime payment shall commence after completion of eight (8) hours work in a work day or forty (40) hours in a work week. All overtime must be authorized by the Sheriff or his/her designee.
- B. The Sheriff or his/her designee, at his/her discretion, may require a doctor's certificate for any sick day taken by an employee during a period within which the employee has worked overtime and the sick day was actually used as a compensable day for the purposes of computation of overtime.

- C. Any employee called to work will be guaranteed four (4) hours overtime (1-1/2X). The four (4) hour call-out overtime guarantee shall only apply to those instances where the employee has completed his/her regular shift and is called to return to work after the completion of a regular shift. Call-in assignments pertaining to the Mobile Truck will be rotated based upon seniority as long as the employee possesses the necessary skill and ability to perform the work.
- D. Overtime shall be rotated in accordance with the existing practice. In the event that all employees who are offered a particular overtime assignment decline to accept the assignment, the least senior employee who is offered the assignment and who is qualified to perform the assignment shall be obligated to accept it. Mandatory overtime is to be done on a reverse seniority basis, starting with the least senior employee and will be at least fifteen (15) minutes or longer in duration. Mandatory overtime assignments will follow personnel from shift to shift. Mandatory overtime lists for each shift will be continuous and will not start fresh each year. Selection of holiday overtime will be done strictly by seniority.
- E. In lieu of overtime payment, members of the bargaining unit will have the option to accrue a **maximum** of forty (40) hours of compensatory time for the entire year, from January 1st through October 15th each year. (*No additional comp time can be earned between October 16th and December 31st .*) Compensatory time will accrue at the same rate as overtime compensation consistent with Paragraph A. of this Article.

An employee can earn no more than 40 hours of comp time between January 1st through October 15th, and any time used cannot be replenished in any amount. This means if the employee earns all 40 hours in the first month, and then uses all 40 in the second month, the employee cannot earn any additional comp time for the remainder of the year.

Employees may take compensatory time off upon approval from the Sheriff or his/her designee. The decision to grant compensatory time shall be based upon whether minimum staffing levels are met. It is understood that a request for the use of compensatory time off will not ordinarily be granted if it results in overtime for another employee.

Any earned and unused compensatory time which is not utilized by October 15th shall be paid out to the employee during the month of November. *Compensatory time shall not carry forward into the next year.*

ARTICLE 13
JOB CLASSIFICATION

- A. An employee will work within his/her own applicable job classification in accordance with the specifications set forth for his/her applicable classification under the New Jersey Civil Service Commission job descriptions.
- B. An employee's permanent applicable job classification shall not include a combination of New Jersey Civil Service Commission job descriptions.
- C. Definitions of transfers and re-assignments shall be in accordance with those contained in the New Jersey Civil Service Commission Rules.
- D. Should a member of this bargaining unit be assigned to perform work in supervisory title (Supervising Public Safety Telecommunicator), for a period of at least one (1) or more complete work days, the member shall receive compensation of sixteen dollars (\$16) per day. Effective with the execution of this agreement, should a member of this bargaining unit be assigned to train a new hire in any aspect or function of the position of Public Safety Telecommunicator, the employee shall receive two dollars (\$2) per hour for each hour so assigned. This additional compensation shall be paid in the form of a stipend and not subject to overtime, shift differential or longevity. The assignment shall remain a managerial prerogative and be equitably distributed.
- E. If an employee is required to work in a lower job classification than his/her regular job classification, he/she shall receive his/her regular rate of pay.

ARTICLE 14
**HOSPITAL, SURGICAL, MAJOR MEDICAL, PRESCRIPTION AND
RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

All full-time members covered by this bargaining unit shall be permitted to enroll in health benefits two (2) months from their date of hire.

- A. The County of Ocean currently provides medical coverage to County employees through the New Jersey State Health Benefits Program as supplemented by the NJ Local Prescription Drug Program and Chapter 88 P.L. 1974, as amended by Chapter 436 P.L. 1981. The parties recognize that the State Health Benefits Program is subject to changes enacted by the State of New Jersey that may either increase or decrease benefits.
- B. The County shall not change the health insurance coverages referred to in paragraph A except for a plan that is equivalent or better. Provided,

however, that the parties expressly recognize that the components of HMO plans are changed periodically by the plan providers and that the County has no control over or any obligations regarding such charges.

- C. All employees current and future who retire on or after November 1, 2009 in order to be eligible for the lifetime health benefits upon retirement, must have served a minimum of fifteen (15) of the required twenty-five (25) years with the County.

Effective November 1, 2009 the following changes will affect all new hires:

Employees will be offered the NJ Direct Plan, or its replacement. New hires may elect a higher level of coverage at their expense.

Continuation of spousal coverage after the death of the retiree will no longer be offered at the County's expense.

The County will no longer reimburse retiree's Medical Part B Premiums.

- D. An eligible employee may change his/her coverage only during the announced open enrollment period for each year after having been enrolled in the former plan for a minimum of one (1) full year. Regardless of this election, employees are specifically ineligible for any deductible reimbursement.
- E. When a member from this bargaining unit is granted the privilege of a leave of absence without pay for illness, health coverage will continue at the County's expense for the balance of the calendar month in which the leave commences plus up to three (3) additional calendar months next following the month in which the leave commences. After that time has elapsed, if necessary, coverage for an additional period of eighteen (18) months may be purchased by the employee under the C.O.B.R.A. Plan.

In the case of consecutive leaves of absence without pay, it is understood and agreed that the responsibility of the County pay for benefits remains limited to the original period of up to four (4) months.

ARTICLE 15

FAMILY DENTAL PLAN

All members covered by this bargaining unit and working thirty-two and one half (32.5) hours or more shall be permitted to enroll after the first of the month following three (3) full months of employment in a Family Dental Plan.

The Family Dental Plan will be made available to eligible employees, spouses and children to age 19. The maximum total cost for services per patient per benefit year is limited to \$2,000. There will be a \$25.00 deductible for up to the first three members of each family. However, this deductible is not applicable to preventive and diagnostic services described below:

If the patient utilizes a participating dentist the percentage of coverage indicated next to each class of dental care will prevail:

Preventive and Diagnostic
(X-rays, Cleaning, Check-up, etc.).....100%

Treatment and Therapy
(Fillings)..... 80%

Prosthodontics, Periodontics,
Inlays, Caps and Crowns,
Oral Surgery (Ambulatory).....50%

Orthodontics
(Limited to \$800, per patient
Over a 5 year period)..... 50%

ARTICLE 16 **VISION CARE**

Vision Care benefits will be afforded to all members of the bargaining unit in accordance with the provisions as set forth in the "Guidelines for Ocean County Vision Service Plan".

ARTICLE 17 **PERSONAL LEAVE**

Each employee may be eligible for three (3) days of Personal Leave, which may be used for personal business which cannot be conducted after the work day. Use of Personal Days shall require forty-eight (48) hours notice, except in the case of any emergency. The employee must have the permission of his/her immediate supervisor before Personal Leave can be taken. Personal Leave shall not be unreasonably denied. For new employees in their first calendar year of service, Personal Leave shall be granted as follows:

Date of Initial Hire

Amount of Personal Leave

January 1 thru April 30

3 Days

May 1 thru August 31	2 Days
September 1 thru October 31	1 Day
November 1 thru December 31	0 Days

Employees hired on or after October 1 through October 31 of their first calendar year in service may use the one Personal Day to be awarded to them after two (2) months of service, but must use the day prior to the end of the calendar year. Except for employees hired on or after October 1 through October 31 of their initial calendar year of service, no employee shall be entitled to use Personal Leave until he/she has worked three (3) months for the County.

In the event shifts are created in excess of eight (8) hours, all personal time shall be calculated in hours. Personal Days shall not be carried over from one calendar year to the next and must be used in increments of one full day.

ARTICLE 18

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

Members of this bargaining unit are eligible to be reimbursed for college tuition, subject to the Ocean County Tuition Reimbursement Policy (ER-701-86).

ARTICLE 19

SEVERABILITY CLAUSE

If any part, clause, portion or article of this Agreement is subsequently deemed by a Court of competent jurisdiction to be illegal, such clause, portion or article may be deleted and the remainder of the Agreement not so affected shall continue in full force and effect absent the affected clause.

ARTICLE 20

UNILATERAL CHANGES

There shall not be any unilateral changes in the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Any changes made in this Agreement shall be done with the mutual consent of the parties. However, unless specifically provided in this Agreement, neither party shall be required to re-negotiate any part of this Agreement until the expiration of said Agreement.

ARTICLE 21

BEREAVEMENT PROVISION

All employees shall have up to three (3) days leave in the event of a death of a spouse, common-law spouse, child, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, parent, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother, brother-in-law, sister, sister-in-law, grandparent, grandchild, uncle or aunt of the employee or any other member of the immediate household. One (1) day leave will be given to attend the funeral services of a spouse's aunt, uncle or grandparent.

Such leave will not be taken until the immediate supervisor is notified of the instance of bereavement. The employer may require proof of loss of a decedent whenever such requirement appears reasonable. Bereavement leave is specifically provided to allow eligible employees time to make necessary arrangements and attend funeral services. Therefore, bereavement leave must include one of the following days:

Date of Death
Any Day of Viewing
Date of Interment
Day of Religious or Memorial Service

In no event shall any part of bereavement leave occur more than fifteen (15) days from the date of death. Abuse of the Bereavement Provision shall be cause for disciplinary action.

ARTICLE 22

SENIORITY

- /A. Seniority is defined as continuous unbroken service with the employer for benefit purposes (longevity, vacation eligibility, etc.).

Seniority preference will be given consideration by the employer with respect to promotions, however, it will not be the sole factor considered. Service will be considered broken for the purpose of this clause if any employee, who has served continuously with the employer for at least one (1) year:

1. Should resign his/her position and not be rehired by said employer within three (3) months of said resignation.
2. Should an employee retire.
3. Should an employee suffer a validated dismissal.

4. Should an employee request and receive a voluntary transfer out of the bargaining unit or out of the work force of the employer.
 5. Should any employee be absent without leave for more than five (5) days.
- B. The employer may fill permanent job openings by promoting the employee from the next lower related job titles, provided these employees possess the requirements enunciated by Civil Service Law and who are subsequently certified by the New Jersey Civil Service Commission. In all instances employees promoted must possess the skills, ability and knowledge to perform the duties required by the higher rated job.
- C. If there are (2) or more employees with equal skill and ability to perform work as determined by the employer, the employee with the greatest seniority shall be given preference. If the employee with the greatest seniority cannot perform the higher rated job, then the employer shall promote the employee which is deemed to be next eligible.
- D. Vacation – whenever more than one (1) employee requests vacation at a job location at any particular time, the employer shall endeavor to honor all vacations as requested. However, when vacations cannot be granted to employees requesting vacations for a particular period, the employees with the greatest seniority shall be granted their vacations first. (No employee will be permitted to take a vacation during the peak period of work for his/her department. Peak periods will be designated by the employer each year). At the discretion of the Sheriff or designee, vacation leave may be approved when requested with less than 24-hour advanced notice as long as minimum staff is met

ARTICLE 23

PROMOTIONAL COMPENSATION

- A. Any Public Safety Telecommunicator Trainee, who upon their successful completion of the one-year probationary period and who is subsequently elevated to the title of Public Safety Telecommunicator will receive the minimum for the higher title.
- B. Any Public Safety Telecommunicator who is promoted to Senior Public Safety Telecommunicator shall receive either the minimum salary for the higher title, or the promotional amounts set forth below in paragraph C., whichever is greater.

- C. Effective April 1st of each year of the collective negotiations agreement, the promotional compensation shall be as follows:

Effective April 1, 2021 = \$2,500

Effective April 1, 2022 = \$2,600

Effective April 1, 2023 = \$2,700

ARTICLE 24 **CHECK-OFF DUES**

Following the successful completion of the ninety (90) day probationary period, the employer agrees to deduct from the earnings of each member of Teamsters Local #97 membership dues when said employee has properly authorized such deductions in writing. The Union will indemnify, defend and save harmless the County against any and all such claims, demands, suits or other forms of liability that shall arise out of or by reason of action taken by the County in reliance upon salary deduction authorization cards submitted by the Teamsters to the County. The County will forward all dues deduction monies collected on a monthly basis to the Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local #97. A list of the names of deductees will be forwarded annually.

ARTICLE 25 **SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL**

Any employee assigned to the Number 1 Shift – 0000 hours – 0800 hours (Midnight to 8:00 A.M.) shall receive in addition to their base salary a shift differential of 8%. Any employee assigned to the Number 3 Shift – 1600 hours – 2400 hours (4:00 P.M. to Midnight) shall receive in addition to their base salary a shift differential of 4%.

Effective with the executive of this contract, night differential shall continue from #1 shift (midnight to 8AM) into #2 shift (8AM to 4PM) only in the circumstance that the #1 shift is mandated to work into the #2 shift.

ARTICLE 26 **HOURS OF WORK**

The regular hours of work for all members of this bargaining unit, unless otherwise modified in this Agreement or by the Sheriff shall be:

Midnight to 8:00 A.M. 1st Shift

8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. 2nd Shift

4:00 P.M. to Midnight

3rd Shift

A minimum of two (2) weeks notice will be provided the Union and affected employees prior to any change in shifts except in the case of emergency.

Shift Bidding:

1. Each November 1st, shift assignments, including days off, shall be made pursuant to a seniority based bid system. Standard slips shall be made and given to affected Dispatchers no less than two (2) weeks prior to the commencement date. The Dispatchers shall list his/her shift choices by giving his/her preference to either 1st, 2nd, or 3rd shifts. Assignments shall then be made based upon seniority, except in management's judgment pursuant to paragraph 2. These assignments shall then take effect as of the first pay period in January following the submission date and shall remain in effect until the procedure is repeated the following year.
2. These assignments ultimately remain the prerogative of the Department Head. Furthermore, in order to meet the needs of training and/or specialized abilities, shift assignments may be altered in order to meet the bonafide safety needs of the citizens of Ocean County.
3. Temporary Shift Switches shall be allowed in accordance with existing practices. All requests for a shift switch shall be in accordance with the shift switch rules. See **Attachment A**.

ARTICLE 27
SALARY

- A. **Minimum Salaries** – Effective April 1st of each year of the collective negotiations agreement, the minimum starting salary for all titles shall be as follows:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
PST Trainee	\$38,000	\$40,000	\$41,000
PST	\$42,500	\$43,500	\$44,500
Sr. PST	\$45,500	\$46,500	\$47,500

B. **Salary Increases**

1. Effective April 1, 2021, and retroactive thereto, all members in the bargaining unit shall receive an increase of 1.9%, but not less than

One Thousand Eight Hundred dollars (\$1,800), or the new minimum, whichever is greatest, applied to their base salaries of March 31, 2021.

2. Effective April 1, 2022, all members in the bargaining unit shall receive an increase of 1.9%, but not less than Two Thousand dollars (\$2,000), or the new minimum, whichever is greatest, applied to their base salaries of March 31, 2022.
 3. Effective April 1, 2023, all members in the bargaining unit shall receive an increase of 1.9%, but not less than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000), or the new minimum, whichever is greatest, applied to their base salaries of March 31, 2023.
- C. **Retention Adjustment:** All employees who were employees on April 1, 2021 and are still employees by the County of Ocean as of the date of the executed MOU (September 21, 2021) shall receive a onetime adjustment in salary, which shall be retroactive to April 1, 2021, in the amount of \$2,200. This adjustment is based upon a concerns regarding retention or employees within the bargaining unit.

ARTICLE 28

UNIFORMS

Effective April 1, 2018, members in this bargaining unit shall receive the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per annum for uniform maintenance. Payment shall be made in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) on or about June 1st, and in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) on or about December 1st each contract year.

Eligibility for this benefit shall begin on the first of the next month following completion of any employee's original working test period. Eligible employees who work less than a full contract year shall receive this benefit on a pro-rated basis.

Uniform payments shall cease with the 2019 calendar year. All employees covered by this agreement shall continue to wear and maintain the proper uniform as required by the Sheriff. Failure to maintain and comply with set dress code may result in disciplinary action. Any changes in the uniform made by the employer shall be borne by the employer.

ARTICLE 29
WEATHER EMERGENCIES

If the Board of Commissioners closed the County offices due to inclement weather, any member of this bargaining unit required to work by the Employer shall receive an extra personal day as additional compensation for each full eight (8) hour shift worked.

ARTICLE 30
FULLY BARGAINED CLAUSE

This Agreement contains the entire understanding of the parties. There are no representations, promises or warranties other than those set forth herein.

ARTICLE 31
DURATION

The terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement shall become effective on April 1, 2021 except for those Articles which contain specific dates to the contrary and shall continue in full force and effect until March 31, 2024, or until execution of a successor Agreement.

6th **IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties have set their hands and seals this day of October 2021.

ATTEST:

**OCEAN COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS**

Michelle I. Gunther
Michelle I. Gunther
Clerk of the Board

Gary Quinn
Gary Quinn
Commission Director

**OFFICE OF THE OCEAN COUNTY
SHERIFF**

WITNESS:
Manali Neweykang

Michael G. Mastronardy
Michael G. Mastronardy, Sheriff

FOR TEAMSTERS LOCAL #97

WITNESS:
Cody L. Jordan
[Signature]
[Signature]

John J. Gerow
John Gerow, President
Patrick E. Guaschino
Patrick E. Guaschino

ATTACHMENT A

6:5 SHIFT SWITCHES

6:5.1 AVAILABILITY

Only Telecommunicators who are proficient in all areas may participate in the switching process.

6:5.2 APPROVAL

All switches will require approval from a shift supervisor and must be submitted at least three (3) days in advance.

6:5.3 TRACKING

The supervisor will enter the shift switch request into the Guardian Tracking System – whether approved or not – for both operators involved. Approved switches will be noted on the shift and division attendance.

6:5.4 TIME PERIOD

All switches must be completed in the same pay week (Thursday-Wednesday) and total no more than eight (8) hours per pay period.

6:5.5 RESTRICTIONS

Shift switches cannot result in overtime (not to include overtime that becomes available during the shift).

No switches within a switch.

Switching with yourself is not permitted.

Failure to show up for the shift may result in the removal of the shift switching privilege.

Telecommunicators may not work more than sixteen (16) straight hours.