

**RESOLUTION NO. 6-23-149
BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX**

**RESOLUTION TO RATIFY AND EXECUTE AGREEMENT WITH
SUPERIOR OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF P.B.A. LOCAL NO. 64**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has concluded negotiations with the of Superior Officers Association of P.B.A. Local No. 64 (SOA), on a Collective Bargaining Agreement for Calendar Years 2023 thru 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park as follows:

1. The Mayor and Borough Council hereby approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Borough and the SOA, which is attached hereto;
2. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest the Collective Bargaining Agreement with PBA, said Agreement in a form having been approved by the Borough Labor Attorney;
3. The Borough Finance Department is authorized and directed to make payment of retroactive pay adjustments to members of the PBA, upon receipt and approval of a signed Collective Bargaining Agreement, and adoption of the appropriate salary ordinance amendments, if necessary.

I, Jennifer Santiago, Borough Clerk of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park at its meeting held on June 20, 2023.


Jennifer Santiago, Borough Clerk

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTES

Council Member	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Canavera	✓			
George	✓			
Hale	✓			
Hersh	✓			
Kim-Chohan	✓			
Postelnik	✓			

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

The **BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, New Jersey** (hereinafter called the **“Borough” or “Employer”**) and the Superior Officers Association of PBA Local 64 (hereinafter called the **“SOA”**) hereby agree to this Memorandum of Agreement dated June 14, 2023, with respect to a successor collective negotiations agreement between the parties. This Agreement is subject to ratification of the parties. The parties agree to recommend ratification of this Agreement to their respective membership (the Borough Council and SOA members, respectively).

The terms of the Memorandum are as follows:

- (1) The term of the successor agreement shall be from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2026.
- (2) All terms of the existing contract shall remain in full force and effect, except as modified by this memorandum.
- (3) The parties shall mutually create and agree upon a successor collective bargaining agreement from the terms of this memorandum.
- (4) **Article 6 – Hours of Work**
Amend Article to provide that Captains and Lieutenants will work a 5/2 schedule or 4/3 schedule consistent with the below:
 - a. If an officer chooses to work the 5/2 schedule, the officer will be allocated 60 compensatory time off hours at the beginning of the year. These hours must be used within the calendar year. Officers working the 5/2 schedule

shall have Saturday and Sunday as the regular days off. A work day will consist of not more than 8 hours in a 24 hours period.

- b. If an officer chooses to work the 4/3 schedule, a workday will consist of 9.2 hours. The officer will have 3 consecutive days off. The consecutive work days shall be Monday through Thursday or Tuesday through Friday.
- c. The Chief can periodically schedule superior officers to work other than regular business hours to provide greater supervision for the nighttime and weekend patrol squads.
- d. The selection for the schedule will be made for the start of the year on January 1.

(5) Article 8 – Compensation

a. A Lieutenant or Captain will be granted compensation equivalent to 75% of the difference between their salary and the Chief's salary when assigned as the Officer in Charge of the Police Department in the absence of the Chief for a period of 4 days or longer. In such event, compensation shall be retroactive to the first day the officer is assigned as OIC.

b. There shall be a salary differential of 12% between Sergeant and Lieutenant and 8.4% between Lieutenant and Captain. See attached Salary Schedule, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

(6) Article 10 – Vacation/Personal Days

Upon commencement of their 16th year, the Administrative Officer will receive four (4) additional vacation days, or 208 vacation hours, per year so long as they are serving as the Administrative Officer.

(7) Article 11 - Holidays

Add Juneteenth to the schedule of holidays and combine Washington's Birthday and Lincoln's Birthday into President's Day. The net number of holidays (14) shall remain the same and there will be no adjustment to salary.

(8) Article 12 – Insurance

Modify Paragraph A as follows: The base plan will be the NJ DIRECT 2030 and employees who select a different plan at a higher cost will pay the difference in premium between the NJ DIRECT 2030 and the plan selected, in addition to contributions required by P.L. 2011, Ch. 78 as set forth in paragraph B. For example, an employee with a family plan at a 35% contribution rate who elects to buy up to the NJ DIRECT 15 plan would pay \$1,029.12 monthly as contribution for the 2030 plan plus \$279.14 monthly (\$139.57 per pay), which is the difference between the monthly rate of the NJ DIRECT 15 plan (\$3,219.49) and the NJ DIRECT 2030 plan (\$2,940.35).

(9) Article 13 Sick Leave

Update this Article as follows:

B. Full-time Employees shall be entitled to one hundred and twenty (120) hours of sick leave each year. Unused sick time in any given year shall be carried

over and added to the next year's sick leave entitlement. There shall be no charge against an Employee's sick leave for absence due to a job-related injury.

1. Employee shall be charged hour for hour non-job related illness or injuries resulting in absence from work.
2. For long-term non-job related illness or injuries, Employees will be charged as follows: for the first one hundred and twenty (120) consecutive hours absent, sick time will be charged hour for hour. For the one-hundred and twenty-first (121) hour and thereafter, employees will be charged one (1) hour of sick time for each three (3) hours of absence for up to one (1) year from the date of injury or illness. In the event an employee exhausts his/her sick time prior to the end of the one year limitation, the Borough, in its sole discretion, may grant the PBA or the employee's request to use vacation, personal or compensatory time on the same one (1) for three (3) basis as above for the remainder of the one (1) year limitation, however, the Borough's decision in this regard shall not be subject to arbitration but may be grieved.
3. Employees who have been on sick leave pursuant to this Section must return to work for six (6) months in order to receive the full benefit of sick leave charged at the rate of one (1) hour for each three (3) hours of absence after the one-hundred and twenty-first (121) hour of absence for up to one year. If an employee returns to work for less than six (6) months, and requires additional sick leave for long-term, non-job related injury or illness, he or she will be charged sick time at one (1) hour for each three (3) hours of absence until the initial one (1) year period is exhausted. Any additional sick time will be

charged hour for hour. Sick time in excess of one continuous year shall be without pay.

4. This section applies to any long-term illness or injury that occurs per calendar year. Any illness or injury that carries over to the following year will be counted toward the year in which the illness began. Example: an Officer becomes ill in October and returns to work in January. If that Officer becomes ill again later in that second calendar year, the Officer will be charged sick leave hour for hour for one-hundred and twenty (120) hours, and then be charged one (1) hour for every three (3) hours of sick leave for up to one year provided the officer has returned for more than six (6) months.

5. If an employee with a long term illness or injury has used one-hundred and twenty (120) hours of sick leave on an hour for hour basis and after returning to work for more than six (6) months, becomes injured or ill again in the same calendar year, sick leave will be charged one (1) hour for every three (3) hours for up to one year from the date the second injury or illness began and will not be required to use one-hundred and twenty (120) hours of sick leave.

C. 1. Employees shall be entitled to a buyout of one (1) hour for every three (3) hours of unused sick time accumulated at retirement after twenty (20) years of service with the Borough or departure after twenty (20) years of service with the Borough or death after fifteen (15) years of service with the Borough. The buy out compensation amount shall be computed on the basis of the Employee's salary in his last twelve (12) months of service. There will be no cap or maximum on the buy out

amount as long as the buy out formula remains at three (3) to one (1). Example: Officer has 300 hours of accumulated sick time. The officer is eligible for a buy out of 100 hours of unused sick time.

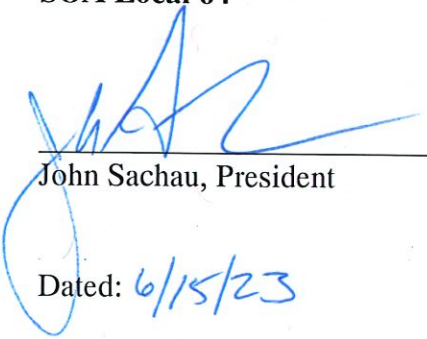
2. Employees hired after May 21, 2010 shall be entitled to a buyout of one (1) hour for every three (3) hours of unused sick time accumulated to a maximum of \$15,000 on retirement after 25 years of service in PFRS.

G. Employees with a qualifying FMLA event may elect to use accrued time (sick, vacation, personal, and comp time) for their own injury or illness to run concurrent with FMLA leave, or in lieu of FMLA. In any other qualifying event under the FMLA or NJFLA, employees may elect to use accrued time (vacation, personal and comp time) to run concurrent with FMLA or NJFLA leave, or in lieu of FMLA/NJFLA. Alternatively, employees may elect to take unpaid leave for qualifying events under the FMLA or NJFLA. If any event qualifies under both the FMLA and NJFLA, the leave, paid or unpaid, shall run concurrent under both statutes, unless the employee foregoes the protection of the FMLA/NJFLA.

(10) **Article 31 – Term and Renewal**

Dates will be amended to conform with the dates of the new agreement.

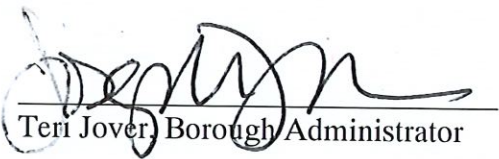
SOA Local 64



John Sachau, President

Dated: 6/15/23

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK



Teri Jover, Borough Administrator

Dated: 6/15/23

Borough Salary Proposal to SOA - 06/12/23

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
SERGEANT	\$ 135,874	\$ 140,527	\$ 144,392	\$ 149,409	\$ 153,891
LIEUTENANT	\$ 152,133	\$ 157,390	\$ 161,719	\$ 167,338	\$ 172,358
CAPTAIN	\$ 165,948	\$ 170,611	\$ 175,303	\$ 181,394	\$ 186,836

AGREEMENT

between

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

and

**The Superior Officers Association
of
P.B.A. LOCAL NO. 64**

JANUARY 1, 2023 through DECEMBER 31, 2026

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PREAMBLE

THIS AGREEMENT entered into this day of ____ day of August, 2023 by and between the **BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK**, in the County of Middlesex, a Municipal Corporation of the State of New Jersey, hereinafter called the **Borough**, and **SUPERIOR OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF PBA LOCAL NO. 64**, hereinafter called the **SOA or the Association**, represents the complete and final understanding on all bargainable issues between the Borough and the SOA.

ARTICLE 1
RECOGNITION

A. The Borough hereby recognizes the SOA as the exclusive representative for collective negotiations with respect to rates of pay, wages, hours of work, and other terms and conditions of employment.

B. Included in the negotiating unit shall be those employees of the Borough within the Police Department whose rank is Captain and Lieutenant.

C. Reference to males shall include female police officers. Reference to "Police Officer" or "employee" as used herein shall be defined to include the plural as well as the singular.

ARTICLE 2
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROCEDURE

A. Collective bargaining with respect to conditions of employment shall be conducted by the duly authorized agents of each of the parties.

B. Collective bargaining meetings shall be held at mutually convenient times and places at the request of either party.

C. No representative of the Borough shall meet with any member of the bargaining unit other than the authorized representative of the SOA nor shall any member of the bargaining unit without specific authority by the SOA meet with the representative of the Borough for the purpose of collective bargaining between the parties without prior notification to the SOA and the Borough of such meeting and without the presence at such meeting of a representative of the SOA designated by the President of the SOA and a representative of the Borough. The aforesaid provisions

are not intended to prohibit, restrain, interfere with or affect in any way, the collective bargaining process or labor management relation activities between the parties including, but not limited to, meetings and discussions between authorized representatives of the Borough and the SOA during the term of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 3

MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

A. Except as specified in this Agreement, the Borough hereby retains and reserves unto itself all powers, rights, authority, duties and responsibilities conferred upon and vested in it 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 Borough government and its properties and facilities, and the activities of its employees.
2. To hire all employees and, subject to the provisions of law, to determine their qualifications and conditions of continued employment, their assignments, and to promote and transfer employees.
3. To suspend, demote, discharge or take other disciplinary action for good and just cause according to law.
4. To establish, maintain and amend a code of rules and regulations of the Department for the operation of the Department.

B. The exercise of the foregoing powers, rights, authority, duties or responsibilities of the Borough, the adoption of policies, rules, regulations and practices in furtherance thereof, and the use of judgment and discretion in connection therewith shall be limited only by the

specific and express terms of this Agreement and then only to the extent such specific and express terms thereof are in conformance with the Constitution and Laws of the State of New Jersey and of the United States and the Ordinances of the Borough of Highland Park.

C. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to deny or restrict the Borough in any of its rights, responsibilities and authority under Title 11 and Titles 40 and 40A of the New Jersey Statutes or any other national, state, county or local laws statutes or ordinances.

D. The failure to exercise any of the foregoing rights or powers shall not be deemed a waiver of such rights or powers, nor shall the failure to specifically mention a management right herein, which has existed prior to the enactment of this Agreement or which is considered to be a traditional management right, be construed as giving up such right. All management rights which have existed in the past are specifically incorporated herein.

ARTICLE 4

CONDUCTING ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

A. The President or his designee shall also be granted necessary time off not to exceed eight (8) days per year time off to conduct SOA business as required by the SOA. The Administrative Officials of the Borough of Highland Park, or the Chief of Police, shall not deny a reasonable request for time off with pay.

B. The Borough shall also grant time off without loss of pay as follows:

1. 3 days - Superior Officer for PBA State Convention

C. The shift taken off for SOA business must be the shift in which the SOA business takes place, or the shift the officer is scheduled to work immediately prior to the time the SOA business takes place, or the shift the Officer is scheduled to work immediately after the SOA

business takes place.

D. Officers of the SOA shall be excused from duty without loss of pay to attend all SOA meetings, PBA Local No. 64 meetings, provided that such attendance does not require the recall of off-duty policemen to bring the Police Department up to its proper effectiveness. Time off under this section shall be granted at the sole discretion of the Chief of Police.

E. The Borough shall permit no more than two (2) members of the SOA Negotiating Committee to attend collective bargaining meetings during duty hours without loss of pay. However, said members shall be subject to duty.

ARTICLE 5

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A. Purpose

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 this agreement. The parties agree that this procedure will be kept as informal as may be appropriate and practical.

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as limiting the rights of an employee having a grievance to discuss the matter informally with any appropriate member of the department, and having the grievance adjusted without the intervention of the Association.

B. Definition

The terms "grievance" as used herein means any controversy arising over the interpretation, application or violation of any of the provisions of this Agreement or the Borough of Highland Park Police Department Rules and Regulations and may be raised by an individual,

the Association, the Association on behalf of and at the request of an individual or group of individuals or the Borough.

The term "grievance" shall also include "minor discipline", which is defined as those circumstances where the disciplinary penalty is five (5) days of suspension, or equivalent fine, or any lesser penalty.

C. Steps of the Grievance Procedure

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 ONE

The aggrieved or the Association shall institute action under the provisions hereof within ten (10) calendar days after the event giving rise to the grievance has occurred and an earnest effort shall be made to settle the differences between the aggrieved employee of the Association and Chief for the purpose of resolving the matter informally. Failure to act within said ten (10) calendar days shall be deemed to constitute an abandonment of the grievance.

STEP TWO

If the Association wishes to appeal the decision of the Chief, such appeal shall be presented in writing to the Borough Administrator within ten (10) calendar days thereafter. The Mayor and Council shall be notified of the grievance by the Association representative providing a copy of the grievance to the Borough Clerk. Upon the filing of the appeal, either the Association or the Borough Administrator or his designee may require a hearing to be held within twenty (20) calendar days thereafter. The appeal shall include copies of all previous correspondence relating to the matter in dispute. The Borough Administrator or his or her

designee shall respond, in writing, to the grievance within twenty (20) calendar days of the submission of the appeal or within twenty (20) calendar days after the hearing, if one is so held.

STEP THREE

If the grievance is not settled at Step One or Two either party shall have the right to submit the dispute to arbitration pursuant to the Rules and Regulations of the Public Employment Relations Commission. Arbitration must be sought within twenty (20) calendar days of the response at Step Two. The costs for the services of the arbitrator shall be borne equally by the Borough and the Association. Any other expenses, including but not limited to the presentation of witnesses, shall be paid by the parties incurring same.

D. 1. The parties direct the arbitrator to decide, as a preliminary question, whether he has jurisdiction to hear and decide the matter in dispute.

2. 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 him 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.

3. The decision of the arbitrator shall be in writing and shall include the reasons for such decision.

4. Only one grievance at a time may be submitted for consideration by a single arbitrator. It is specifically understood that one grievance may contain multiple issues.

E. The designated Association representatives shall be permitted as members of the grievance committee to confer with employees and the Borough 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 shall not diminish the effectiveness of the Borough of Highland Park Police Department as determined by the Chief of Police or require the recall of off-duty employees.

F. The time limits expressed herein shall be adhered to strictly. If any grievance has not been initiated within the time limits specified, or if the 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. If a decision is not rendered within the time limits prescribed for decision at any step in the grievance procedure, then the grievance shall be deemed to have been denied. Nothing herein shall prevent the parties from mutually agreeing in writing to extend or contract the time limits provided for processing the grievance at any step in the grievance procedure.

G. The Borough Administrator shall have the final decision with reference to grievances dealing with the interpretation or application of the Borough of Highland Park Police Department Rules and Regulations, subject to the right of an employee or the Association to appeal said Borough Administrator's decision by means of legal proceedings in the Courts of this State and of the United States.

H. It is understood that the Borough may file a grievance concerning the interpretation and application of this Agreement which, if said grievance cannot be amicably resolved through negotiations with the Association and Borough's representatives, it shall be submitted to arbitration as provided under this Article.

I. An Association representative has the right to be present at any and all steps of the Grievance Procedure.

ARTICLE 6

HOURS OF WORK AND WORK SCHEDULE

A. Captains and Lieutenants will work a 5/2 schedule or 4/3 schedule, consistent with below:

1. If an officer chooses to work the 5/2 schedule, the officer will be allocated 60 compensatory time off hours at the beginning of the year. Those hours must be used within the calendar year. Officers working the 5/2 schedule shall have Saturday and Sunday as their regular days off. A work day will consist of not more than 8 hours in a 24-hour period. An officer that chooses to work the 5/2 schedule is still entitled to be off on 14 Borough Holidays as listed in the Borough's employee handbook.
2. If an officer chooses to work the 4/3 schedule, a workday will consist of 9.2 hours. The officer will have 3 consecutive days off. The consecutive work days shall be Monday through Thursday or Tuesday through Friday. An officer that chooses to work the 4/3 schedule is not entitled to any of the Borough Holidays. However, nothing prohibits the officer from switching their RDO for the observed holiday date with prior authorization from the Chief or his designee.
3. The Chief can periodically schedule superior officers to work other than regular business hours to provide greater supervision for the nighttime and weekend patrol squads.
4. The selection for the schedule will be made for the start of the year on January 1.

B. Each officer shall have sixteen (16) consecutive hours off duty after a tour of eight (8) hours unless otherwise mutually agreed by the parties hereto, except when regularly

scheduled shift changes occur and except in case of emergencies as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A: 14-134.

C. Any assignment as specified in Section A, with management approval, that was commenced within the employee's tour of duty and extends past the employee's regular tour of duty, shall be subject Article 7 - Overtime.

ARTICLE 7

OVERTIME

- A. There shall be no overtime for the Captain position.
- B. For the Lieutenant position, hours worked beyond the normal workday or work schedule will result in flex time, not overtime pay. In the rare instance of emergencies when a Lieutenant is required to respond while off-duty, which is approved by the Chief of Police or his designee, overtime will be paid for all hours worked beyond forty (40) in a workweek. In calculating hours worked in a workweek for determining overtime, holidays, sick time, vacation days, personal days or compensatory time utilized in a work week are not considered hours worked.
- C. Scheduled tours of duty shall not be changed unless five (5) days advance notice is given, except in cases of emergency as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A:14-134, or by mutual agreement subject to the approval of the Chief of Police, whose approval or disapproval shall not be subject to arbitration.
- D. If possible, overtime duty shall be given on a rotating seniority basis.
- E. In lieu of overtime payments, officers may elect compensatory time. An officer's bank of compensatory time shall be no greater than 40 hours. After 40 hours of compensatory time, all overtime will be paid in monetary form. Compensatory time may be taken at any time, in blocks of 1 hour minimums, so long as the use of compensatory time does not create overtime. Compensatory time must be used in the year it is earned. However, officers may carry over a maximum of 20 hours into the following year, with the approval of the Chief.

ARTICLE 8

COMPENSATION

A. Salaries. There shall be a salary differential of 12% between Sergeant and Lieutenant and 8.4% between Lieutenant and Captain. The salary guide is set forth below:

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
SERGEANT	\$ 135,874	\$ 140,527	\$ 144,392	\$ 149,409	\$ 153,891
LIEUTENANT	\$ 152,133	\$ 157,390	\$ 161,719	\$ 167,338	\$ 172,358
CAPTAIN	\$ 165,948	\$ 170,611	\$ 175,303	\$ 181,394	\$ 186,836

B. Any employee appointed and actually serving in an acting capacity in any acting position created by Management shall receive seventy-five percent (75%) of the additional compensation difference for that position.

C. A Lieutenant or Captain will be granted compensation equivalent to 75% of the difference between their salary and the Chief's salary when assigned as the Officer in Charge of the Police Department in the absence of the Chief for a period of 4 days or longer. In such event, compensation shall be retroactive to the first day the officer is assigned as OIC.

ARTICLE 9

LONGEVITY

A. Each officer shall be paid, in addition to his current annual salary, a longevity increment based upon his years of continuous employment in the Police Department in accordance with the following schedule subject to a cap of Four thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00). Longevity shall be included as part of an officer's pensionable base pay and paid in equal installments consistent with the Borough's regular payroll cycle.

<u>YEARS OF SERVICE</u>	<u>INCREMENT OF BASE PAY</u>
Upon completion of five (5) years of service	2%
Upon completion of ten (10) years of service	3%
Upon completion of fifteen (15) years of service	4%
Upon completion of twenty (20) years of service	5%
Upon completion of twenty-five (25) years of service	7%

B. Each officer covered by this contract hired prior to January 1, 2004, shall qualify for longevity increments on the first day of the month in which the officer's respective anniversary of employment occurs, and such increments shall be paid from and after such date.

C. Officers hired after January 1, 2004 will not be eligible for longevity.

ARTICLE 10

VACATIONS / PERSONAL DAYS

A. Annual vacations shall be granted as follows:

<u>YEARS OF SERVICE</u>	<u>VACATION DAYS (Working Days)</u>
Hire Date to end of First Year	1/2 day for each month of service
Beginning Second Year through End of Fifth Year	10 working days
Commencement of 6th Year	11 working days
Commencement of 7th Year	12 working days
Commencement of 8th Year	13 working days
Commencement of 9th Year	14 working days
Commencement of 10th Year	15 working days
Commencement of 11th Year	16 working days
Commencement of 12th Year	17 working days
Commencement of 13th Year	18 working days
Commencement of 14th Year	19 working days
Commencement of 15th Year and over	20 working days

Effective January 1, 2021, Captains and Lieutenants will be provided 22 vacation days at commencement of the 15th year.

Upon commencement of their 16th year, the Administrative Officer will receive four (4) additional vacation days, or 208 vacation hours, per year so long as they are serving as the Administrative Officer.

B. Vacation pursuant to Paragraph A will be determined as follows for employees

hired prior to January 1, 1986.

An employee's anniversary date will be January 1st of the same year the employee was hired, regardless of the month the employee commenced employment. This definition of anniversary date is only applicable to Paragraph A of this Article.

C. All employees hired after January 1, 1986 will have the following anniversary dates for the purpose of Paragraph A only:

1. Date of hire February 1st through July 31st; shall have the anniversary date of July 1st of the same year.

2. Date of hire August 1st through January 31st; shall have the anniversary date of January 1st occurring during the same time period.

3. The one year anniversary for vacation purposes for these employees will be one (1) year after either the July 1st or January 1st referred to in subparagraph C.1 or C.2 above.

4. All employees with a July 1st anniversary date pursuant to Paragraph C. 1 of this Article will be granted allotted vacation time pursuant to Paragraph A on a 50-50 prorated basis for in-between steps on the schedule. For example, if an officer is between twelve (12) and thirteen (13) days of vacation for that calendar year, the employee will enjoy twelve and one-half (12-1/2) days for that calendar year.

D. Each police officer shall be permitted to take vacation time during the entire calendar year, said vacation being subject to previous report directives regarding notice and subject to the approval of the Chief of Police. A vacation day may be taken in whole or half (1/2) day increments, or in any multiple of whole days up to a maximum of ten (10) working days at one (1) time requested by a police officer, provided that five (5) days' notice of the request is given by the

officer to the Chief of Police or his designee. The Chief of Police may permit officers to take vacations in whole or half (1/2) day increments on less than 5 days' notice. The Chief's decision to grant or deny the request when under 5 days' notice is provided shall not be subject to arbitration.

E. Vacations shall be available at any time from January 1st to December 31 subject to the approval of the Chief or his designee.

F. Vacations shall be taken at such time or times as the best interests of the Borough and its efficient administration will allow.

G. No more than ten (10) working days of vacation may be taken at one time unless approved in advance by the Chief of Police.

H. Vacation leave shall not be cumulative. However, where in any calendar year the vacation or any part thereof is not granted by reason of pressure of Borough business, such vacation period or parts thereof not granted shall accumulate and shall be granted by the Chief of Police during the next succeeding calendar year only. The fact that vacation leave or any part thereof was not granted by reason of pressure of Borough business must be so certified by the Chief of Police or his designee in writing no later than January 31st of the year following the year the vacation time was earned.

I. Personal Days

1. In addition to the vacation time provided by paragraphs A through I of Article 10, officers shall be entitled to four (4) personal days.

2. Personal days may be used only during the calendar year in which earned and shall not be cumulative and may not be taken consecutively. Officers shall not be entitled to be reimbursed for personal days not used.

3. Requests for a personal day shall be subject to the approval of the Chief of Police.

J. A request for a personal day must be made at least 48 hours before the date requested. If a request for a personal day is received with less than 48 hours' notice, the officer requesting the personal day must provide a reason for the late request. A grant or denial of a personal day when requested under 48 hours is at the Chief's discretion and shall not be subject to arbitration. Personal days may be taken in whole or half (1/2) day increments.

ARTICLE 11

HOLIDAYS

A. Effective January 1, 2003, holiday pay, which has previously been paid regularly in each pay check, shall be included in base salary as set forth in Article 8.

ARTICLE 12

INSURANCE

A. Effective January 1, 2023, the Borough agrees to continue to provide the State Health Benefits Plan health insurance and pay the premium for NJDIRECT 2030, plus the current dental plan, for all officers covered under this Agreement. Officers who select a plan other than the NJDIRECT 2030 will pay the difference in the premium between the NJDIRECT 2030 and the plan selected, in addition to the contributions required by law. The co-pays associated with the plan selected by the officer remain the responsibility of the officer.

For example, an employee with a family plan at a 35% contribution rate who elects to buy up to the NJDIRECT 15 plan would pay \$1,029.12 monthly as contribution for the 2030 plan plus \$279.14 monthly (\$139.57 per pay), which is the difference between the monthly rate of the

NJDIRECT 15 plan (\$3,219.49) and the NJDIRECT 2030 plan (\$2,940.35).

B. Employees shall contribute to the cost of all health benefits provided in this Agreement consistent with PL 2010, Ch. 2, as modified by PL 2011, Ch. 78.

C. The Borough may change insurance carriers at its option, provided substantially similar benefits are provided and provided further that thirty (30) days prior notice is given to the Union.

D. An employee, upon retirement, and at his own expense, shall be permitted to continue all insurance coverage in effect as set forth above.

E. The Borough will provide a prescription drug program for the officers and their families. Effective on January 1, 2007, officers are responsible to pay the co-pays required by the prescription plan.

F. The Borough will implement an eyeglass reimbursement program as follows:

All full-time employees shall be covered by a vision care program at the Borough's sole cost and expense. Each employee shall be entitled to two (2) reimbursements per year. The total reimbursement for each employee may not exceed the sum of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) per year. The reimbursement is limited to lenses and/or frames, or contact lenses, but excludes examination fees. The employee shall receive a reimbursement within forty-five (45) days of the furnishing of a written receipt for eligible costs incurred.

ARTICLE 13

SICK LEAVE

A. Sick leave shall be defined as an employee's absence from duty because of illness,

injury or exposure to contagious disease, or to care for a member of the officer's immediate family defined as spouse, parent, or child. This provision shall sunset on expiration of the contract if sick leave becomes excessive because of this clause. If it does not sunset, it shall become part of the status quo. Sick leave can be used in whole or half (1/2) day increments. Any employee absent due to sick leave with proper verification shall not be required to engage in "light duty" work unless the employee's doctor states that the employee is able to engage in such work.

B. Full-time employees shall be entitled to one hundred and twenty (120) hours of sick leave each year. Unused sick time in any given year shall be carried over and added to the next year's sick leave entitlement. There shall be no charge against an employee's sick leave days for absence due to a job-related injury.

1. Employee shall be charged hour for hour non job-related illness or injuries resulting in absence from work.
2. For long-term non job-related illness or injuries, Employees will be charged as follows: for the first one hundred and twenty (120) consecutive hours absent, sick time will be charged hour for hour. For the one-hundred and twenty-first (121) hour and thereafter, employees will be charged for one (1) hour of sick time for each three (3) hours of absence for up to one (1) year from the date of injury or illness. In the event an employee exhausts his/her sick time prior to the end of the one year limitation, the Borough, in its sole discretion, may grant the PBA or the employee's request to use vacation, personal or compensatory time on the same one (1) for three (3) basis as above for the remainder of the one (1) year limitation, however, the Borough's decision in this regard shall not be subject to arbitration but may be grieved.

3. Employees who have been on sick leave pursuant to this Section must return to work for six (6) months in order to receive the full benefit of sick leave charged at the rate of one (1) hour for each (3) hours of absence after the one-hundred and twenty-first (121) hour of absence for up to one year. If an employee returns to work for less than six (6) months, and requires additional sick leave for long-term, non job-related injury or illness, he or she will be charged sick time at one (1) hour for each three (3) hours of absence until the initial one (1) year period is exhausted. Any additional sick time will be charged hour for hour. Sick time in excess on one continuous year shall be without pay.
4. This section applies to any long-term illness or injury that occurs per calendar year. Any illness or injury that carries over to the following year will be counted toward the year in which the illness began. Example: an Officer becomes ill in October and returns to work in January. If that Officer becomes ill again later in that second calendar year, the Officer will be charged sick leave hour for hour for one-hundred and twenty (120) hours, and then be charged one (1) hour for every three (3) hours of sick leave for up to one year provided the officer has returned for more than six (6) months.
5. If an employee with a long term illness or injury has used one-hundred and twenty (120) hours of sick leave on an hour for hour basis and after returning to work for more than six (6) months, becomes injured or ill again in the same calendar year, sick leave will be charged one (1) hour for every three (3) hours for up to one year from the date the second injury or illness began and will not be required to use one-hundred and twenty (120) hours of sick leave.

C.

1. Employees shall be entitled to a buyout of one (1) hour for every three (3) hours of unused sick time accumulated at retirement after twenty (20) years of service with the Borough or departure after twenty (20) years of service with the Borough or death after fifteen (15) years of service with the Borough. The buy-out compensation amount shall be computed on the basis of the Employee's salary in his last twelve (12) months of service. There will be no cap or maximum on the buy-out amount as long as the buy-out formula remains at three (3) to one (1). Example: Officer has 300 hours of accumulated sick time. The officer is eligible to buy-out of 100 hours of unused sick time.
2. Employees hired after May 21, 2010 shall be entitled to a buyout of one (1) hour for every three (3) hours of unused sick time accumulated to a maximum of \$15,000 on retirement after 25 years of service in PFRS.

D. An employee absent on sick leave shall submit acceptable medical evidence substantiating the illness if requested by the Borough. Abuse of sick leave may be cause for disciplinary action.

E. An employee absent on sick leave shall report his absence at least one (1) hour prior to the start of his shift except where emergent circumstances would prevent the employee from doing so. In those circumstances, the employee shall report his absence as promptly as possible.

F. The Borough may require proof of illness on sick leave whenever such requirement appears reasonable. However, all employees are required to furnish proof of illness

whenever the employee is absent on sick leave for a period of three (3) or more consecutive working days.

G. Employees with a qualifying FMLA event may elect to use accrued time (sick, vacation, personal, and comp time) for their own injury or illness to run concurrent with MLFA leave, or in lieu of FMLA. In any other qualifying event under the FMLA or NJFLA, employees may elect to use accrued time (vacation, personal and comp time) to run concurrent with FMLA or NJFLA leave, or in lieu of FMLA/NJFLA. Alternatively, employees may elect to take unpaid leave for qualifying events under the FMLA or NJFLA. If any event qualifies under both the FMLA and NJFLA, the leave, paid or unpaid, shall run concurrent under both statutes, unless the employee foregoes the protection of the FMLA/NJFLA.

ARTICLE 14

BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

A. Members shall be granted time off without deduction from pay or reduction of compensatory time due for the following requests:

1. Death in the immediate family, from the date of death to and including the date of the funeral, with a maximum of three (3) consecutive working days off. In the case of an employee's child, employee's parent (excluding in-laws) or spouse only, this maximum shall be five (5) consecutive working days.

2. Immediate family means wife, husband, child, parent, brother, sister, grandparent, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law and step relatives of a similar degree.

3. Time off granted under this Article shall not be deducted from any other

time off or benefits owed to the police officer.

B. An employee may be granted one (1) working day leave of absence with full pay for the day of the funeral of a relative not enumerated in Section A. Such leave is subject to the approval of the Police Chief or his designee.

C. Time off under this Article shall be taken between the date of death and the day after the funeral, or, another time directly related to making arrangements necessitated by the death; as approved by the Chief of Police or his designee. However, any leave under this subsection must be taken within ten (10) calendar days or five (5) consecutive work days of the date of death, the funeral or memorial service, whichever is longer.

ARTICLE 15

TERMINATION OF ENTITLEMENT

A. Upon termination, an employee shall be paid all accrued benefits for which he has not previously been compensated. However, an employee terminated for cause shall not be entitled to payment for accrued time-related benefits.

B. Employees who are retiring must notify the Administrator in writing by March 31 of their intended retirement year. The failure to make written notification by March 31 will preclude the Borough from making the payment of any accumulated sick time in the year of retirement and will await the next budget year.

C. The Administrator shall have the discretion to make payment of accumulated sick time notwithstanding that the employee missed the March 31 deadline set forth in paragraph B. The Administrator's decision shall not be subject to the grievance procedure.

ARTICLE 16

CLOTHING MAINTENANCE/EQUIPMENT ALLOWANCE

A. All employees covered by this agreement shall receive \$850.00 included in their base pay as set forth in Article 8.A.

B. Clothing lost, destroyed or damaged by the negligence of the employee shall be replaced by the employee at his own expense. The clothing maintenance allowance shall also be used to replace torn and tattered uniforms, when necessary or at the Chief's direction.

C. A schedule of permissible equipment, clothing, etc., will be issued by the Chief of Police.

ARTICLE 17

EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

The Borough agrees to confer upon all employees those rights granted to said employees under the laws of the State of New Jersey and the Constitution and other laws of the United States.

ARTICLE 18

ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

A. The employee shall have the right at all times to refuse to take a polygraph or other lie detector test and shall have the right to refuse to testify at their disciplinary hearing without fear of departmental discipline as a result of such refusal.

B. The Borough shall render decisions within three (3) months after the close of a disciplinary hearing concerning an employee. This section shall be prospective in application only and shall not apply to charges brought prior to the execution of this contract.

C. When a complaint is either anticipated or filed against an employee, they shall not be required nor shall they be instructed to make a report concerning this subject matter prior to any interrogation. This shall not relieve the officer from their responsibilities to file routine reports required in the course of their duties.

In an effort to insure that departmental investigations are conducted in a manner which is conducive to good order and discipline, the following rules are hereby adopted:

1. The interrogation of a member of the SOA shall be at a reasonable hour, preferably when the member of the SOA is on duty, unless the exigencies of the investigation dictate otherwise.
2. The interrogations shall take place at a location designated by the Borough. Usually it will be at the office of the Borough or the location where the incident allegedly occurred.
3. The member of the SOA shall be informed of the nature of the investigation before any interrogation commences. Sufficient information to reasonably apprise the members of the allegations should be provided. If it is known that the member of the SOA is being interrogated as a witness only, they should be so informed at the initial contact.
4. The questioning shall be reasonable in length. Fifteen (15) minutes time shall be provided for personal necessities, meals, telephone calls, and rest periods at the end of every two (2) hours.
5. The member of the SOA shall not be subject to any offensive language, nor shall they be threatened with transfer, dismissal or other disciplinary punishment. No promise of reward shall be made as an inducement to answering questions.
6. At every stage of the proceedings, the Borough shall afford an opportunity

for a member of the SOA, if they so request, to consult with counsel and/or their SOA representative before being questioned concerning a violation of the rules and regulations during the interrogation of a member of the SOA, which shall not delay the interrogation beyond one (1) hour for consultation with this SOA representative.

7. In cases other than departmental investigations, if a member is under arrest or if they are a suspect or the target of a criminal investigation, they shall be given their right pursuant to the current decisions of the United States Supreme Court.

8. Nothing herein shall be construed to deprive the Borough or its officers of the ability to conduct the routine and daily operations of the Department.

9. No employee covered by this Agreement shall be subjected to any urinalysis or blood screening unless one of the two (2) circumstances exist: (1) Where the Borough has probable cause to suspect that there is a job-related individualized impact with respect to the specific employee being tested; and (2) Where the urinalysis or blood testing is done as part of a bona fide annual physical examination which is done for the entire department.

10. Under no circumstances shall the Borough offer or direct the taking of a polygraph or voice print examination by this Agreement.

11. Under no circumstances shall an employee be subject to any charge whatsoever after forty-five (45) days. The forty-five (45) day period shall be calculated consistent with N.J.S.A. 40A:14-147.

12. Employees shall not be suspended or suffer any loss in benefits until after the employee has had a departmental hearing and has been found guilty, except in cases of severe nature where the suspension of the employee is required for the safety and welfare of the

public or the Borough. If the suspension is immediate, then a departmental hearing shall take place as soon as possible.

ARTICLE 19

NON-DISCRIMINATION

A. The Borough and the Association agree that there shall be no discrimination against any employee because of race, creed, color, sex, national origin or political affiliation.

B. The Borough and the Association agree that all police officers 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 Borough or the Association against any employee because of the employee's membership or non-membership or activity or non-activity in the Association or other employee organization.

ARTICLE 20

FEDERAL OR STATE LAW

Nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted to deprive any rights guaranteed to either the Borough or employee by Federal, State and local law.

ARTICLE 21

BULLETIN BOARD

A. The Borough shall permit the SOA to post information on a bulletin board within the Police Department commonly used for general information. Matters to be posted must be expressly approved prior to posting by the SOA President or his designee.

B. Management may remove anything from the bulletin board it deems inappropriate after consulting with the SOA President or his designee.

ARTICLE 22

MUTUAL AID

A. On-duty officers, while rendering aid to another community at the direction of their superiors, shall be fully covered by worker's compensation, liability insurance and pension as provided by State law.

B. Officers, while acting in their capacity as a police officer on off-duty hours in the jurisdiction of the State of New Jersey, shall be fully covered by workmen's compensation, liability insurance and pension.

ARTICLE 23

PERSONNEL FILES

A. All personnel files are maintained in the Office of Human Resources and upon approval of the Borough Administration, with notice to the Chief of Police, an officer may review their individual file. Any such request shall not be unreasonably denied.

B. No law enforcement agency shall insert any adverse material into any file of the officer, unless the officer has had an opportunity to review, sign, receive a copy of and comment in writing upon the adverse material, unless the officer waives these rights.

C. The officer shall have the right to respond in writing to any complaint, negative report, or disciplinary warning entered into his individual personnel file, and any such response shall also be placed in the officer's individual personnel file.

D. The accrual of time-related benefits under this Agreement for each officer,

including compensatory time, if any, and each employee's attendance at work shall be maintained by the Office of Human Resources.

ARTICLE 24

OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

A. An employee may accept and be employed in any occupation during his off-duty hours, providing such occupation is not in violation of any Federal, State or local law, and providing that such occupation does not cause a conflict of interest with his job as a police officer.

B. The employee shall obtain the permission of the Borough before he obtain other employment.

C. Any employee who engages in outside employment without the express written permission of the Chief of Police shall be subject to discipline up to and including discharge.

ARTICLE 25

MUTUAL COOPERATION PLEDGE

A. It is recognized that the need for continued and uninterrupted operation of the Borough's departments and agencies is of paramount importance to the citizens of the community, and that there should be no interference with such operation.

B. The Association covenants and agrees that during the terms of this Agreement neither the Association nor any person acting in its behalf will cause, authorize, or support, nor will any of its members take part in any strike (i.e., the concerted failure to report for duty, or willful absence of an employee from his position, or stoppage of work or abstinence in whole or in part, from the full, faithful and proper performance of the officer's duties or employment), work

stoppage, slowdown, walkout or other job action against the Borough.

C. The Association agrees that it will direct all such members who participate in such activities to cease and desist from same immediately and shall instruct them to return to work.

D. In the event of a strike, slowdown, walkout or other job action, the Borough is entitled to take appropriate disciplinary action.

E. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to limit or restrict the Borough or the Association in its right to seek and obtain such judicial relief as it may be entitled to have in law or in equity or injunction or damages, or both, in the event of such breach by the Association or its members, or the Borough.

F. No lockout of employees shall be instituted by the Borough during the term of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 26

CONTINUATION OF BENEFITS

All benefits and terms and conditions of employment presently enjoyed by employees hereunder that have not been included in this contract shall be continued in full force and effect.

ARTICLE 27

SEPARABILITY AND SAVINGS

If any provision of this Agreement or any application of this Agreement to any employee or group of employees is held invalid by operation of law or by a Court or other tribunal of competent jurisdiction, such provision shall be inoperative but all other provisions shall not be affected thereby and shall continue in full force and effect.

ARTICLE 28

MEETINGS

A. All officers will be required to attend without compensation, two (2) meetings or inspections per year totaling a maximum of not more than two and one-quarter (2-1/4) hours per year so long as there is at least five (5) days advance notice and the meetings are between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Meetings will not be scheduled during the months of December or January. Persons on bereavement, vacation, sick leave or other absence pre-approved by the Chief in his sole discretion are excluded.

B. Exclusive of Paragraph A, employees not on-duty shall receive overtime pursuant to Article 7 of this Agreement for any departmental meetings held.

ARTICLE 29

WORK-INCURRED INJURY

A. Where an employee covered under this Agreement suffers a work-connected injury or disability, the Borough shall continue such employee at full pay, during the continuance of such employee's inability to work, for a period of up to one (1) year. During this period of time, all temporary disability benefits accruing under the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act shall be paid over to the employer.

B. The employee shall be required to present evidence by a certificate from the worker's compensation physician that he is unable to work and, the Mayor and Council may reasonably require the said employee to present such certificates from time to time.

C. In the event the employee contends that he is entitled to a period of disability beyond the period established by the treating physician, or a physician employed by the Borough

or by its insurance carrier, then, and in that event, the burden shall be upon the employee to establish such additional period of disability by obtaining a judgment in the Division of Workers' Compensation establishing such further period of disability and such findings by the Division of Workers' Compensation, or by the final decision of the last reviewing court, shall be binding upon the parties.

D. For the purposes of this Article, injury or illness incurred while the employee is attending a Borough sanctioned training program shall be considered in the line of duty.

E. In the event a dispute arises as to whether an absence shall be computed or designated as sick leave or as to any injury on duty, the parties agree to be bound by the decision of an appropriate workers' compensation judgment, or, if there is an appeal therefrom, the final decision of the last reviewing court.

F. An injury on duty requiring time off for treatment or rehabilitation shall not be construed as sick leave or a sick leave occasion under the terms of the sick leave policy heretofore agreed upon between the parties. However, the Borough and the employee shall attempt to arrange the employee's work schedule so that any such treatment or rehabilitation occur during the employee's off-duty hours.

ARTICLE 30

FULLY BARGAINED PROVISIONS

A. This Agreement represents and incorporates the complete and final understanding and settlement by the parties of all bargainable issues which were or could have been the subject of negotiations. During the term of this Agreement, neither party will be required to negotiate with respect to any such matter whether or not covered by this Agreement, and whether or not within

the knowledge or contemplation of either or both of the parties at the time they negotiated or signed this Agreement.

B. 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 31

TERM AND RENEWAL

THIS AGREEMENT shall be in full force and effect as of January 1, 2023 except where another date is indicated in this Agreement and shall remain in effect to and including December 31, 2026 without any reopening date. This Agreement shall continue in full force and effect from year to year thereafter, unless one party or the other gives notice, in writing, at least ninety (90) days prior to the expiration date of this Agreement, of a desire to change, modify or terminate this Agreement.

**SUPERIOR OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
OF PBA LOCAL NO. 64**

BY: _____

SOA

BY: _____

SOA

**BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

BY: _____

MAYOR

BY: _____

BOROUGH CLERK

DATED: 8-21-23

DATED: 9/15/23