

AGREEMENT

AMONG

OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AND

OCEAN COUNTY SHERIFF

AND

**NEW JERSEY STATE
POLICEMEN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION,
SUPERIOR OFFICERS,
LOCAL NO. 379A**

July 1, 2022 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026

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AGREEMENT

This Agreement, executed this 21st day of February, 2024 among the Ocean County Board of Commissioners and Ocean County Sheriff, hereinafter jointly referred to as "Employer", and the New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association, Local 379A, comprise of Ocean County Sheriff's Superior Officers and for this particular Agreement, excluding Sheriff's Officers and Chief Sheriff's Officer and all other employees, which organization has been certified by the Public Employment Relations Commission as an appropriate bargaining unit, hereinafter referred to as the "Association" or "SOA". Wherever the term Sheriff's Superior Officer 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 New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association, Local 379A as the exclusive representative of all ocean County Sheriff's Superior Officers for the purpose of collective negotiations with respect to wages, hours, terms and other conditions of employment, for those Sheriff's Superior Officers set forth in the certification to the Public Employment Relations Commission and employed by the County of Ocean and all the rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, the County of Ocean, The Sheriff and the New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association, Local 379A 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 of Ocean and the Sheriff hereby recognize the New Jersey State SOA Local 379A as the exclusive and sole representative for collective negotiations concerning grievances and terms and conditions of employment for all permanent Sheriff's Superior Officers holding the rank of Sergeant, Lieutenant or Captain and excluding all Sheriff's Officers, Chief Sheriff's Officer and all other County 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 Board and the Sheriff reserve to themselves and their agents, full jurisdiction and authority over matters of policy, work rules and regulations and retain the right, subject only to the specific limitations imposed by language of this Agreement, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

1. To direct the employees of the unit.
2. To hire, promote, transfer, assign and retain employees in positions in the unit and for just cause, to suspend, to demote, to discharge or to take other disciplinary action against employees.
3. To relieve employees from duties because of lack of work or for other legitimate reasons.
4. To maintain the efficiency of the operations of the County and the Sheriff's Department entrusted to the Board and the Sheriff's.
5. To determine the methods, means and personnel by which such operations are to be conducted.
6. To take whatever actions may be necessary to carry out the mission of the County and the Sheriff's Department in situations of emergency.

ARTICLE 4 UNIFORM MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

- A. The County will reimburse a new Officer for the purchase of his/her uniform. Uniform specifications pertaining to weight, color, etc. will be determined by the Sheriff.
- B. All Sheriff's Superior Officers shall maintain and wear the proper uniform as required by the Sheriff. If the employer changes uniforms, the cost of the change shall be borne entirely by the employer.

ARTICLE 5
PERSONAL DAYS

Each employee will be eligible for three (3) personal leave days per annum, which may be used for personal business which cannot be conducted after the employee's shift. Personal leave days are considered "earned" on January 1st, May 1st and September 1st of each calendar year. Request for use of a personal leave day must be submitted on the form provided by the Sheriff's Office at least forty-eight (48) hours before the commencement of leave. Personal Days may be used in advance of being earned. This leave may not commence if an emergency condition exists in the County as declared by the Sheriff or his/her designee.

Upon the death of an Officer, earned and unused Personal Time shall be paid to the Officer's Estate.

ARTICLE 6
HOSPITAL, SURGICAL, PRESCRIPTION
AND MAJOR MEDICAL BENEFITS

- A. The County of Ocean currently provides medical coverage to the County employees through the New Jersey State Health Benefits program as supplemented by 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 coverage 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 not control over or any obligations regarding such changes.
- C. All employees, current and future, who retire on or after January 1, 2013, 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.

Any employee who retires after the execution of the collective negotiations agreement must have served a minimum of seven (7) years with the County (twenty-five (25) years total in the PFRS pension system) in order to be eligible for the lifetime health benefits upon retirement. This applies to all types of retirements.

- 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 of this bargaining unit is granted the privilege of a leave of absence without pay for illness, health coverage will continue at County 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.
- F. In the case of consecutive leaves of absence without pay, it is understood and agreed that the responsibilities of the County to pay for benefits remains limited to the original period of up to four (4) months.
- G. The following changes will affect any Superior Officer hired into the Sheriff's Department on or after June 1, 2012.
 - 1. Employees will be offered the NJ Direct 15 Plan, or its replacement. Any Superior Officer hired into the Sheriff's Department on or after June 1, 2012, may elect a higher level of coverage at their expense.
 - 2. Continuation of spousal coverage after the death of the retiree will no longer be offered at the County's expense.
 - 3. The County will no longer reimburse Medical part B Premiums.

ARTICLE 7

FAMILY DENTAL PLAN

Members of this bargaining unit after the first of the month following three (3) full months of employment shall be eligible for a Family Dental Plan contracted for with Blue Cross/Blue Shield or other suitable dental care provider.

The Family Dental Plan will be made available to eligible employees, spouses and children to the end of the year in which they turn 19 years of age. The maximum total cost for services per patient per benefit year is limited to \$1,000. There will be a \$25.00 deductible per patient per benefit year to be paid by the employee, for use to the first three members of each family. However, this deductible is not applicable to preventative and diagnostic services as described below:

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 five year period.....	50%

ARTICLE 8 VISION CARE PLAN

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 9 HOLIDAYS

Each full time Superior Officer covered by this Agreement shall enjoy the following holidays with pay, to be observed on the dates specified each January by the Board of Commissioners.

Martin Luther King Day	Labor Day
President's Day	Columbus Day
Good Friday	Veteran's Day
Memorial Day	General Election Day
Juneteenth Day (Effective 2023)	Thanksgiving Day
Labor Day	

In addition each full time Officer 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.

The County will continue the existing practice as set forth in the "Pilot Program" (4/10 Schedule; Appendix A) of all members of PBA 379A receiving a Holiday Bank. The County will continue the practice of providing **104 hours per year (112 hours per year effective 2023)** in the Holiday Bank for any and all possible holidays set forth in Article 9. Any work performed on any listed holiday shall be done at the officer's normal rate of pay.

The day the supervisor utilizes his or her "holiday leave hours" for a full shift is considered the "holiday" for the purposes of holiday overtime potential." (Cited from Administrator Carl Block's grievance response in regards to holiday overtime".

In the event any supervisor covered by this agreement is required by the Sheriff to perform duties on a day that the supervisor had scheduled in advance to be utilized for the supervisor's "holiday leave hours" for a full shift, whether scheduled or call in situations, the supervisor shall be compensated as set forth below in Paragraph A.

- A. All work performed on a holiday shall be compensated a rate equal to two and one-half times ($2 \frac{1}{2}$) the rate of pay which would apply on a normal workday. The eight (8) hours regular day's pay shall always count toward the $2 \frac{1}{2}$ x rate of pay. Specific examples follow:

Employee schedule to work eight (8) hours on a holiday who actually works the eight (8) hours:

8 hours (regular pay @ straight time)	=	8 hours
8 hours @ $1 \frac{1}{2}$ x	=	<u>12 hours</u>
TOTAL		20 hours

Employee schedule to work eight (8) hours on a holiday who actually works 16 hours:

8 hours @ straight time	=	8 hours
8 hours @ $1 \frac{1}{2}$ x	=	12 hours
8 hours @ $2 \frac{1}{2}$ x	=	<u>20 hours</u>
TOTAL		40 hours

Employee not schedule to work because of a holiday who is called in to perform 2 hours work:

8 hours @ straight time	=	8 hours
8 hours @ $1 \frac{1}{2}$ x	=	12 hours
2 hours @ $2 \frac{1}{2}$ x	=	<u>5 hours</u>
TOTAL		25 hours

ARTICLE 10 **SICK LEAVE**

- A. Sick leave shall accumulate in hours at the rate of one and one-quarter ($1 \frac{1}{4}$) days per month in the first year of service, commencing on the 1st month or major Portion thereof, from date of hire. It is assumed that the employee shall remain in the service of the County for the remainder of the calendar year, and the total number of sick days, pro rate, shall be credited to the employee. If separation occurs before the

end of the year, and more sick leave has been taken than apportioned on a prorated 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 to the employee at the beginning of each successive calendar year.

Time lost due to injury and illness arising out of or caused by County employment, for which the employee has a claim for Worker's Compensation shall not be charged to sick leave. Paid holidays occurring during a period of sick leave shall not be chargeable to sick leave. When an injury occurs on the job the affected Officer shall be covered up to one (1) year at full pay.

Effective upon the execution of this Agreement, the Employer agrees to pay employees at their regular rate during periods of job connected disability due to illness, injury, or recuperation therefrom for a maximum of sixty (60) days from the date of such disability, provided such employee is incapable of performing his/her duties as an employee and that such disability is established by a competent physician. The Employer retains the right in its discretion to extend this period of this payment for such job connected disability due to illness or injury beyond sixty (60) days. The Employer may require at any time during the period of such disability as described above that the employee be examined by a physician selected by the Employer for such purpose. All claims and challenges as to eligibility for such Worker's Compensation insure situations shall be made to the Division of Worker's Compensation and the decision of the Division or determination by a reviewing court shall be binding.

B. Employees in this bargaining unit are also eligible for coverage under the County's reimbursement for unused sick leave at retirement policy. This policy provides for reimbursement for unused sick days at retirement on the basis of one-half (1/2) pay for each earned and unused sick day 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 will have a choice of selecting either a lump sum payment or payments spread over a three year period. The estates of unit members who die while still employed by the Board and/or Sheriff shall also receive the same benefits within the guidelines described above.

ARTICLE 11

VACATION LEAVE

A. The County's vacation program is set forth as follows:

1. For an 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 twelve (12) months and one (1) working day up to a total of forty-eight (48) months, twelve (12) working days, in hours, per year.
3. For an employee who has served forty-eight (48) calendar months plus one (1) day up to a total of one hundred thirty-two (132) calendar months, fifteen (15) working days, in hours, per year.
4. For an employee who has served one hundred thirty-two (132) months plus one (1) day up to a total of two hundred twenty-eight (228) calendar months, twenty (20) working days, in hours, per year.
5. For an employee who has served two hundred twenty-eight (228) calendar months plus one (1) days, twenty-five (25) working days, in hours, per year.

B. Each employee will 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 earned but unused vacation time paid to him/her. Unearned but used vacation time will be deducted from the employee's last pay, if termination of service occurs.

C. Bidding for vacations shall be based upon Civil Service seniority, provided it does not create a shortage of experienced officers on a given shift.

D. Upon the death of an officer, unused and earned vacation leave shall be paid to the Officer's Estate.

ARTICLE 12 **LONGEVITY**

Longevity pay for all classified permanent employees, hired before February 12, 2014 and covered by this Agreement with seven (7) or more years of continuous and unbroken service to the County of Ocean 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

Effective April 17, 2015 longevity was eliminated for all employees hired after February 12, 2014.

ARTICLE 13 OVERTIME AND CALL IN

- A. Overtime shall be compensated at the rate of time and one half (1 ½) for each hour actually worked in an overtime status. Overtime payments shall commence after completion of eight (8) hours work in a work day or forty (40) hours in a work week. Sick days, legal holidays, vacation days and personal days, constitute compensable days for the computation of overtime. All other days, other than workdays, sick days, legal holidays, personal days and vacation days, will not be utilized as compensable days for the purpose of computing overtime.
- B. Those Officers who have completed their regular shift and are required to continue their tour of duty beyond eight (8) hours are entitled to additional compensation at the overtime rate for each hour worked beyond eight (8).
- C. Effective with the execution of this Agreement, Superior Officers, in lieu of overtime payment, will have the option to accrue a maximum of forty-eight (48) hours of compensatory time per calendar year. Compensatory time will be accrued at the same rate as overtime compensation consistent with paragraph A of this Article. Utilization of accrued compensatory time shall be in a manner consistent with Article 11, Vacation Leave. Any compensatory time not used by November 15th of the year in which it is earned shall be paid to the Superior Officer at his or her current rate of pay, within thirty (30) days thereafter.

Effective with the execution of this Agreement, Superior Officers, in lieu of overtime payment, will have the option to accrue a maximum of forty-eight (48) hours of compensatory time per calendar year. Compensatory time will be accrued at the same rate as overtime compensation consistent with paragraph A of this Article. Utilization of accrued compensatory time shall be in a manner consistent with Article 11, Vacation Leave. Any compensatory time not used by November 15th of the year in which it is earned shall be paid to the Superior Officer at his or her current rate of pay, within thirty (30) days thereafter.

Starting with the 24th pay period of 2023 (November 9, 2023- November 22, 2023) the number of hours an Officer can earn will increase to eighty (80) hours of non-replenishing compensatory time at any time during the calendar year. **Thereafter, any compensatory time not used by the end of the pay period which included November 15th of the year in which it is earned shall be paid to the Superior Officer at his or her current rate of pay, within thirty (30) days thereafter.**

- D. The Sheriff or their respective designee, may require a doctor's certificate for any sick day taken by an Officer during a period within which the Officer has worked

overtime and the sick day was actually used as a compensable day for the purposes of computation of overtime.

- E. Any Officer who leaves his/her work station and is required to return to work from home will be guaranteed four (4) hours overtime at the applicable rate. If he/she works over five (5) hours, he/she will be guaranteed eight (8) hours overtime.
- F. All overtime shall be distributed as equally as possible (per contract year) among bargaining unit members. Unit specific overtime will be equally distributed among all superior officers of that Unit, such as Court Security, CIU, K-9, Warrants/ID, etc. The Sheriff shall endeavor to assign all non-Unit specific overtime to the superior officers of the rank deemed necessary by the Sheriff who has the least cumulative overtime. (All overtime, whether non-Unit or Unit specific, equals a superior officer's cumulative overtime.)

ARTICLE 14 **COLLEGE CREDIT**

- A. Effective January 1, 2000, the employer agrees to pay each employee covered by this Agreement, in addition to his/her annual salary, an education incentive, payable in equal increments, as set forth below on the following basis:
 - 1. For an Associate of Arts degree or sixty-two (62) college credits, Five Hundred Dollars (\$500).
 - 2. For a Bachelor's Degree, or one hundred twenty-four (124) college credits, Eight Hundred Dollars (\$800).
 - 3. For a Master's Degree, One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000).
- B. Successful completion of the degree shall be evidenced by submission of any of the following documents:
 - 1. A copy of the actual degree.
 - 2. A copy of the employee's transcript, indicating that a degree has been awarded accompanied by a letter from the institution certifying the awarding of the degree.
 - 3. Any certified institutional document that evidences the awarding of the degree.
- C. Effective January 1, 2000, the foregoing payments shall be made with the regular paycheck totaling 26 payments per calendar year. The Officer must submit the proper documentation, of the applicable degree, to the Sheriff as outlined above.

The Officer will begin to receive the appropriate stipend in his/her regular bi-weekly pay within thirty (30) days after notification is made to the Employer.

Officers hired after April 1, 2016 will no longer be eligible for college credit benefits.

ARTICLE 15 **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 16 **NO STRIKE CLAUSE**

During the period of the time this Agreement is in effect and notwithstanding any change in existing law, the Association and its employees shall not have the right to engage in any slowdown, work stoppage, strike or similar type of activity. The method of resolving any disagreement concerning this Agreement or other elements of the employment relationship shall be covered by the procedure contained in this Agreement.

ARTICLE 17 **ON CALL, EXTRADITION AND K-9 ASSIGNMENTS**

A. Sheriff's Superior Officers performing extraditions shall in addition to their regular pay earn four (4) hours of overtime for each twenty-four (24) hour period that they are on duty.

B. Effective upon the execution of this contract, Sheriff's Superior Officers assigned by the Sheriff to the K-9 Unit shall receive additional pay for care of the canines, which shall include, but not limited to, bathing, brushing, exercising, feeding, grooming, related cleaning of the dog's kennel or transport vehicle, and similar activities performed by the Canine Officer at home on workdays as well as off duty. The parties have agreed to this separate rate of pay for care of canines apart from law enforcement duties. Pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, the parties have reached agreement that overtime rate for canine care hours shall be time and one-half special canine care rate established pursuant to §7(g)(2) of the FLSA. Taking into consideration all of the pertinent facts regarding canine care, the agreed upon pay shall be an additional Two Hundred and Ninety Dollars (\$290.00) per month. Additional hours spent by Sheriff Superior Offices engaged in extraordinary care shall be reported and subject to reimbursement. Sheriff Superior Officers who are assigned the care of more than one (1) canine shall receive additional compensation of One Hundred and Fifty (\$150) per additional canine.

ARTICLE 18
BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

All employees shall receive up to three (3) days in the event of the death of a spouse, child, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, parent, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, grandparent, grandchild, aunt, uncle, common law spouse and other member of the immediate household. All employees shall be entitled to a leave of the one (1) day to attend the funeral of a spouse's aunt, uncle, or grandparent. Such leave is separate and distinct from any other leave time. All such leave will not be taken until the immediate supervisor is notified of the instance of bereavement. Verification may be requested by the Department Head.

ARTICLE 19
CHECK OFF OF DUES

The County agrees to deduct from the earnings of each member of the SOA, Association membership dues when said employee has properly authorized such deduction in writing. The Association will indemnify, defend and save harmless the County against any and all 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 Association to the County. Unless otherwise specified, the deductions enumerated above shall take place on a monthly basis.

ARTICLE 20
AGENCY SHOP

The County and the SOA agree that an Agency Shop provision as passed into Law CH 477 PL 1979 NJSA which grants the SOA a representative fee of 85% of the Union Dues for non-members shall be implemented and made part of this Agreement. The SOA agrees to comply with all aspects of the law in the application of this statute as written.

ARTICLE 21
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 22
UNILATERAL CHANGES

- A. There shall not be any unilateral changes in the terms and condition of this Agreement. Any changes made in this Agreement shall be done with the mutual consent of the parties. However, less specifically provided in this Agreement, neither party shall be required to re-negotiate any part of this Agreement until the expiration of said Agreement.
- B. PBA 379A agrees the Sheriff will have the ability to change the shift times upon discussion and advance notice of 30 days, except in cases of emergency.

ARTICLE 23
MAINTENANCE OF BENEFITS

Except as specifically modified, deleted or changed by this Agreement, all benefits existing at the time of this Agreement shall continue in effect for the duration of this Agreement. Nothing contained herein shall be interpreted or applied so as to eliminate, reduce or detract from any employee benefit existing prior to this date.

ARTICLE 24
GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A. Definitions

A "grievance" is a claim by an Officer or the SOA based upon the interpretation, application, or violation of this Agreement, policies or administrative decisions and practices affecting an Officer or group of Officers. Minor discipline (5 days of suspension or equivalent fine or any lesser penalty) shall be covered by the grievance procedure.

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

It is understood that the SOA reserves its lawful right as the Exclusive Bargaining Agent to file a complaint or initiate a formal grievance without the consent or prior notification of the person or group of persons the SOA deems afflicted by any disagreement and asserts its lawful right to enforce this Agreement by doing so.

1. The grievant(s) or the SOA 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.

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

C. **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 – Immediate Superior – An Officer with a grievance shall first discuss it with his/her immediate superior, either directly or through the Association'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 five (5) working days after the presentation of the grievance, he/she may file the grievance in writing with the SOA within five (5) days after the decision at Level One or ten (10) working days after the grievance was presented, whichever is sooner. Within five (5) working days after receiving his/her written grievance, the Association shall refer it to the Sheriff.
4. Level Three – County Administrator – If the aggrieved party is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Level Two, or if no decision has been rendered within the (10) working days after the grievance was delivered to the Sheriff, whichever is sooner, he/she may request in writing that the SOA submit his/her grievance to the County Administrator for disposition.
5. Level Four – Arbitration – Within ten (10) days, if the aggrieved party is not satisfied with the disposition of this grievance at Level Three, he/she may request in writing that the SOA submit his/her grievance to Arbitration. If the SOA determines that the grievance is meritorious, it may submit the grievance to arbitration with twenty (20) days after receipt of a request to arbitration and within twenty (20) days after receipt of a request by the aggrieved person.

- a) Within ten (10) days after such written notice of submission to arbitration, the County and the SOA 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 then shall be bound by the rules and procedures of PERC.
- b) The Arbitrator's decision shall be in writing and shall be submitted to the County and the SOA and shall be final and binding on the parties.
- c) In the event that arbitrability of a grievance is at issue between the parties, jurisdiction to resolve the issues shall rest solely with the Arbitrator selected in accordance with the provision of this Article.
- d) 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 SOA. Any other expenses incurred shall be paid by the party incurring same.

D. Rights of Officers to Representation

- 1. Officers and SOA – Any aggrieved person may be represented at all stages, except at Level One, of the grievance procedures by himself/herself, or at his/her option, by representative(s) selected or approved by the SOA. When an Officer is not represented by the SOA, the SOA 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 SOA, or any other participant in the grievance procedure by reason of such participation.

E. Miscellaneous

- 1. Written Decisions – Decisions rendered at Level One which are unsatisfactory to the aggrieved person and all decisions rendered at Level 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 SOA. 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, service notices, taking appeals, making reports and recommendations and other necessary documents shall be prepared by the SOA 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 designated or selected representatives, heretofore referred to in this Article.
5. Sole and Exclusive Remedy – This grievance procedure shall be the sole and exclusive remedy for any issue arising out of the interpretation, application, or violation of this Agreement, policies or administrative decisions and practices affecting an Officer or group of Officers.
6. Single Grievance – 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, single Arbitrator shall be empowered to adjudicate all such grievances.

ARTICLE 25

SALARIES

A. The salary for the titles covered by this agreement shall be as follows:

1. Sergeants

July 1, 2022 = \$129,350
July 1, 2023 = \$132,260
July 1, 2024 = \$135,236
July 1, 2025 = \$138,286

2. Lieutenants

July 1, 2022 = \$142,000

July 1, 2023 = \$145,195
July 1, 2024 = \$148,462
July 1, 2025 = \$151,802

3. Captains

July 1, 2022 = \$154,200
July 1, 2023 = \$157,670
July 1, 2024 = \$161,217
July 1, 2025 = \$164,850

*The 2022 salaries are retroactive to July 1, 2022.

** The 2023 salaries are retroactive to July 1, 2023.

- B. Field Training Officer – Effective January 1, 2024, any officer designated by the Sheriff as a Field Training Officer (“FTO”) shall receive a stipend of \$1,500 per year.

ARTICLE 26
SENIORITY

- A. Every July 1st thereafter all Sergeants and Lieutenants shall have the right to bid for shifts and days off, according to their respective seniority within the same rank. Bidding rights shall not be forfeited when transferred into a division within the Department. Any change in shift and days off shall go into effect September 1st.
- B. The Sheriff shall retain the sole authority for the assignment of Superior Officers to sections, division or units within their respective Departments.
- C. Seniority shall be defined as a Superior Officers' length of unbroken continuous service from the date of permanent appointment, in accordance with Civil Service Ranking.

ARTICLE 27
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 28
PERSONNEL FILES

- A. A personnel file shall be established and maintained for each employee covered by this agreement. Such files are confidential records and shall be maintained in the Office of the Sheriff, and may be used for evaluation purposes.
- B. Upon advance notice and at reasonable times, any member of the Department may at any time review his/her personnel file. However, this appointment for review must be made through the Sheriff or his/her designated representative.
- C. Whenever a written complaint concerning an Officer of his/her actions is to be placed in his/her personnel file, a copy shall be made available to him/her and he/she shall be given the opportunity to rebut it if he/she so desires, and he/she shall be permitted to place said rebuttal in his/her file. When the employee is given a copy of the complaint, the identification of the complainant shall be excised. However, if any disciplinary action is taken based on any complaint, then the employee shall be furnished with all details of the complaint, including the identity of the complainant.
- D. All personnel files will be carefully maintained and safeguarded permanently, and nothing placed in any file shall be removed there from. Removal of any material from a personnel file by any member of the force shall subject that member to appropriate disciplinary action.
- E. It is acknowledged that Ocean County Employee Relations also maintain an administrative set of files which the employee may arrange to review.

ARTICLE 29
CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES

- A. In the event an Officer in another Department in the State of New Jersey is killed in the line of duty, the union may request that at least one (1) SOA bargaining unit member be permitted to participate in funeral services for the said deceased Officer. The Sheriff, or his designee, may exercise his discretion as to whether to grant the request.
- B. Subject to the availability of same, the employer will permit a County vehicle to be utilized by the members in the funeral service. The Sheriff, or his designee, will have the discretion to determine whether the County vehicle utilized will be marked or unmarked.
- C. Officers participating in such funeral service shall not be entitled to any compensation during the time in which they are participating in said funeral service unless otherwise agreed to by the Sheriff.

ARTICLE 30
BULLETIN BOARD

- A. The employer will supply one (1) bulletin board for the use of the Association to be placed in a conspicuous location.
- B. The bulletin board shall be for the use of the Association for the posting of notices and bulletins pertaining to Association business and activities or matters dealing with the welfare of employees.
- C. No matter may be posted without receiving permission of the officially designated Association representative. Any bulletins deemed detrimental to the operation of the Department may be rejected for posting by the Sheriff. However, approval for posting shall not be unreasonably withheld.

ARTICLE 31
WEATHER EMERGENCIES

If the Board of Commissioners closes 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 32
DURATION

The duration of this Agreement shall be from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2026 and its terms shall remain in full force and effect until a successor Agreement is negotiated.

ARTICLE 33
LAW ENFORCEMENT PROTECTION ACT

The provisions of Public Law 1996, Chapter 115, known as the Law Enforcement Officers Protection Act are attached hereto and incorporated herein as if set forth at length. SOA bargaining unit members are acknowledged to be covered under the New Jersey "Law Enforcement Officers Protection Act".

ARTICLE 34
ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

- A. The Sheriff shall grant time off with pay to the SOA President or his/her designee to attend any and all State, County Conference, or Local SOA meetings, if he/she is scheduled for duty when the meetings are scheduled; not to exceed one (1) day

per month. The Sheriff may grant additional union hours upon request from the SOA.

- B. The SOA President or his/her designee shall be granted three (3) days off with pay per year to conduct SOA business. The Sheriff may grant additional union hours upon request from the SOA.
- C. The Sheriff shall permit five (5) members of the SOA Collective Bargaining Committee to attend all collective bargaining sessions without loss of pay.
- D. The Sheriff shall allow two (2) SOA selected delegates to attend State PBA Conventions under the terms of N.J.S.A. 40A:14-177. Effective July 1, 2024, the Sheriff shall allow three (3) SOA selected delegates to attend State PBA Conventions under the terms of N.J.S.A. 40A:14-177.

ARTICLE 35 **OUT OF COUNTY TRAVEL**

The County Travel Policy, as it may be amended from time to time, shall apply to SOA unit members.

ARTICLE 36 **LEGAL DEFENSE**

The County's Resolution regarding legal defense, as it may be amended from time to time, shall apply to SOA unit members.

ARTICLE 37 **TRANSFERS**

If an Officer's permanent work assignment is changed from one division to another, the Officer shall be provided with at least seven (7) calendar days written notice from the Employer before it becomes effective. Advance written notice will not be required if the Sheriff or his designee determines that the circumstances of the transfer do not allow for such notice.

ARTICLE 38 **WORK RULES**

The Employer agrees to furnish the SOA President with a minimum of seven (7) calendar days written notice prior to making changes to departmental rules, policies or procedures unless the Sheriff, or his designee, determines that the circumstances do not allow for such notice.

ARTICLE 39
TABLE OF ORGANIZATION

During the first week of January of each year, the Sheriff shall provide a copy of the up-to-date Table of Organization to the SOA President.

All mid-year changes to the Table of Organization shall be provided in the form of written notice to the SOA President within a reasonable time period prior to the effective date of the change unless the Sheriff or his designee determines that the circumstances do not allow for such notice.

ARTICLE 40
HOURS/SHIFTS

- A. **10-Hour Shifts** – Any portion of this collective negotiations agreement, or the 4/10 Schedule attached hereto related to 10-hour shifts, regarding midnight (12:00AM) being the end of the day/week is hereby superseded by this provision. Unless specifically amended by this sections, the terms of the 4/10 Pilot Program shall continue in force.

During the term of the collective negotiations agreement, all 10 hour shifts will be one of the following for the duration of the contract:

- Sunday through Wednesday 0700-1700 hours or 1700-0300 hours.
- Wednesday through Saturday 0700-1700 hours or 1700-0300 hours.

However, the schedules may be different subject to mutual agreement of the parties.

- B. **Shift Bidding:**

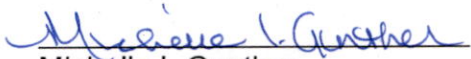
1. Shift bids, which will include the days, will be posted no later than June 15th
2. Shift bids will end no later than July 15th.
3. Shift bids will be awarded no later than August 1st
4. New shifts will start on the first pay period of September

ARTICLE 41
POLICE LICENSE

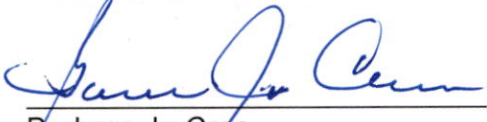
The County shall reimburse members of the bargaining unit up to \$150.00 per year for any fee paid by the Superior Officer toward the renewal of the officer's police license to be issued by the State of New Jersey. The County shall not reimburse any late fees.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have set their hands and seals this 23rd
day of February, 2024.

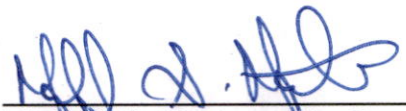
ATTEST:


Michelle I. Gunther
Clerk of the Board 2/23/2024

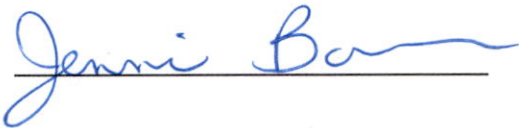
**OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**


Barbara Jo Crea
Director

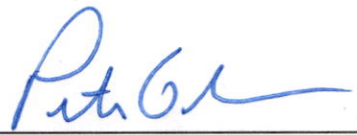
**OFFICE OF THE OCEAN COUNTY
SHERIFF**


Michael G. Mastronardy, Sheriff

WITNESS:



**OCEAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S
SUPERIOR OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
PBA LOCAL NO. 379A**


Peter Glass, President

APPENDIX B

4/10 SCHEDULE

The Ocean County Sheriff and Ocean County Sheriff's Superior Officers PBA Local 379A agree to the implementation of a 10-hour work day for selected units/personnel and the establishment of a Holiday Leave Bank for all SOA members.

1. The schedule shall be in effect starting July 10, 2014, and remain in effect as part of the negotiated CBA.
2. This 4/10 schedule shall include selected employees of the Sheriff's Office assigned to the following units:

Criminal Investigations
Field Services Warrant Unit
Field Services K-9 Unit
Additional personnel/units may be added upon agreement
With both parties

3. A two (2) week grace period will be given those employees to adjust their personal affairs prior to the implementation of this schedule, if requested.
4. Each full-time employee covered by this agreement will have their remaining personal leave converted to hours for the year. The employee may use his/her personal time on an hour by hour basis.
5. For the duration of this agreement, each full-time employee covered shall enjoy eight (8) hours of holiday time on the dates established in the CBA.
6. If an employee is assigned to the 4/3 work week with ten (10) hour shifts, it is understood by the PBA that the employee will need to use ten (10) hours of sick time to cover a sick day off. All remaining sick time will be converting from days to hours.
7. If an Employee is assigned to the 4/3 work week with ten (10) hour shifts, it is understood by the PBA that the Employee will need to use ten (10) hours of vacation time to cover a vacation day. All remaining vacation time will be converting from days to hours.
8. Employees assigned to the 4/3 work week with ten(10) hour shifts will be entitled to overtime after ten (10) hours work in a work day or forty (40) hours in a work week.

9. The regular hour of each work week shall be consecutive. The work day shall consist of a twenty-four (24) hour period starting at 0001 hours and ending 2400 hours. A work week will begin at 0001 hours on Thursday and end at 2400 hours on Wednesday. The work week shall consist of seven (7) days with a work schedule of four (4) ten (10) hour days with three (3) consecutive days off. The work schedule will be either Wednesday to Saturday with Sun/Mon/Tue off or Sunday to Wednesday with Thu/Fri/Sat off.
10. The parties agree that a single off-site training day of eight (8) or more hours will be equal to one work day if the training falls on a scheduled work day.
11. The parties agree that a bereavement day will be equal to one work day if the bereavement day falls on a scheduled work day.
12. Any officer assigned to the 4/10 Schedule shall enjoy holidays with pay to be observed on the dates established in the CBA and those holidays shall be converted to hours to be used as a form of paid leave, hereinafter referred to as Holiday Leave. Employees whose regularly schedule work week does not include Sunday will receive 112¹/₂ hours (the equivalent of the 14 recognized holidays) of holiday leave annually. Employees who regularly scheduled work week includes Sunday will receive 120 hours (the equivalent in hours of the 14 recognized holidays and Easter Sunday) of holiday leave annually.

The use of holiday leave as a form of paid time off shall not be confined to holiday dates. However, all employees must have enough holiday leave to cover all remaining holidays that they are scheduled to work prior to using vacation or personal leave to receive time off on those recognized dates or using holiday leave on a non-holiday. Officers who are scheduled to work on a holiday will be required to work unless a leave request is submitted, in accordance to the current practice for vacation leave, and approved. Officers whose regular day off falls on a holiday and are not requested to work, will have no leave deducted.

Holiday leave will be compensable towards overtime. Employees called into work while on holiday leave may rescind their request and will not have time deducted from the holiday leave bank and be compensated at their regular rate of pay for that day.

Holiday leave time that is not utilized by the employee within a calendar year is payable in a lump sum to the employee, at their standard straight time rate, no later than the second pay check in January of the subsequent year.

13. The sheriff will determine staffing levels for all affected units on holidays.

LIVEE RELATIONS
16 FEB '24 PM2:57