

3-0417

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FINAL

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

CITY OF HACKENSACK

AND

HACKENSACK FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

LOCAL NO. 2081, A.F.L.-C.I.O.

FOR THE PERIOD

January 1, 1977 to December 31, 1980

*Bergen*

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PREAMBLE

THIS AGREEMENT entered into this 2nd day of  
March , 1978 by and between the CITY OF HACKENSACK, New Jersey,  
hereinafter referred to as the "City", and the HACKENSACK FIRE FIGHTERS  
ASSOCIATION, LOCAL NO. 2081, A.F.L. - C.I.O., hereinafter referred to  
as the "Union".

ARTICLE I

GENERAL/PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

1.1           GENERAL:       In order to increase general efficiency in the Fire Department, to maintain the existing harmonious relationship between the Fire Department and its employees and to promote the morale, rights, well-being, and sincerity of the Fire Department, the City and the Union hereby agree as follows:

1.2           PUBLIC EMPLOYEES:       The Fire Department and the individual members of the Union are to regard themselves as public employees and are to be governed by the highest ideals of honor and integrity in all their public and personal conduct in order that they may merit the respect and confidence of the general public.

ARTICLE II

RECOGNITION

2.1           The City of Hackensack hereby recognizes the Hackensack Fire Fighters Association, Local No. 2081, AFL-CIO, as the sole and exclusive representative of all Fire Fighters employed by the City excluding craft employees, police officers, office clericals, fire superiors, supervisors within the meaning of the Act, managerial executives, officers and all others.

ARTICLE III

PROBATION PERIOD

3.1 All employees shall serve a probationary period of three (3) months and shall have no seniority rights during this period but shall be subject to all other clauses of this Agreement. All employees who have successfully completed the probationary period shall be known as permanent employees and the probationary period shall be considered part of the seniority time.

ARTICLE IV

SENIORITY LIST

4.1           The City will supply a list as certified by Civil Service regarding appointments only. The list is not to be used as a seniority list.



ARTICLE V

VACANCIES AND PROMOTIONS

5.1 A Table of Organization shall be established as a part of this Agreement. This Table of Organization shall list all vacancies for Fire Fighter positions. An appointment list for Fire Fighters shall always be available. All vacancies, when they occur, shall be dealt with according to the Rules of Civil Service.

ARTICLE VI

WAGES

6.1 The salaries of all members of the Bargaining Unit covered by this Agreement shall be as follows for the year 1977:

Step I	\$ 8,675
Step II	10,800
Step III	12,925
Step IV	15,200

6.2 The salaries of all members of the Bargaining Unit covered by this Agreement shall be as follows for the year 1978:

Step I	\$ 8,925
Step II	11,300
Step III	13,675
Step IV	16,200

6.3 The salaries of all members of the Bargaining Unit covered by this Agreement shall be as follows for the year 1979:

Step I	\$ 9,100
Step II	11,650
Step III	14,200
Step IV	16,900

6.4            The salaries of all members of the Bargaining Unit covered by this Agreement shall be as follows for the year 1980:

Step I	\$ 9,350
Step II	12,150
Step III	14,950
Step IV	17,900

## ARTICLE VII

### LONGEVITY

7.1 Effective January 1, 1977, in addition to the salary ranges indicated, each employee will receive longevity pay of one (1%) per cent for each two (2) years of service, computed on the amount of the base salary of the employee at the time he becomes eligible for such longevity payment. In order to qualify for such longevity pay, the employee must have earned two (2) years service credit on or before January 4, March 31, June 30, or September 30, in order to receive the added one (1%) per cent longevity pay for the ensuing quarters. Whenever an employee receives an increase in salary during the year as a result of a change in base salary for promotion, increment, wage increase or new position, the employee will receive a longevity increase on the new base salary at the same percentage as heretofore received on the prior base salary. Additional compensation of any nature, including overtime, will not be considered in computing longevity payments. Longevity payments will be computed from the time the employee first became employed on a full-time basis by the City. Leaves of absence without pay, with the exception of employees on official leave of absence due to military duty, will not be considered in determining the length of service.

ARTICLE VIII

CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

8.1           Effective January 1, 1977, Fire Fighters shall be entitled to a clothing allowance of \$150.00 per year.

8.2           It is understood by the parties that in those cases wherein a Fire Fighter serves for less than a full calendar year he shall receive only a pro rata amount of his clothing allowance.

8.3           Clothing allowance shall be paid in accordance with existing practices of the City.

ARTICLE IX

EDUCATION

9.1 Effective January 1, 1977, members of the Bargaining Unit taking courses in fire science shall be reimbursed for the cost of tuition, when approved in advance in writing by the Fire Chief, however, such reimbursement shall not exceed total tuition cost, less any and all reimbursements received by or available to the employee by another agency, institution or government. The total lifetime accumulation of allowable credits shall not exceed sixty-four (64) credits. Such approval will not be unreasonably withheld. Whatever sums of money are to be allotted for taking fire science courses are subject to agreement between the Fire Chief and the employee prior to any commitment.

9.2 The taking of any such course shall be on a voluntary basis only. Reimbursement shall be forfeited if the course requirements are not successfully completed or are in excess of sixty-four (64) credits.

9.3 The City hereby agrees to pay, by voucher each January, the sum of Ten (\$10.00) Dollars per annum for each college credit to a maximum of sixty-four (64) credits successfully completed toward an Associate Degree in Fire Science at a recognized institution of higher learning. Any courses less than forty (40) hours in instruction will not be approved. Payment will be based upon the number of credits successfully completed as of December 31 of the preceding year. Such additional payment shall be paid notwithstanding the maximum salary heretofore provided and upon presentation to the Fire Chief of a proper certification of successful course completion.

9.4 Members who have exceeded the maximum credit limit of sixty four (64) prior to January 1, 1977 shall not lose this benefit on their excess credits earned prior to December 31, 1976.

ARTICLE X

HOURS OF DUTY

10.1           The hours of duty shall be established by the City so that the average weekly hours of duty over an eight (8) week cycle shall not exceed forty-two (42) hours, exclusive of hours during which such members may be summoned and kept on duty because of a conflagration or other major emergency; the day shift consisting of ten (10) hours and the night shift consisting of fourteen (14) hours.

ARTICLE XI

VACATIONS

11.1 Effective January 1, 1979, the City hereby agrees to provide a paid vacation in accordance with the following schedule:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Vacation Days Earned</u>
1 - 4	16 calendar days plus 1 work day
5 - 9	17 calendar days plus 1 work day
10 - 19	22 calendar days plus 2 work days
20+	28 calendar days plus 3 work days

11.2 Current practices of the City with respect to the scheduling of vacation days shall be continued for the duration of this Agreement as shown. Split vacations are subject to the Fire Chief's review.

11.3 If a Fire Fighter dies while actively employed, his estate shall receive payment for his pro rata earned vacation benefit as outlined above.



ARTICLE XII

PAID HOLIDAYS

12.1           Effective January 1, 1977, the City agrees to pay each fire fighter for ten (10) holidays. This payment shall be made in the month of December for each fire fighter.

12.2           It is understood by the parties that in those cases wherein a fire fighter serves for less than a full calendar year he shall receive only a pro rata amount of his holiday pay.

12.3           If a fire fighter dies while actively employed, his estate shall receive payment for his pro rata earned holiday pay benefit as outlined above.

ARTICLE XIII

INJURY LEAVE

13.1 Whenever an employee is incapacitated from duty because of an injury or ailment sustained or incurred in the performance of his duty he shall be entitled to injury leave, with full pay at the rate of pay in existence at the time of his injury, for one (1) year commencing with the date of such injury, illness or disability; or until such time as he has been accepted for retirement by the Firemen's Pension System. Any payments of temporary disability insurance by the City or its Workmen's Compensation Insurance Carrier shall be credited toward the full pay set forth above. If illness continues beyond (1) year, he shall be paid on the basis of his accumulated sick leave.

ARTICLE XIV

SICK LEAVE

14.1 Fifteen (15) days per year accumulated as covered under Civil Service.

14.2 A person absent because of sickness for more than one (1) day will be required to submit a licensed doctor's certificate.

14.3 Effective January 1, 1977, upon retirement after twenty-five (25) years of service in the Fire Department of the City, or upon a disability retirement, a fire fighter shall receive as terminal leave ninety percent (90%) of salary at the accumulated unused sick leave. There shall be not limitation on the maximum payment.

14.4 Effective January 1, 1978, upon retirement after twenty-five (25) years of service in the Fire Department of the City, or upon a disability retirement, a fire fighter shall receive as terminal leave one hundred percent (100%) of salary of the accumulated sick leave. There shall be no limitation on the maximum payment.

14.5 If a fire fighter dies while actively employed, his estate shall receive the retirement leave benefit outlined above.

ARTICLE XV

HOSPITALIZATION

15.1 All members covered by this Agreement and eligible members of their families shall be entitled to the following coverage:

- (1) Hospitalization, Major Medical and Rider "J" or its equivalent.
- (2) Hospitalization coverage for all member retirees and eligible members of their families to commence at age fifty-six (56) until such time as he becomes eligible for Medicare. Effective January 1, 1978, the eligible age will be fifty-five (55) years of age.
- (3) Fire Fighters who are forced to submit for a disability pension must have been on the force five (5) or more years to be eligible for those benefits.

15.2 At age sixty-five (65), coverage to be for employee's (not spouse or eligible members of their family) Medicare only.

1. Each retiree shall be responsible to notify the City when he becomes fifty-six (56) or age fifty-five (55) and again when he becomes age sixty-five (65) for the inclusion in the subject insurance coverage.

ARTICLE XVI

DEATH LEAVE/PERSONAL DAY

16.1 In the event of a death occurring in the immediate family of a member of the Department, that member shall be granted two (2) calendar days off without loss of pay or loss of any of his accumulated sick leave. "Immediate family" shall be defined to include: wife, children, mother, father, brother, sister, grandparents or grandchildren of the employee.

16.2 Effective January 1, 1978, one (1) personal day off with pay shall be granted to all members of the Bargaining Unit to be used within that calendar year.

This personal day shall be requested, in writing, 72 hours in advance, and approved by the Fire Chief. This day shall not be used before or after a scheduled vacation period or a legal holiday as defined by the State of New Jersey.

A first year fire fighter shall be eligible for this benefit only upon completion of the probationary period.

ARTICLE XVII

FAILURE TO ANSWER RECALL

17.1 Response time for men on recall platoon shall be one and one-half (1½) minutes for each mile he resides from fire headquarters. All men shall be allotted a minimum of thirty (30) minutes from notification, as set forth below, to respond.

17.2 Men on recall platoon who leave their residence shall be allotted the same time to respond as they would have been entitled to if they remained at their residence.

17.3 Notification shall mean either actual personal notification or attempted notification at telephone number provided to the Department by the fire fighter for recall purposes.

17.4 Fire Fighters who fail to report for recall in accordance with the provisions of the Article, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

ARTICLE XVIII

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

18.1           The purpose of the grievance procedure shall be to settle all grievances between the City and the Union as quickly as possible, so as to insure efficiency and promote employees' morale.

18.2           A grievance shall be defined to mean an alleged violation by an employee, group of employees, or the Union, or by the City of any provision of this Agreement.

18.3           No settlement of a grievance presented by an employee shall contravene the provisions of this Agreement.

18.4           a. The matter shall first be discussed orally with the employee's immediate supervisor within eight (8) days of occurrence giving rise to the grievance. If such discussion does not resolve the grievance, it may be processed to the next step.

b. Within eight (8) days, exclusive of Saturday and Sunday, from receiving a final answer from the employee's immediate supervisor, the grievance shall be presented in writing, to the Chief of the Fire Department who shall arrange for such meetings and make such investigations as are necessary to give his answer in writing within eight (8) days, exclusive of Saturdays and Sundays, of the receipt of the grievance. If this answer does not resolve the grievance, it may be processed to the next step.

c. Within eight (8) days, exclusive of Saturdays and Sundays, of the transmittal of the written answer by the Chief, either party may then request a hearing before the City Manager in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Fire Department and Civil Service regulations. Either party may appeal the City Manager's ruling to the Civil Service Commission or the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration or the Civil Service Commission to provide arbitration service, or submit the grievance to the arbitration panel established by the Governor under the provisions of P.L. 1968, c.303 New Jersey Employer-Employee Relations Act. The authority of the arbitrator shall be limited to the interpretation and application of this Agreement. He shall have no right to add to or subtract from the Agreement.

The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on both parties. Any expenses incidental to arbitration shall be borne by the party losing the appeal.



ARTICLE XIX

WORKING RULES

19.1 This Agreement is not to conflict with the rules and regulations governing the City or specifications of the Department of Civil Service. Civil Service specifications shall prevail for all positions.

ARTICLE XX

LABOR REQUIREMENTS

20.1 As covered in the rules and regulations of the City  
Fire Department.

ARTICLE XXI

PROTECTION OF PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

21.1           It shall be the responsibility of any employee having custody of any equipment and property to see that it is properly cared for, kept clean and returned to its place of storage in accordance with the Fire Department rules and regulations of the City.

ARTICLE XXII

MINIMUM MANNING

22.1 Whenever possible two (2) fire fighters and one (1) officer shall be assigned to a fire engine or fire truck in response to an alarm. It is expressly understood that the City shall retain the right to close a fire station; however, this shall not be done in such a way as to subterfuge any other portions of this Agreement.

ARTICLE XXIII

DUES DEDUCTION

23.1           The City shall deduct Union dues in accordance with State Statutes.

ARTICLE XXIV

OUT OF TITLE WORK

24.1 Whenever a fire fighter shall be assigned by a superior to work for not less than a full day in the next higher title, such fire fighter shall be compensated at the base rate of the higher title without regard to longevity.

ARTICLE XXV

OVERTIME AND RECALL

25.1 On recall, fire fighters shall be guaranteed a minimum of four (4) hours work. The Chief can require any individual to work during this time.

25.2 Overtime, which shall be defined as hours in excess of the regularly assigned hours, shall be compensated on a straight time basis. Such hours shall be computed to the nearest quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) hour and shall become applicable only after the first quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) hour of work.

## ARTICLE XXVI

### DUTIES

26.1 The duties of a fire fighter are as follows: During an assigned tour of duty, answers fire alarms and assists in extinguishing fires: performs the necessary tasks involved in the cleaning and maintaining of fire equipment, apparatus and building; does related work as required and such other duties as permitted by Civil Service Law. The parties expressly agree that this provision shall not be subject to the grievance procedure, except as otherwise set forth in this Agreement, and any question concerning the interpretation of this provision shall be subject to review only by the Civil Service Commission.

26.2 A. Fire fighters may be assigned to regular public safety fire and safety patrol which would include, but not by way of limitation, the following:

1. Fire Prevention Investigations
2. Smoke Investigations
3. Fire Zone Violations
4. Elevator Calls
5. Sprinkler Alarm Calls
6. Bomb Investigations
7. Public Building Inspection, (Movie Theatres and similar establishments)
8. Answer all Fire Calls in Designated Areas
9. Hazards of other types to be reported:  
D.P.W., Police, Building, and Health
10. Ambulance



The City hereby agrees that if the Police and Fire Pension does not cover fire fighters for the duties provided for in this provision then the City shall assume such obligation but on the same terms as would otherwise have been available from the Police and Fire Pension Program.

B. Management Rights

1. The Union recognizes that the City may not, by agreement, delegate authority and responsibility which by law are imposed upon and lodged with the City.

2. The City reserves to itself sole jurisdiction and authority over matters of policy and retains the right, in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey and the rulings of the State Civil Service Commission to do the following:

- a. To direct employees of the City;
- b. To hire, assign, promote, transfer and retain employees covered by this Agreement with the City or to suspend, demote, discharge, or take disciplinary action against employees;
- c. To make work assignments, work and shift schedules, including overtime assignments;
- d. To relieve employees from duties because of lack of work, or other legitimate reasons;
- e. To maintain the efficiency of the City operations entrusted to them; and
- f. To determine the methods, means and personnel by which such operations are to be conducted.

ARTICLE XXVII

MISCELLANEOUS

27.1           The City recognizes the principal that the Union and the City are equal partners and have equal rights in the collective bargaining process, the City agrees not to discriminate against anyone because of their activities on behalf of the Union.

ARTICLE XXVII

DURATION

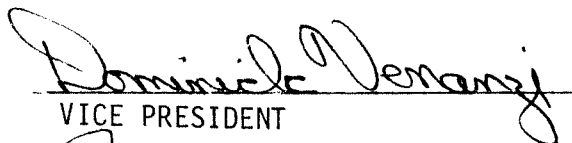
28.1 Except as this Agreement shall otherwise provide, it shall become effective upon passage by the City Council of the City of Hackensack and shall commence January 1, 1977, and continue in effect until December 31, 1980. This Agreement shall continue in full force and effect until superseded by another agreement provided both sides mutually agree.

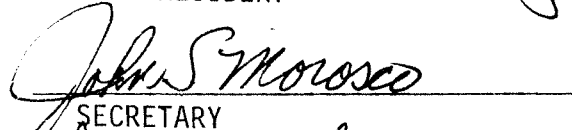
28.2 This Agreement contains the full and entire understanding of the parties in its full and final settlement of all wages and terms and conditions of employment.

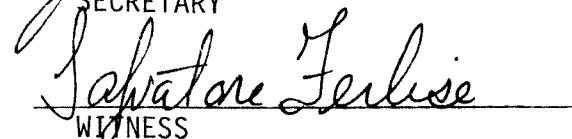
28.3 The parties agree that the Union shall be supplied with a reasonable number of copies of this Agreement.

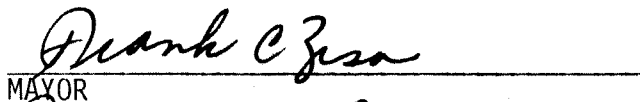
HACKENSACK FIRE FIGHTERS  
ASSOCIATION LOCAL 2081,  
A.F.L. - C.I.O.

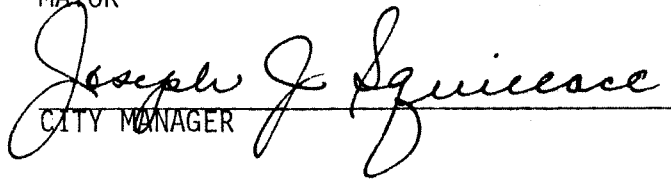
CITY OF HACKENSACK

  
VICE PRESIDENT

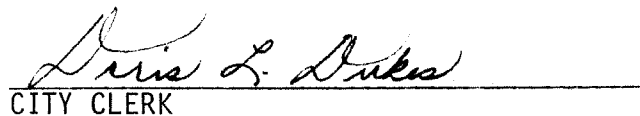
  
SECRETARY

  
WITNESS

  
MAYOR

  
CITY MANAGER

ATTEST:

  
CITY CLERK

SIDE BAR AGREEMENT

The City of Hackensack intends to grant the U.F.D. Paramedics the same salary increases as has been agreed upon between the Hackensack Fire Fighters Local 2081 and the City. The granting of such increases to U.F.D. Paramedics is not to be considered a concession by the City that the U.F.D. Paramedics belong in the same Bargaining Unit as regular fire fighters. The City still intends to await the outcome of the R.O. Petition presently filed before P.E.R.C. as to whether U.F.D. Paramedics belong in the same Bargaining Unit as the fire fighters.

By signing this Agreement, Local 2081, agrees not to file an Unfair Practice Charge against the City by reason of the City's decision to grant U.F.D. Paramedics the same increase in pay as the regular fire fighters.

By this Agreement, both parties agree neither side's position with regard to the U.F.D. Paramedics' question is conceded by this Agreement.

3/2/78  
D. Venanzj  
3/2/78  
[Signature]