

**AGREEMENT**  
**BY AND BETWEEN**  
**BOROUGH OF BLOOMINGDALE**  
**PASSAIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**  
**(BOROUGH)**  
**AND**  
**COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA**  
**AFLCIO, LOCAL 1032**  
**WHITE COLLAR UNIT (UNION)**  
**JANUARY 1, 2007 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2012**

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
PREAMBLE	
ARTICLE 1. RECOGNITION	3
ARTICLE 2. TERM AND AGREEMENT	4
ARTICLE 3. MANAGEMENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES	5
ARTICLE 4. HOURS OF WORK	6
ARTICLE 5. COMPENSATION	7
ARTICLE 6. LONGEVITY	8
ARTICLE 7. OVERTIME SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL	8
ARTICLE 8. HOLIDAYS	9
ARTICLE 9. VACATION LEAVE	10
ARTICLE 10. LEAVES	11
ARTICLE 11. SICK LEAVE	11
ARTICLE 12. ASSIGNMENTS	12
ARTICLE 13. HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS	13
ARTICLE 14. ACCIDENTS AND SAFETY	14
ARTICLE 15. CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	14
ARTICLE 16. GRIEVANCES	15
ARTICLE 17. MISCELLANEOUS	16
ARTICLE 18. JOB POSTING	16
ARTICLE 19. TUITION REIMBURSEMENT	16
ARTICLE 20. UNION RIGHTS	17

**PREAMBLE**

The provisions of this Agreement are intended to provide for:

- 1. Conditions of employment and incentives which are fair and equitable;
- 2. Fair personnel administration to stimulate employee morale;
- 3. Job security subject to good behavior, satisfactory performance and availability of funds; and
- 4. Compliance with all Federal and State laws, including but not limited to employment Laws.

**ARTICLE 1. RECOGNITION**

Section 1. The Borough of Bloomingdale (Borough) recognizes the Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO (Union), as the sole and exclusive bargaining agency for all permanent full time and permanent part time employees covered by this Agreement. This recognition shall not impair the rights of any employee, group of employees and/or elected appointed officials under the New Jersey Constitution or any applicable law or State administrative regulation now or hereafter enacted or promulgated.

For the purposes of this Article, the employees covered by this Agreement comprise the White Collar Unit and are as follows:

<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Part Time Hourly</u>	<u>Part Time Fixed</u>
Revenue Specialist	Police Dispatcher	Off. Asst. Sec
Assessor Services Specialist	Crossing Guard	
Financial/Personnel Serve. Spec	Office Assistant Secretary	
Police Dispatcher	Deputy Court Administrator	
Animal Control Officer	Deputy Clerk	
Office Assistant/Secretary		
Senior Revenue Specialist		

The Borough shall prepare, and provide to the Union, job descriptions for all covered employees.

**Section 2. Dues Check Off**

- A. The Borough agrees to deduct monthly membership dues from the pay of those members of the Unit who individually and voluntarily request, in writing, that such deductions be made on a form to which the Union and the Borough agree and is consistent with the applicable laws. The amounts to be deducted shall be

certified to the Borough by the Treasurer for the Union by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month after the month in which the deductions are made.

- B. Any employee in the Unit on the implementation date of this Agreement, who does not join the Union within thirty (30) days thereafter, any new employee who does not join the Union within thirty (30) days of initial employment within the Units, any member who subsequently resigns from Union membership, or any temporary employee who does not join at the completion of a three (3) month period following the beginning of employment, shall as a condition of employment, pay a representation fee to the Union by automatic payroll deduction. The representation fee shall be in an amount equal to eighty five percent (85%) of the regular Union membership dues, fees and assessments as certified by the Union to the Borough.

The Union agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Borough against any and all claims, demands and suits or other forms of liability that shall arise out of or by reason of any action taken by the Borough in reliance upon information supplied by the Union concerning the names of the employees and the amount for dues to be deducted.

The Union's entitlement to the representation fee shall continue beyond the termination of this Agreement so long as the Union remains the majority representative of the employees in the Unit, provided that no modification is made in this provision by the successor agreement between the Union and the Borough.

The determination of the appropriate representation fees, those employees to be covered, applicable payroll deduction provisions, challenges to fair share of assessments, time for fair share payments and all other questions related to Agency Shop Law and its proper interpretation shall be made in accordance with P.L. 1979, Chapter 477, and N.J.S.A. 34:13A-5.4 et seq.

- C. Dues, deductions, and agency fees for all employees covered by the terms and conditions of this Agreement, along with a list of said employees and the amounts deducted, shall be sent to:

COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERJCA, LOCAL 1032  
67 SCOTCH ROAD  
EWING, NEW -JERSEY 08628  
ATTENTJON: LOCAL TREASURER

## **ARTICLE 2. TERM AND AGREEMENT**

This Agreement shall be deemed to have been in full force and effect from January 1, 2007 through and including December 31, 2012. All monetary benefits, if not adjusted by January 1, 2007, shall apply retroactively to January 1, 2007 unless otherwise set forth in this Agreement, and payments of any money due shall be made as soon after the execution of this Agreement by all parties as may be practical in accordance with the provisions defined in Article 5 herein. Collective bargaining negotiations for a successor agreement on the terms of this Agreement shall begin on October 1, 2012 or as otherwise

required by the New Jersey Employers-Employees Relations Act. This Agreement shall remain in full force and effect during collective bargaining negotiations between the parties beyond the date of expiration and until a successor agreement is executed by the parties or a successor agreement becomes effective by other lawful means.

### **ARTICLE 3. MANAGEMENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Section 1. The Union recognizes that the Borough has the right and responsibility to manage Borough business and direct Borough personnel, including the right to hire, discharge and suspend employees as provided by law. The Borough reserves to itself the exclusive determination of all matters pertaining to schedules, work assignments and deployment of any and all resources including but not limited to the right to publish and enforce a Personnel Policy Manual and work rules, so long as the Personnel Policy Manual and rules are not inconsistent with this agreement. The Borough further reserves the right to add, change, interpret or eliminate personnel policies, practices and rules deemed in the best interests of the Borough.

All employees of the Unit shall be subject to rules of official conduct established by the Borough policies, rules and regulations. Any benefit of any nature and kind whatsoever, including but not limited to leaves, allowances, privileges, longevity, overtime pay (except as provided by law), holidays and holiday pay, any other premium pay benefit, vacation and vacation pay, sick leave, leaves of absence and health benefits, shall only apply to full time employees, and not to part time employees of any category, covered by this Agreement unless there is specific language in this Agreement making any such benefit, leave, allowance or privilege applicable to part time employees or as may be required by law.

Section 2. The Borough recognizes a duty and responsibility to refrain from coercion or intimidation of any employee and from solicitation of funds or contributions or causing same.

Section 3. The Borough recognizes and encourages meritorious actions on the part of its officials and employees. Letters of commendation concerning Borough employees from superiors and from members of the public shall be directed to the attention of the Governing Body and included in the employee's personnel file. The Governing Body may, on its own action, initiate commendations to be made and included in the employee's file. Copies of filed letters of commendation shall be made available to the employee upon request.

Section 4. Suggestions from and opinions of employees are solicited in written form in order to have them on record in the file of the employee. Such suggestions should be directed to the Borough Administrator.

#### Section 5

- a) No employee shall be discharged or disciplined except for just cause or as according to law.
- b) The Borough may sanction any employee for cause, including but not limited to violations of work or departmental rules or work unit rules and

regulations and/or the provisions of the Personnel Policy of the Borough, as permitted by law.

- c) The Borough, in its sole discretion, may sanction any employee for a breach of discipline, as permitted by law.
- d) All of the following acts, which list is not exhaustive or limiting, and which is set forth as indicative of unacceptable behavior, shall be cause for sanction.

Absence without leave.

Failure to report to work after scheduled leave or after leave has been denied or revoked.

Neglect of duty.

Breach of discipline.

Consumption of alcoholic beverages while on duty.

Use of a controlled dangerous substance while on duty.

Violation of the terms of this Agreement.

Violation of the provisions of the Personnel Policy Manual.

Violation of work, departmental or work unit rules or regulations.

Commission of any crime of any degree.

Commission of any disorderly or petty disorderly offense while on duty.

Conduct unbecoming a public employee.

Engaging in any work slowdown or stoppage.

- e) Sanctions include but are not limited to (except by law) verbal reprimand, written memorandum of censure, transfer of position, suspension with or without pay, demotion in rank and dismissal from employment. The Borough Administrator may suspend an employee without pay for no more than five (5) days. Recommendations for suspensions without pay exceeding five (5) days or termination of employment shall be reviewed by the Governing Body.

#### **ARTICLE 4. HOURS OF WORK**

Section 1. The Borough shall maintain normal daily hours of operation between 7 o'clock am. and 9 o'clock pm. Full time employees shall be assigned to 35 hour schedules during those hours of operation except as may be set forth herein otherwise. The work week, for all employees covered by this agreement is defined as Sunday through Saturday. In such cases as a full time employee work schedule shall be changed, the employee shall be provided with thirty days notice of the change before implementation except in such cases where the employee agrees to the change or in cases of emergency as determined by the Borough Administrator or designee.

Section 2. Notwithstanding Section 1, full time police dispatchers shall work such schedule as required by the Chief of Police and full time Court employees shall be scheduled by the Municipal Court Judge.

Section 3. Part time employees shall work such schedules as are assigned, which schedules are based on a 24 hour day for hours of operation. Part time employees are

those employees scheduled to work fewer than 32 hours per week on a regular basis. Part time employees who elect to work in more than one part time position for the Borough shall be considered full time employees in the event their combined hours of work equal or exceed 32 hours.

Section 4. Full time employees are entitled to receive a one hour unpaid lunch break as same may be scheduled by their Department Head or the Borough Administrator which lunch break shall normally be between noon and 2:00 pm, however, said break to begin no sooner than 3 hours nor later than 5 hours from the employee's starting time. The Borough Administrator, at the Administrator's sole discretion, or the Department Head may waive the time frame provision. The lunch period for the full time dispatchers shall be as established by the Chief of Police. Part time employees, (excluding part time police dispatchers), shall be entitled to a one hour unpaid lunch break as herein conditioned if scheduled to work seven consecutive hours on any given day.

Section 5. Accurate and complete time and attendance records shall be maintained and certified to the Borough Administrator by the employee. Every employee shall undertake to devote their full working time to the performance of their job.

## **ARTICLE 5. COMPENSATION**

Section 1. Each employee covered by this Agreement shall receive annual base salary increases during the term of this Agreement on January 1 of each year as follows. An employee hired subsequent to January 1 of any year of this Agreement is not entitled to an increase in pay during the year of employment and shall receive a first increase in pay on January 1 next subsequent to the date of employment, except that an employee hired in the last quarter of a year shall be eligible for a first increase on January 1 following the year subsequent to hire.

2007 – 3%

2008 – 3%

2009 – 2%, July 2%

2010 – 2%, July 2%

2011 – 3%, July 3%

2012 – 3%, July 3%

Section 2. All represented employees shall be entitled to a step increment on their anniversary date as outlined in Appendix A. For the year 2007 employees who have the following years of service with the borough shall be placed on the following step on the salary guide for purposes of progression throughout the life of this contract. Any employee hired after the signing of this agreement shall start on step 1 of the salary guide.

Step 1 - 1 year of service

Step 2 - 2 to 4 years of service

Step 3 - 5 to 10 years of service

Step 4 - 10 years of service or more

### Section 3. Compensatory Time

Full time employees may request compensatory time off in lieu of overtime as set forth in Article 7. Granting of compensatory shall be at the sole discretion of the Borough Administrator or designee and shall be calculated at one half times base salary for hours worked in excess of 35 per week or work on a Saturday, Sunday or Borough Holiday.

## **ARTICLE 6. LONGEVITY**

Section 1. The following longevity payment schedule shall be in effect during the term of this Agreement. Longevity shall be added to base pay on the anniversary of the official date of hire for each employee.

5 <sup>th</sup> through 9 <sup>th</sup> year	3%
10 <sup>th</sup> through 14 <sup>th</sup> year	4%
15 <sup>th</sup> through 19 <sup>th</sup> year	5%
20 <sup>th</sup> through 29 <sup>th</sup> year	6%
25 <sup>th</sup> year and over	7.5%

## **ARTICLE 7. OVERTIME AND SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL**

Section 1. Overtime shall occur only with the prior approval of the Borough Administrator or designee. The policy of the Borough is to avoid the occurrence of overtime whenever possible.

Section 2. Overtime shall be compensated at one and one half times the base rate of pay except as set forth otherwise herein. If an employee holds multiple titles/positions, they shall not be combined for overtime purposes except as may be required by law.

Section 3. The Borough shall comply with applicable law with respect to the determination of overtime. Notwithstanding, the Borough shall pay full time permanent employees as follows: one and one half times the base rate of pay for work in excess 35 hours per week or work on a Saturday; two times the base rate of pay for work on a Sunday; and one and one half times the base rate of pay plus straight time pay for the Holiday, for work on a Borough recognized holiday.

Section 4. Part time employees shall be paid overtime strictly in conformity with applicable law. Part time employees shall not receive overtime for work on Saturdays, Sundays or Holidays except as may be required by law. Part time dispatchers shall receive a 15% of base hourly pay shift differential for work on a Sunday. For all borough holidays part time dispatchers shall receive a 25% shift differential in the manner set forth above in lieu of and not in addition to the 15% differential for Sunday work. Said differential shall not be paid for any Sunday or Borough Holiday for which the dispatcher may receive or have received overtime pay during the term of this contract.

Section 5. The Asst. Municipal Court Clerk, the Animal Control Officer, Police Dispatcher, and Matron duties, shall receive a minimum of three hours regular pay when called out.

**ARTICLE 8. HOLIDAYS**

Section 1. The following days are the Borough recognized Holidays. An employee is entitled to holiday day pay only if the employee satisfies the requirements of this Article.

New Year's Day	President's Day	Good Friday
Memorial Day	July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Labor Day
Columbus Day	Veteran's Day	Thanksgiving Day
Day After Thanksgiving	Christmas Day	2 Floating Holidays

Section 2. A holiday which falls on a Saturday shall be observed on the preceding Friday. A holiday which falls on a Sunday shall be observed on the subsequent Monday. A holiday falling during an employee's scheduled and approved week of vacation shall be granted to said employee on another date. Holiday leave is not cumulative.

Section 3. One week's notice is required when taking a floating holiday, subject to waiver at the sole discretion of the Borough Administrator or designee, Floating holidays must be taken in full or half day increments only.

Section 4. Permanent part time employees, who work 20 hours or more per week, shall be paid at their regular rate of pay for any Borough Holiday which falls on a regularly scheduled work day, subject to all other provisions of this Article. Part time employees are not entitled to floating holidays in any circumstance. Part time dispatchers shall not receive holiday pay and shall receive the differential pay as set forth above.

Section 5. At the sole discretion of the Borough Administrator or designee, the Borough will shorten working hours on the day before Christmas and on New Year's Eve for all employees. The shortening of hours shall not pertain to essential and emergency personnel.

## ARTICLE 9. VACATION LEAVE

Section 1. Full time employees shall be entitled to vacation leave with pay measured by length of service and which shall accrue on a monthly prorated basis for any part year as set forth in the following schedule. Vacation days must be taken in full or half day increments only.

1 <sup>st</sup> year	6 days*
2 <sup>nd</sup> year	12 days
3 <sup>rd</sup> year	13 days
4 <sup>th</sup> year	14 days
5 <sup>th</sup> year	15 days
6 <sup>th</sup> year	16 days
7 <sup>th</sup> year	17 days
8 <sup>th</sup> year	18 days
9 <sup>th</sup> year	19 days
10 <sup>th</sup> year	20 days
11 <sup>th</sup> year	21 days
12 <sup>th</sup> year	22 days
13 <sup>th</sup> year	23 days
14 <sup>th</sup> year	24 days
15 <sup>th</sup> year	25 days
16 <sup>th</sup> year	26 days
17 <sup>th</sup> year	27 days
18 <sup>th</sup> year	27 days
19 <sup>th</sup> year	27 days
20 <sup>th</sup> year and over	28 days

\*prorated by date of hire

Section 2. The Borough shall make vacation request forms available to the employees. All vacation requests for each calendar year must be submitted to the employee's Department Head no later than March 1 of each year. The Borough will provide written notification of approval or denial of the vacation request to the employee within 0 days of receipt of the request form.

Section 3. The Borough shall treat all vacation requests on the basis of preference according to length of service when possible, with a minimum delay or inconvenience and while meeting starting requirements of the Borough.

Section 4. Vacation leave is not cumulative and must be taken in the year accrued except that up to five days may be carried to a subsequent year with the approval of the Borough Administrator. If vacation is carried with proper approval, the employee must provide a schedule in which the carried over vacation leave will be used. Said schedule must be provided to the Borough Administrator and the employee's Department Head by January 15. All carry over vacation leave must be used by March 31 of the subsequent year. If a employee is not permitted to use carried over vacation leave by March 31 due to a refusal by the Borough, the employee shall be paid for said unused vacation leave. The Borough shall not unreasonably withhold carry over vacation requests.

## **ARTICLE 10. LEAVES**

Section 1. Leave of Absence Without Pay. Any employee may apply to the Borough Administrator for a leave of absence without pay for a period not to exceed ninety days. The employee shall submit the request in writing and shall state the reason the leave is requested, the expected date leave is to start and the expected date of return to duty. Granting such a leave is at the sole discretion of the Borough Administrator. If leave is granted, the employee shall not lose seniority. Extensions may be granted at the sole discretion of the Borough Administrator. Extension requests shall be in the same form as requests and shall be made prior to the date of return to duty. An employee, who leaves a position prior to receiving written authorization or fails to return without an approved extension from such a leave, shall be deemed to have abandoned the position and job title and such act shall constitute a resignation from employment with the Borough.

Section 2. Personal Leave Without Pay. An employee may request personal leave without pay at least three days prior to the start of said leave. The request must be in writing and set forth the reason and the amount of time requested. The approval or denial of such requests and/or the amount of time approved, if applicable, is at the sole discretion of the Borough Administrator. The Borough Administrator shall approve or deny the request within two days of receipt. A rejection shall be in writing and provide the reason. It is the intention of this provision that such requests be for limited and definite periods of time.

Section 3. Bereavement leave shall be provided to all full time and part time permanent employees at base pay as follows.

- a. Death of a spouse, child, parent, brother or sister, 3 working days
- b. Death of a spouse's child, parent, brother or sister, 3 working days
- c. Death of a grandparent, 2 working days
- d. Death of a relative living under the same roof, 2 working day

Section 4. An employee who is required to attend Court on a Borough related matter or jury duty, not of the employee's own initiative, during regular working hours, shall receive an amount equal to base pay less the amount received for the attendance, if any.

## **ARTICLE 11. SICK LEAVE**

Section 1. Sick leave shall be granted to an eligible employee who, through sickness or injury, becomes incapacitated to such a degree that it is impossible for the employee to perform the duties of the position or who is quarantined by a physician due to exposure to a contagious disease

Section 2. Full time permanent employees are entitled to fifteen sick days per year or a monthly prorated portion of same for partial years of employment. Sick days may be accumulated without limit.

Section 3. Part time and temporary employees are not entitled to any sick leave benefit.

Section 4. Upon retirement, as defined by the Public Employees Retirement System, an employee shall receive compensation for a maximum of 180 unused sick days at one half the daily rate of pay for each accumulated sick day up to a maximum of 90 full days pay at the rate of pay on the date of retirement. Terminal leave shall be equal to the number of days so calculated, not to exceed 90 days.

Section 5. On or before February 1 of each year, an employee may request and receive payment for no more than 6 unused and accumulated sick days which accrued in the prior year, to be compensated at one half the current daily rate of pay for each day compensated. Any employee taking no sick leave during the year will receive six (6) days pay. Nine (9) days would be credited toward the sick leave accumulation for sick leave purposes and fifteen (15) days would be credited for terminal leave purposes.

Section 6. The Borough retains the managerial right to establish and maintain a sick leave policy as part of the Personnel Policy Manual which has been adopted by the Borough. The Borough agrees to negotiate any aspect of economic impact or disciplinary impact affected by such a policy, in good faith.

Section 7. The Borough Administrator or designee, at the Administrator's or Designee's sole discretion, may require an employee to provide to the Borough acceptable medical evidence attesting to an employee's inability to work if the sick leave extends for 3 consecutive days or more than 5 days in any one year period, regardless of whether said days are consecutive, and subject to the limitation that any period of illness in which the days are consecutive shall count as a day toward the accumulation of 5 days. An employee who fails to provide said evidence upon request shall be paid for no more than 3 days of sick leave and the: sick days which are not paid shall not be credited back to the employee.

Section 8. The employee must report the sick leave request prior to the assigned starting time. An employee failing to do so will be considered absent without leave and may not be paid for the sick day, at the sole discretion of the Borough Administrator.

Section 9. Each eligible full time employee may take 4 of the 15 entitled sick days per year for attending to personal matters. Sick leave taken for personal matters must be taken in increments of half or full days only and must be requested 48 hours in advance of the leave.

## **ARTICLE 12. ASSIGNMENTS**

Section 1. Assignments of personnel, including but not limited to appointments, promotions and transfers shall be made on the basis of qualifications of education, training, prior experience and personal fitness, without regard to race, religion, sex, national origin or personal, family or political affiliations, according to law, but subject to the non reviewable discretion of the Governing Body. It is the policy of the Borough to give reasonable preference in employment to qualified residents of the Borough where permitted by law.

Section 2. Unless prohibited by law, newly hired employees, and employees covered under this Agreement who may be assigned to new positions, shall be considered

on probation for a reasonable period of time, but at least six months, the period to be at the sole discretion of the Borough Administrator or designee. During probation, compensation shall be at a rate established by the Borough but within the salary range set forth in this Agreement. Compensation for a transferred employee shall be established by the Borough but shall not be less than the prior compensation paid to the transferred employee.

Section 3. The Borough shall first consider the transfer of a permanent employee or the hiring of a Borough resident, in that order, to fill vacancies, if it is practicable and in the best interest of the Borough and if the considered employee or resident is qualified to fill the vacancy. Seniority of permanent employees shall also be considered. Notwithstanding the above considerations, the Borough shall not be restricted in its hiring practices and the decision as to how a vacancy is filled is in the non-reviewable discretion of the Governing Body.

Section 4. Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent the Borough from temporarily assigning to any vacancy any person of the Borough's choosing pending the selection of a permanent employee for the position. The Borough agrees not to hire any temporary employee to fill a vacancy of a position covered by this Agreement for a period of more than 90 days.

Section 5. All probationary employees and all temporary employees may be required to undergo medical examinations and may be subject to investigation for fitness to perform duties as deemed necessary at the sole discretion of the Borough.

### **ARTICLE 13. HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS**

Section 1. The Borough will provide each full time permanent employee and retirees at no cost to them covered by this Agreement with medical coverage under the New Jersey State Health Benefits Plan (NJSHBP) with built in Prescription Plan. Each eligible employee may elect the coverage offered by the NJSHBP. In the event the Borough, in its sole discretion, elects to change providers, the Borough shall provide eligible employees with coverage substantially similar to that provided by the NJSHBP New Jersey Plus (POS). Due to the change in health care coverage the following provision is adopted

Section 2. All employee as of 2009 who earn \$30,000 or more shall pay \$300.00 a year toward his/her medical insurance.

Section 3. Employees who retire from the Borough after 25 years of service to the Borough, or who retire on permanent disability as defined by N.J.S.A. 40A: 10-23, shall receive medical coverage as then currently provided to members of the Union. Retirees shall integrate medical coverage with Federal Medicare coverage as soon as available. Employees who retire from the Borough prior to 25 years of service to the Borough may elect to purchase medical coverage as then provided by the Borough under such regulations and administration as may be instituted by the Borough and if permitted by the health care coverage provider. Failure to strictly abide by the Borough regulations and administration will result in the waiver of this provision by the Employee. Nothing in this provision relating to employees who retire prior to 25 years of Borough service shall be construed to mean that the Borough shall ever, at any time, be responsible for the

payment or continuation of medical benefits for employees who retire prior to the completion of 25 years of service to the Borough.

Section 4. The Borough shall continue to provide each permanent full time employee covered by this Agreement with dental insurance. The current plan is the Delta Dental Insurance Plan. The Borough may, at its sole discretion, change plans and provide to the eligible employees substantially similar coverage.

Section 5. All part time employees shall be entitled to purchase medical and dental insurance as provided by the Borough to permanent full time employees at the premium rate charged to the Borough, subject to the approval of and pursuant to the regulations of the NJSHBP or the provider. The employee may elect this coverage by way of a Section 125 Plan. All premiums for any elected coverage shall be deducted from the part time pay of the employee. Any shortfall after deduction shall be paid to the Borough by the employee. Failure to pay premiums when due shall result in loss of coverage.

Section 6. If any permanent full time employee is covered by a health insurance policy other than the coverage afforded the employee by the Borough, the employee, upon presenting adequate proof of said coverage, which shall be presented at least once yearly or anytime at the request of the Borough, may elect to waive health benefits or to reduce coverage of benefits (i.e. family to single) and, in either case, shall be entitled to receive a stipend of 50% of the savings to the Borough billed each month, for each month during which the employee has waived or reduced coverage. Said stipend shall be paid in equal monthly payments for each month during which the employee has waived or reduced coverage. A reduction shall be established based upon the coverage in effect on January 1, 2003 and, thereafter, based upon any new rates established by premium rate changes during the term of the agreement, or on the date of hire for employees hired after January 1, 2003, then reverting to the same procedure as set forth above after the initial premium year.

#### **ARTICLE 14. ACCIDENTS AND SAFETY**

Section 1. All accidents occurring while on the job must be reported as soon as possible to the Borough Administrator or Designee. All accidents shall be reported to the appropriate insurance carrier within the time prescribed by the insurance policy. The accident report form shall be prepared by the employee's Department Head. Non accident claims are not included in this provision.

Section 2. The Borough police department shall be called to the scene of any and all accidents involving a Borough vehicle. If an accident occurs outside of the Borough, the employee shall call the police department of the jurisdiction in which the accident occurred and or the New Jersey State Police. The employee must further comply with all State motor vehicle laws.

## **ARTICLE 15. CLOTHING ALLOWANCE**

Section 1. The Animal Control Officer shall receive a clothing allowance for uniforms in the amount of \$375.00 which shall be paid by way of payroll. The employee shall wear such uniform as required by the Borough. The Borough shall contract with a cleaning service for the care of uniforms required by this contract. Such service shall be capped at \$250.00 per employee per year. The provision for uniform cleaning is not retroactive and shall be prospective from the date of contract ratification and shall be prorated for the first year in effect. The provision for clothing allowances shall not be retroactive.

Section 2. The Borough shall provide a pager or cellular telephone to the Animal Control Officer.

Section 3. Uniforms shall be provided to the Police Dispatchers and the Crossing Guards on an as needed basis, at the sole discretion of the Borough, or at the employees' request if approved by the Chief of Police. Uniforms are the property of the Borough and shall be returned to the Borough in the event the employee is no longer employed by the Borough.

## **ARTICLE 16. GRIEVANCES**

Section 1. A grievance is defined as any complaint of an employee regarding wages, hours of work or other conditions of employment addressed in this Agreement.

Section 2. The following procedure is to be followed for all grievances.

- A. The grievance must be reported to the Department Head by the aggrieved employee within five working days after the matter to be grieved occurred.
- B. The Department Head shall discuss the grievance with the aggrieved employee or the employee's representative within five working days after receipt of notice of the grievance by the Department Head.
- C. Within ten working days after the Department Head has heard the grievance, the grieving employee may file a written description of the matter being grieved with the Borough Administrator. The Borough Administrator shall hear the aggrieved employee or the employee's representative within ten working days after receipt of the written notice by the Borough Administrator. The Borough Administrator shall render a written decision within ten working days after the hearing.
- D. Within five working days after the written decision is rendered by the Borough Administrator, the grieving employee or the representative of the employee may file a written grievance with the office of the Borough Clerk directed to the Governing Body. The Governing Body shall render a decision or hear the grieving employee within thirty working days after the notice is received by the Borough Clerk. If the grievance is heard, the grieving employee may be accompanied by a Union representative or an attorney or both. The Governing Body shall render a written decision on the grievance within thirty working days after the date of the hearing.
- E. The written decision of the Governing Body shall be final and binding, except that within fifteen days after receipt of the decision, the Union may request arbitration

of the decision. The arbitrators shall be selected mutually by the Borough and the employee pursuant to the procedures established by the State of New Jersey Public Relations Employment Commission.

F. The arbitrator shall interpret the provisions of this Agreement and shall have no power to enlarge upon or reduce the obligations of the parties under this Agreement. Arbitration shall be binding on the parties.

G. The cost of the arbitrator shall be borne equally by the Union and the Borough.

Section 3. It is expressly agreed between the parties that promotions and hiring are managerial prerogatives and are not subject to grievance or binding arbitration.

Section 4. The Shop Steward shall not be required to use personal leave benefits for PERC hearings in which the Union prevails, subject to the limitation that this provision covers only one Shop Steward.

## **ARTICLE 17. MISCELLANEOUS**

Section 1. Personnel files shall be kept in the office of the Borough Administrator for all employees and shall contain pertinent information including, but not limited to, the following; application for employment, time information, pension information, commendation letters and information related to disciplinary matters. The employee may examine their personnel file upon request to the Borough Administrator and under proper supervision, within a reasonable time. No derogatory document shall be placed in a personnel file without the employee being given a copy of the document.

Section 2. No agreement relating to the terms and conditions of this Agreement or any amendment or modification of this Agreement shall be binding on any of the parties hereto unless such agreement, amendment or modification is made in writing and executed by the parties, except as may be otherwise provided by law or a Court of competent jurisdiction in the State of New Jersey.

Section 3. The parties agree that they shall not discriminate against any employee because of race, color, creed, religion, nationality sex or Union membership.

Section 4. The parties agree that the provisions of N.J.S.A. 34:13A5.3 shall govern all other working conditions and benefits.

## **ARTICLE 18. JOB POSTING**

Section 1. The Borough agrees to post job vacancies, stating classifications, for a minimum of five days.

Section 2. The Union representative will be notified of all eminent vacancies or promotions for full time positions incorporated in this Agreement and the posting will be provided on the employee bulletin board for a minimum of five days.

Section 3. The Borough agrees to grant interviews to qualified unit members submitting applications for vacancies and promotions within the unit. Employees who interview will receive a written response to the status of the position.

Section 4. The hiring policy and preference policy are set forth in Article 12 of this Agreement.

**ARTICLE 19. TUITION REIMBURSEMENT**

Section 1. Full time permanent employees covered by this Agreement shall be entitled to participate in the Borough Tuition Reimbursement Program.

**ARTICLE 20. UNION RIGHTS**

Section 1. The Borough shall provide a bulletin board for the use of the Union in a place that is accessible to all covered employees. This bulletin board may be used to post official Borough communications.

Section 2. The Unit shall be represented by a Steward and an Assistant Steward, The Stewards shall be chosen in any manner the Union may designate if lawful. The unit will notify the Borough in writing of the names of the Steward and Assistant Steward.

Section 3. The Stewards may, during working hours, without loss of time or pay, with the prior permission of the Department Head or Borough Administrator, investigate, resolve and present grievances to the Borough. Permission must be obtained in advance of the time to be taken. Time spent in this regard must be reasonable and devoted only to the prompt resolution of grievances. The Department Head or Borough Administrator shall not unreasonably withhold permission for the Stewards to act under this provision.

Section 4. Union employees who are members of the bargaining committee shall be permitted to attend negotiation meetings conducted with the Borough, and for a period not to exceed thirty minutes prior to and after such meetings, which are scheduled during working hours without loss of pay. No employee will be given additional compensation for time spent in bargaining sessions outside of the normal workday.

In witness WHEREOF, the parties hereto have subscribed their hands and seals at the Borough of Bloomingdale, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey this day of 2006.

BOROUGH OF BLOOMINGDALE

CWA, AFL-CIO, LOCAL 1032

ATTEST:

[Redacted signature box]

ATTEST

UNION OFFICERS:

10/3/06

[Redacted signature box]