

CONTRACT

Between

The Chester Township PBA Local #315

and

The Township of Chester

for years

2024

2025

2026

2027

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PREAMBLE

THIS AGREEMENT, dated this 30th day of April by and between the Township of Chester, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, (hereinafter called the Township) and the Chester Township PBA Local #315 Incorporated, (hereinafter called Police Officers or PBA) representing the complete and final understanding on all bargainable issues between the Township and the Police Officers.

This agreement shall be in effect for the period commencing January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2027. If the parties have not executed a successor agreement by December 31, 2027, then this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect until a successor Agreement is executed.

Article 1

RECOGNITION

The Township hereby recognizes the Police Officers as the sole and exclusive negotiating unit for all police officers in the Chester Township Police Department below the rank of Lieutenant, under the New Jersey Employer-Employee Relations Act of 1968 and the Public Employment Relations Commission for New Jersey established under such law.

Article 2

REASONABLE NEGOTIATION SCHEDULE

Negotiations between the Township of Chester Negotiation Committee and the Chester Township Police Benevolent Association Negotiating Committee shall be conducted at times when all members of the respective committees can be present.

Article 3

SICK LEAVE

- A. Sick Leave is defined as the absence (with pay) from duty of an officer or employee because of injury or illness, or the attendance upon a family member who is ill or injured. A certificate from a physician may be required as proof of the necessity of sick leave. Additionally, members shall be allowed to use sick time for any and all purposes as stated in the New Jersey Paid Sick Leave Act, N.J.S.A. 34: 1 ID-I, et seq.

- B. Time available for sick leave shall accrue as follows:
 - 1. During the calendar year of initial employment, one (1) 8 hour day for every five (5) weeks of employment, regardless of actual number of hours worked per day.

 - 2. For each year after the initial year of employment, one (1) 8 hour day per month for a total of twelve (12) days for the year regardless of actual number of hours worked per day.

- C. Accrued sick leave:
 - 1. Time available for sick leave, but not taken as sick leave, shall be called "accrued sick leave" and may be carried over from year to year, or may be paid out as cash pursuant to this Article 3. Each day of accrued sick leave shall carry with it a dollar value equivalent to eight (8) hours of standard time hours at the rate of pay at which it was earned.

 - 2. Accrued sick leave shall be computed as the total number of days available for sick leave over the entire tenure of a Chester Township Police Officer, less any sick leave taken during the officer's tenure.

D. Sick leave will be available as follows:

1. Sick leave shall be subtracted from accrued sick leave, beginning with the most recently accrued sick time and working in reverse order, as needed.
2. Each shift missed shall be subtracted from the accrued sick leave as one (1) 8 hour day, regardless of the length of the shift missed.
3. Partial shifts, where the officer leaves early, shall be deducted on a per hour basis.

E. Officers hired prior to May 21, 2010 in good standing may request a cash disbursement of accrued sick leave as follows:

1. Officers will be required to maintain a minimum of thirty (30) days of accrued sick leave prior to any requests for disbursement.
2. Written requests for cash disbursements shall be made by the officer to the P.B.A. President, who will turn over the requests to the Police Committee January 31st of each year.
3. Total disbursement liability to the Township shall not exceed \$40,000 in any one year.
4. The total disbursement will be divided by the number of officers wishing to receive payment or as determined by the P.B.A.
5. An accounting of the time each officer has accumulated as of the signing of this contract will be attached. The number of days will be verified and initialed by the officer, the Chief of Police and the Chief Financial Officer. (See Appendix B)
6. Each officer will be required to sign a statement upon withdrawing cash from his accrued sick leave acknowledging that he or she is aware the days he or she is being

paid for are no longer available for any reason. Payment for eligible sick time shall be made no later than the 2nd pay period of April of the subsequent year following the request.

- F. Each officer hired prior to May 21, 2010 in good standing, upon retirement or voluntary termination, for other than discipline reasons, shall be entitled to a cash disbursement of all accrued sick leave earned over the course of employment, as follows:
1. After ten (10) years service - 50% of days accrued
After fifteen (15) years service - 75% of days accrued
After twenty (20) years service - 100% of days accrued
 2. If a member who retires or voluntarily leaves the force, has over the course of his employment, been paid cash disbursements pursuant to Article 3, Paragraph E which amount to more than he or she is entitled pursuant to this paragraph F, he or she shall reimburse the Township for any such overpayment within 90 days unless otherwise agreed upon by the officer and the Mayor and Township Council. The Township is hereby authorized to utilize any amounts held on behalf of such officer to satisfy this obligation, and any amount due over and above funds held by the Township shall be a debt payable by the member to the Township.
- G. For each officer hired after May 21, 2010, payment of accumulated sick time shall be upon retirement through the NJ Police and Firemen's Retirement System, as set forth in Section F, Subsection 1 above, up to a maximum as per N.J.S.A. 40A:9-10.4.
- H. Any officer terminated for cause or otherwise not in good standing, shall forfeit all rights pursuant to this Article 3 and shall reimburse the Township for all cash disbursements made which amount to more than he or she is entitled pursuant to this Article 3 as described in Paragraph F.2 within 90 days unless otherwise agreed upon by the officer and the Mayor and Township Council.

- I. In the event that any full-time officer in good standing shall be injured, ill, or disabled from any cause arising out of and in the course of his or her service as an employee, which causes that employee to become physically unfit for duty, then the employee shall be entitled to a leave of absence for a period of up to but not exceeding one (1) year, during which time the Township will pay the employee the difference between such amount as he or she shall receive for temporary benefits under New Jersey Workers' Compensation Laws and the employee's regular salary. The duration of any such claimed disability shall be evidenced by certificates of a physician designated by the Council. (For reference only, see "Sick Leave" section in the Township Policies and Procedures)
- J. In the event that an officer in good standing dies prior to retirement, any amounts to which the officer is entitled pursuant to this Article 3 shall be paid to said officer's designated beneficiary on record with the Township.
- K. An officer that is not able to work due to illness or injury (on or off duty) shall be required to provide proof of their ability to return to full duty to the Chief of Police at his discretion. A fitness for duty evaluation, to be paid for by the Township, may be ordered by the Chief at his discretion. The physician conducting the examination shall be selected at the Township's discretion and the results will be given to the Chief and kept strictly confidential as required by law.

Article 4

VACATIONS

A. Scheduling of vacations shall be pursuant to procedures established by the Chief of Police. Insofar as possible, attempts will be made to honor requested dates. The following annual leaves, with pay, are provided:

1. From the date of hire until December 31st of the first year of employment by Chester Township, Officers will be awarded four (4) hours per month to be used as vacation time.

2. On January 1st of the first complete year of employment following the year in which the Officer was hired, the following schedule shall apply;

Years 1-5	80 hours
Years 6-10	120 hours
Years 11-15	160 hours
Years 16-retirement	200 hours

B. In any year in which a vacation or any part thereof is not granted for reasons of the pressures of business, or illness, such vacation not granted shall accumulate and be granted during the next succeeding year only. A vacation leave which an employee does not take of his own volition shall not accumulate (except with the permission of the Chief). Vacations need not be taken in consecutive weeks/days if the time requested fits the duty roster

Article 5

BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

A. All members will be entitled to bereavement leave in accordance with the following:

1. Death of father, step-father, mother, step-mother, grandmother, step-grandmother, grandfather, step-grandfather, husband, life/civil union partner, wife, son, step-son, daughter, step-daughter, brother, step-brother, sister, step-sister, father-in-law, mother in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandchild, or any relative living in the household with the member - inclusive from the day of death to the day after the burial. During a state of emergency, bereavement leave shall be the shorter of the day of death to the day after the burial or a maximum of 14 calendar days unless otherwise authorized by the Chief of Police, his designee, or Police Liaison.

2. Death of uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, cousin of the first degree not living in the member's household, or grandparents of spouse will be the day of burial only.

B. Exceptions to this rule will be made when the deceased is buried in another city or state and the member would be unable to return to duty with the leave granted.

C. The Chief of Police shall also have authority to grant special consideration in unusual cases not covered by the above.

Article 6

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A. Purpose

1. The purpose of this procedure is to secure, at the lowest possible level, an equitable settlement to problems which may arise affecting this Agreement or any working condition.
2. Nothing contained herein shall be construed as limiting the right of any employee having a grievance to discuss the matter informally with any appropriate member of the department and having the grievance adjusted without the introduction of the Association.

B. Definition

The term "grievance" as used herein means any complaint, difference, or dispute the employee may have with respect to the interpretation, application, or violation of any of the provisions of this Agreement or any applicable rule, regulation, agreement, or administrative decision affecting any employee(s) covered by the Agreement.

C. Steps of the Grievance Procedure

The following constitutes the sole and exclusive method for resolving grievances between the parties covered by this Agreement and shall be followed in its entirety unless any step is waived by mutual consent.

Step One:

1. An aggrieved employee shall institute action under this provision in writing to his immediate supervisor following the chain of command for the purpose of resolving the matter informally within fourteen (14) calendar days of occurrence of the grievance. Failure to act within said fourteen (14) calendar days shall be deemed to constitute an abandonment of the grievance.
2. The immediate supervisor shall render a written decision within ten (10) calendar days after receipt of the grievance.
3. If the immediate supervisor is not available, the grievant shall be automatically referred to step two of the grievance procedure as outlined.

Step Two:

In the event that no immediate supervisors are in existence at the time of the grievance, or the grievance is not settled in step one, the grievance shall be submitted in writing to the Chief of Police or his or her designee. The Chief, or his/her designee, shall render a decision in writing within ten (10) calendar days after the grievance is presented to him or her.

Step Three:

If the aggrieved wishes to appeal the decision of the Chief, or his designee, the aggrieved shall so notify the Council appointed Police Committee Chair, in writing within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the decision of the Chief, or his designee. Within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of said written notification, the Police Committee shall convene to hear the grievance, as presented by the aggrieved and the Chief, or his/her designee, and issue a decision in writing within fourteen (14) calendar days of such hearing.

Step Four: Arbitration

1. If the grievance is not settled after steps one, two and/or three, either party may refer the matter to the New Jersey Public Employees Relations Commission within fifteen (15) calendar days after the determination of the Township Council or its designee. An arbitrator shall be selected pursuant to the rules of the New Jersey Public Employees Relations Committee.
2. The arbitrator shall be bound by the provisions of this Agreement and restricted to the application of the facts presented to him or her involved in the grievance. The arbitrator shall not have the authority to add to, modify, detract from, or alter in any way, the provisions of the Agreement or any amendment or supplement thereto, except as provided by law. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on all parties to this Agreement. However, this decision shall not be considered a precedent for future interpretation of the provisions of this Agreement.
3. The cost for the services of the arbitrator shall be borne equally between the Township and the Association. Any other expenses including, but not limited to, the presentation of witnesses shall be paid by the party incurring same.
4. The arbitrator shall only be permitted to hear one grievance on only one issue per arbitration. No multiple grievance arbitrations will be permitted unless by written consent by the Township and the employee/Association prior to the commencement of the arbitration.
5. Either the Township or an employee may waive any step of the grievance procedure but said waiver can only be done in writing and with the consent of the other party in question.
6. The time limits set herein shall be strictly adhered to. If any grievance is not processed to the next succeeding step in the grievance procedure within the time limits

prescribed, the disposition of the grievance at the proceeding step will be deemed to be conclusive. However, if the grievance is not processed due to the failure of the Township or its designee to render a decision within the time limits specified, then the grievance will be deemed to have been denied at that step. Nothing herein shall prevent the parties involved from mutually agreeing to extend or contract the time limits provided for processing the grievance at any step in the grievance procedure.

7. A group grievance of more than one (1) employee shall be signed by each aggrieved employee.

8. The Township shall permit one (1) representative of the Association and the grievant, or a representative of the grievant, to attend grievance conferences and hearings at no loss of regular straight time pay. Meetings and hearings will be scheduled at mutually agreeable times.

9. It is agreed between the parties that no arbitration shall be held until after the expiration of at least thirty (30) calendar days after the decision rendered by the employee's governing body or its representative on the grievance.

Article 7

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Shift Changes may be made on regular working days, provided officers seeking a shift change notify the scheduling officer for approval prior to doing so. The officer shall be responsible for providing equal time exchange to the officer with whom the change was made. Patrol officers are permitted to change shifts with supervisors, but only where another ranked supervisor is already scheduled to be working during the exchanged shift. In the event a patrol officer changes shifts with a supervisor, and the other ranked supervisor calls out or is otherwise unavailable to work, the exchange will be cancelled and the supervisor who changed with the patrolman will be required to work. No double shifts will be permitted without approval of the Chief of Police.

Additionally, the agency shall provide ten (10) days' notice to any officer who is having their schedule modified, except in the case of an emergency. The ten (10) day notice requirement will be considered waived if the modification is agreed upon by the affected officers.

Article 8

ACTING SHIFT COMMANDER

Any police officer, under the rank of Corporal, acting in the capacity of Shift Commander shall be paid an additional \$3 per hour, regardless of whether or not the officer is working in an overtime capacity, and regardless of the length of time the officer was acting in the capacity of Shift Commander. Shift Commander Pay shall not exceed \$36 per shift, regardless of the number of officers acting in the capacity of Shift Commander. The shift differential shall be retroactive to the date of commencement of the assignments and shall be made no later than the 2nd pay period of April of the subsequent year.

Article 9

REIMBURSEMENT FOR EDUCATION EXPENSES

A. Chester Township will reimburse any full-time officer in good standing up to a total of 120 such credits, taken in pursuit of a Bachelors Degree at a New Jersey accredited college or university in an area related to law enforcement subject to approval by the Chief and the Police Chair provided that:

1. The per credit cost, arrived at by dividing the total cost of tuition by the total number of courses taken during the calendar year, is equal to or less than the per credit cost of Rutgers, the State University;

2. The officer successfully completes the course(s) with the equivalent of a C or better and provides to the Chief of Police proof of same, within 30 days of course completion along with receipts for tuition;

3. The officer enrolls in and completes the course(s) while employed as a Chester Township police officer. After receipt and approval of proofs, the Chief of Police will have a voucher prepared and submitted to the Police Committee Chair who will verify the request and supporting documentation and forward the verified voucher to the CFO for payment.

4. The officer will have the option of having the class(es) paid for, up front, by the Township with the following stipulation:

The officer will reimburse the Township 0% of the cost if he or she receives an A or B per course;

The officer will reimburse the Township 10% of the cost if he or she receives a C per course;

The officer will reimburse the Township 100% of the cost if he or she receives a D or lower per course;

5. Any reimbursement owed to the Township shall be paid back within six (6) months of the completion of the course. The Township will have the right to deduct the reimbursement from the employee's paycheck.

6. All officers shall enjoy the same benefits as described in the paragraph above, however, with the additional requirement that such officer must remain employed by Chester Township as a police officer for at least 5 years after any payment has been made by the Township pursuant to the paragraph above. In the event that said officer leaves for any reason before this 5 year period has elapsed, the officer shall reimburse the Township for any and all payments made to him or her under this Article 9. Reimbursement to the Township shall first come from any funds held by the Township on behalf of the officer, including, but not limited to, any accrued time (i.e. Accrued Sick Time, Overtime), which the Township is hereby authorized to utilize as offset, and then from payments made directly from the officer to the Township.

B. The Township will reimburse any full time officer in good standing for 100% of tuition at a rate not to exceed the per credit cost of Rutgers, the State University for Masters level courses up to a total of 36 such credits, taken in pursuit of a Masters Degree at a New Jersey accredited college or university in an area related to law enforcement subject to approval by the Chief and the Police Chair provided that said officer:

1. has previously earned a Bachelors Degree from an accredited educational institution;

2. successfully completes each Masters level course with the equivalent grade of "C" or better and provides proof of same along with receipt for tuition paid;
3. enrolls in and completes the Masters level course while employed as a Chester Township police officer;
4. remains employed by Chester Township as a police officer for at least 5 years after any payment has been made by the Township for Masters level credit. In the event that employment is terminated for any reason before this 5 year period has elapsed regardless of when said police officer first was hired by Chester Township, the following pro-rated schedule shall apply towards reimbursement.

- a. If the officer separates;

0 - 2 years after the last payment — 100% reimbursement required

2 - 3 years after the last payment — 80 % reimbursement is required

3 - 4 years after the last payment — 60% reimbursement is required

4 - 5 years after the last payment — 40% reimbursement is required

- b. After the completion of 5 years, the officer is not required to make any reimbursement towards the Township. Any monies that are to be repaid shall be made by the Officer to the Township according to Paragraph A of this Article 9.

5. The officer will have the option of having the class(es) paid for, up front, by the Township with the following stipulation:

The officer will reimburse the Township 0% of the cost if he or she receives an A or B per course;

The officer will reimburse the Township 10% of the cost if he or she receives a C per course;

The officer will reimburse the Township 100% of the cost if he or she receives a D or lower per course;

Any reimbursement owed to the Township shall be paid back within six (6) months of the completion of the course. The Township will have the right to deduct the reimbursement from the employee's paycheck.

- C. The pursuit of additional education will take place during an officer's nonworking hours.
- D. No more than 30 credits total between all officers may be taken in a single calendar year. Scheduling shall be at the discretion of the Chief in order to not impair the normal business of the Township.
- E. Officers must submit requests for enrollment to the Chief no later than forty-five (45) days prior to the commencement of the semester and will be granted based on years of service with the Township.
- F. Online courses from an accredited college will qualify for reimbursement with prior approval from the Chief of Police.

Article 10

REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES

- A. All police officers shall be reimbursed at the rate set by the Internal Revenue Service for the year of the request, for use of their personal automobiles when engaged in Township business. Other reasonable "out of pocket" expenses necessitated by police business will be reimbursed for assignments involving:
 - 1. Travel outside the Township of Chester of more than four (4) hours duration.
 - 2. Overtime situations within the Township of Chester involving more than thirteen (13) hours of continuous duty.
- B. Reimbursements will only be paid pending approval by the Chief of Police.
- C. Any officer who demonstrates to their direct supervisor that their uniform or equipment is no longer usable, due to damage or permanent soiling in the line of duty, that officer shall receive reimbursement for purchase of new clothing or equipment with prior written authorization from the Chief of Police or his designee. In the event of any changes in uniform (new style/patch/rank change, etc.), the Township of Chester shall provide each officer effected by such change with a new set of uniforms equal to the number of uniforms issued to newly hired officers, or reimburse the officer for these changes in uniform.
- D. Each officer shall receive on January 1 of each year of this Agreement an annual \$1,000 credit to be used towards the purchase of uniforms and equipment. The credit cannot be carried into the following calendar year. All vendors and purchases must be approved prior to purchase by the Chief of Police, or the Lieutenant designated to review the purchases.

Article 11

PHYSICALS

Each officer shall receive a complete physical examination annually. The Officer's personal physician will perform said physical. A letter stating that the Officer is fit to serve as a police officer will be signed by the attending doctor, forwarded to the Chief of Police or Officer-in Charge and kept strictly confidential as required by law.

Article 12

HEALTH INSURANCE

- A. Insurance for officers, spouses, and dependents (children up to 26 years of age) shall be through the New Jersey State Health Benefits Plan and be reviewed annually. Officers will be required to contribute to the cost of said benefit as prescribed by Public Law 2011, Chapter 78, Year 4 employee health care contribution rates. In addition, the base plan shall be established as the Horizon Omnia plan or an equivalent plan. If an officer voluntarily selects a more expensive plan than the base plan, they shall be responsible for 100% of the additional cost. The contribution is in addition to the normal contribution per Public Law 2011, Chapter 78. Upon retirement of all full-time police personnel, the Township shall maintain medical insurance coverage for the lifetime of the retiree, their spouse and all eligible dependents. The requirement to provide retiree Medical coverage for spouses and dependents shall terminate with the death of the retiree. Medical coverage shall be the same as that received by the full-time police personnel and shall remain in effect indefinitely.

Employees hired after January 1, 2024 must complete 20 years of service with Chester Township to qualify for health benefits in retirement as provided above. The requirement to provide health benefits in retirement shall terminate upon the retiree becoming eligible for Medicare.

Any officer, regardless of hire date, who retires on a disability pension shall be entitled to retiree healthcare coverage, along with spouse and dependent coverage, subject to applicable contributions required by Chapter 78.

For active employees only, medical coverage for spouses and dependents shall terminate one year after the death of the active employees. For retired employees, the requirement to provide coverage for spouses and dependents shall cease upon the death of the retiree.

- B. Retirees shall contribute towards the cost of health coverage at the Chapter 78 rate applicable to their annual pension amount. This is in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Chester Township Council on April 6, 2021 acknowledging the provisions of Chapter 48, Public Laws of 1999.

Article 13

DENTAL INSURANCE

The Township will provide dental insurance to actively employed, full time officers with terms equivalent to or better than the terms of the policy provided in 2023 through the Township's approved dental benefit carrier.

Article 14

COURT APPEARANCES

Whenever a full time Patrolman, Corporal, or Sergeant in the course of his duties is required to appear in Court during his/her time off, they shall be compensated at a rate of 1.5 times his/her base hourly salary. A minimum of three (3) hours shall be paid for each court appearance. Court pay shall not be construed as overtime for officers working their scheduled shift.

Article 15

SALARIES

- A. Salaries for officers are specified in annual amounts in a multi-step schedule. An officer's pay, however, will be prorated to that portion of the annual amount shown equal to the portion of the year employed at a step (See Appendix A). The applicable salary for an officer shall be known as the base rate of pay. The wage chart will be marked as Appendix A and attached to and made part of this contract.
- B. Step Advances and Percentage Increases shall be as follows: Patrolmen shall move up steps on the anniversary of their date of hire and shall receive the rate of pay in effect for that year. Sergeants shall move up steps on the anniversary of their date of promotion and receive the rate of pay in effect for that year.
- C. Detective Stipend
 - 1. Detective Stipend shall be paid at \$2600 per year to any member assigned to the Detective Bureau.

Article 16

OVERTIME

- A. Officers shall receive overtime pay for hours worked in excess of regularly scheduled shift hours. The conditions of the schedule will be contained in the policy manual as dictated by the Chief of Police (or his designee). In no case shall the number of regularly scheduled shift hours result in the Township incurring an obligation to pay overtime. For purposes of calculating overtime; sick days, vacation days and Kelley time (if applicable) will not be deducted. A minimum of three (3) hours of overtime shall be paid to any officer that is called to duty.
- B. The overtime rate of pay is computed using the following formula. The base rate of pay for the officer is divided by the number of work-hours in the current year to attain the hourly rate, which is then multiplied by 1.5. Multiplying the number of weekdays in the current year by 8 hours per day yields the number of work-hours per year.
- C. All department overtime shall be offered to all officers covered under this agreement, regardless of rank, prior to an officer being mandated to work overtime. The order of offering or mandating overtime shall be by departmental policy.

Article 17

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER

All officers will be required to maintain their status as Emergency Medical Responders ("EMR's") as a condition of their continued employment. Officers will ensure that they will complete all required coursework to maintain their certifications. Proof of EMR certification status shall be provided to the Chief of Police by the Township PBA at the time the officers receive such proof. All tuition expense costs will be covered by the Township of Chester for the first-time attempt at recertification during each re-certification period. Courses must be taken during active shifts unless prior approval is obtained from the Chief of Police. Courses taken outside of active shifts will be eligible for Compensatory Time or Overtime.

All officers who have and maintain an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification will receive a \$500 Stipend to be dispersed during the last pay period of the year.

Article 18

OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT AND OUTSIDE CONTRACT WORK

- A. The Township agrees that Outside Employment by the members of the Police Department shall be permitted, providing the activities do not interfere with the employment and duties required by the Township. It is recognized and acknowledged by both parties that their duties as police officers for the Township have first priority and must be fulfilled without impairment from outside employment.

- B. Scheduled contracted off duty work for police related duties for private employers shall be in accordance with Chapter 41, Section 13 of the Chester Township Code and, upon amendment of Ordinance No. _____, which ordinance shall adopted contemporaneous herewith, shall be paid at a rate of \$95.00 per hour for positions posted with twelve (12) or more hours of notice. Any contracted off duty work that is scheduled within twelve (12) hours prior to the beginning of said shift shall be paid at a rate of \$115.00 per hour.

Article 19

HOLIDAY PAY

Each officer shall receive 1.5 times for any and all hours worked during a recognized Township holiday, as determined by the Township calendar. Officers shall receive payment for holiday hours no later than the pay period immediately after the one in which such hours are worked, provided officers submit timely notice of the hours they worked.

The Police Committee Chair and PBA shall meet each year to identify those police holidays which differ from the Township calendar due to the police department remaining operational on dates when the Township office is closed. It is the intention of the parties that officers receive holiday pay for actual holidays, not “observed” holidays.

Article 20

PERSONAL DAYS

Each officer shall be granted twenty-four (24) hours of personal time per year to be used for any reason. Personal time cannot be carried into the following year and must be used in at least half shifts attached to the start or end of a shift. Use of personal time must be authorized by the officers' supervisor, and final approval shall be made by the Chief of Police or designee. Use of personal time will be granted on a first-come first-served basis. At no time will multiple officers on the same shift be permitted to use personal time simultaneously. Notice of the need for personal time must be timely made prior or concurrent to the event. Approval (or disapproval) of the leave may occur at the time of the leave or in certain circumstances, after the fact.

Article 21

MATERNITY LEAVE

- A. Female Police Officers shall advise the Employer of a pregnancy. The rights of a female Police Officer shall include but not be limited to the following provisions:
1. The female Police Officer shall be permitted to work her normal duties so long as such work is permitted by a doctor's note. The doctor shall be a physician of the female Police Officer's own choosing.
 2. In addition to the other provisions of this Article, the female Police Officer shall be permitted to use accumulated sick time and any other accumulated time benefits which she may have during the period of her pregnancy and the period following childbirth.
 3. In addition, an Employee with one (1) year or more of service shall be granted, on thirty (30) days' prior notice, maternity leave without pay, for up to twelve (12) months duration and shall be returned to work without loss of seniority or benefits provided she notifies the Chief of Police in writing no later than after six (6) months of leave that she intends to return.
 4. The female Police Officer shall at all times be kept at full benefits and shall be considered as on active duty for all computation purposes.
 5. Upon return to active-duty status, the female Police Officer shall be placed in the same position which she held before departing for maternity status.
- B. Male officers shall be granted leave in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act, 29 USC {2601 et seq. and/or the New Jersey Family Leave Act, N.J.S.A. 34: 1.1 B-1 et seq.

Article 22

PBA TIME

- A. In addition to the time paid for the PBA Convention and Mini-Convention for 2 representatives, the Township agrees to grant Members of the PBA Executive Board, or the PBA Local President (or his designee), a total of five (5) additional days in aggregate for time off without loss of pay, for the purpose of conducting PBA business. These days shall be in addition to the time off that the Township is required to grant as required by law.
- B. The PBA President shall notify the Chief of Police in writing at least one week in advance, identifying the event, the dates and the members intending to use those days.
Use of PBA Time shall be limited to one (1) member per day used.

Article 23

MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Definition: "In good standing." Throughout the text of this document, the term "in good standing" shall be used to mean that the officer is scheduled for full time active duty and is not subject to suspension for any reason, including disciplinary.
- B. Benefit. This Agreement, upon execution and delivery by the parties, shall be binding upon and insure to the benefit of the successors and assigns of the Police and the Township.
- C. Construction. This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with, and governed by, the laws of the State of New Jersey applicable to agreements to be performed entirely within such state.
- D. Assignment. It is expressly understood and agreed that neither the Police nor the Township shall have the right to assign this Agreement.
- E. Fees and Expenses. The parties shall each pay their own expenses, including but not limited to legal and accounting fees, in connection with this agreement.
- F. Amendment; Entire Agreement. This Agreement contains the entire agreement by the parties hereto with respect to the transactions contemplated hereby. No representations, understandings or agreements have been made or relied upon in the making of this Agreement other than those specifically set forth in this Agreement or in any documents described herein. This Agreement shall not be modified or amended except in writing signed by or on behalf of the parties.

- G. Notice. Any notice, request, instruction, or other document to be given hereunder by either party hereto to the other shall be deemed to have been duly given if in writing and delivered personally or sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid properly addressed as follows:

(1) If to Policemen:

Ryan Lauer

President, PBA #315

Police Headquarters 1 Parker Road

Chester, New Jersey 07930

(2) If to Township:

Robin Collins

Administrator

Township of Chester

1 Parker Road

Chester, New Jersey 07930

- H. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed simultaneously in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original but all of which collectively shall constitute but one and the same instrument.
- I. Paragraph Headings. The paragraph and subparagraph headings in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only and shall not be deemed to alter or affect any provisions thereof.
- J. Number, Gender, etc. within this agreement. When the context so requires, the singular includes the plural and the plural the singular, and words of the masculine gender include the feminine and neuter and words of the neuter gender include any gender. In this Agreement, the words "include and including" are used in the illustrative sense and not in the exclusive sense.

- K. No Waiver. The failure of either party to insist in any one or more cases upon the strict performance of any of the terms, covenants, conditions, provisions or agreements of this Agreement shall not be confused as a waiver or a relinquishment for the future of any such term, covenant, condition, provision, or agreement.
- L. Enforceability. If any term or provision of this Agreement or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall, to any extent, be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement, or the application of such term or provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid or unenforceable, shall not be affected thereby and each term and provision of this Agreement shall be valid and be enforced to the fullest extent permitted by law.

ARTICLE 24
SIGNATURES

Each of the individuals whose signatures appear below hereby represents that they are authorized, either individually or jointly to execute this Agreement and to bind the respective parties to this Agreement.



Ryan Lauer
President, PBA #315



Timothy Drag
Mayor, Township of Chester

Appendix A

Salary Guide

Patrolman	Jan 1, 2024	July 1, 2024	Jan 1, 2025	July 1, 2025	Jan 1, 2026	July 1, 2026	Jan 1, 2027	July 1, 2027
Probation	\$50,672	\$51,432	\$52,460	\$53,512	\$54,580	\$55,672	\$57,064	\$58,776
Step 9	\$55,408	\$56,240	\$57,368	\$58,512	\$59,680	\$60,874	\$62,396	\$64,268
Step 8	\$60,448	\$61,356	\$62,584	\$63,836	\$65,112	\$66,416	\$68,076	\$70,116
Step 7	\$65,940	\$66,928	\$68,268	\$69,632	\$71,028	\$72,448	\$74,260	\$76,488
Step 6	\$71,928	\$73,008	\$74,468	\$75,956	\$77,476	\$79,028	\$81,004	\$83,432
Step 5	\$78,468	\$79,644	\$81,236	\$82,864	\$84,520	\$86,212	\$88,368	\$91,016
Step 4	\$85,604	\$86,888	\$88,628	\$90,400	\$92,208	\$94,052	\$96,404	\$99,296
Step 3	\$93,380	\$94,780	\$96,676	\$98,612	\$100,584	\$102,596	\$105,160	\$108,316
Step 2	\$104,148	\$105,712	\$107,828	\$109,980	\$112,180	\$114,424	\$117,284	\$120,804
Step 1	\$116,992	\$118,748	\$121,124	\$123,544	\$126,016	\$128,536	\$131,752	\$135,700

Corporal	Jan 1, 2024	July 1, 2024	Jan 1, 2025	July 1, 2025	Jan 1, 2026	July 1, 2026	Jan 1, 2027	July 1, 2027
	\$120,580	\$122,388	\$124,836	\$127,332	\$129,880	\$132,480	\$135,792	\$139,868

Sergeant	Jan 1, 2024	July 1, 2024	Jan 1, 2025	July 1, 2025	Jan 1, 2026	July 1, 2026	Jan 1, 2027	July 1, 2027
Step 4	\$124,168	\$126,032	\$128,552	\$131,124	\$133,748	\$136,420	\$139,832	\$144,028
Step 3	\$126,376	\$128,272	\$130,836	\$133,456	\$136,124	\$138,844	\$142,316	\$146,584
Step 2	\$128,580	\$130,508	\$133,120	\$135,784	\$138,500	\$141,268	\$144,800	\$149,144
Step 1	\$130,788	\$132,752	\$135,408	\$138,116	\$140,876	\$143,694	\$147,288	\$151,704

Hourly Rate Guide *

Patrolman	Jan 1, 2024	July 1, 2024	Jan 1, 2025	July 1, 2025	Jan 1, 2026	July 1, 2026	Jan 1, 2027	July 1, 2027
Probation	\$24.18	\$24.54	\$25.12	\$25.63	\$26.14	\$26.66	\$27.33	\$28.15
Step 9	\$26.44	\$26.83	\$27.48	\$28.02	\$28.58	\$29.15	\$29.88	\$30.78
Step 8	\$28.84	\$29.27	\$29.97	\$30.57	\$31.18	\$31.81	\$32.60	\$33.58
Step 7	\$31.46	\$31.93	\$32.70	\$33.35	\$34.02	\$34.70	\$35.57	\$36.63
Step 6	\$34.32	\$34.83	\$35.66	\$36.38	\$37.11	\$37.85	\$38.80	\$39.96
Step 5	\$37.44	\$38.00	\$38.91	\$39.69	\$40.48	\$41.29	\$42.32	\$43.59
Step 4	\$40.84	\$41.45	\$42.45	\$43.30	\$44.16	\$45.04	\$46.17	\$47.56
Step 3	\$44.55	\$45.22	\$46.30	\$47.23	\$48.17	\$49.14	\$50.36	\$51.88
Step 2	\$49.69	\$50.44	\$51.64	\$52.67	\$53.73	\$54.80	\$56.17	\$57.86
Step 1	\$55.82	\$56.65	\$58.01	\$59.17	\$60.35	\$61.56	\$63.10	\$64.99

Corporal	Jan 1, 2024	July 1, 2024	Jan 1, 2025	July 1, 2025	Jan 1, 2026	July 1, 2026	Jan 1, 2027	July 1, 2027
	\$57.53	\$58.39	\$59.79	\$60.98	\$62.20	\$63.45	\$65.03	\$66.99

Sergeant	Jan 1, 2024	July 1, 2024	Jan 1, 2025	July 1, 2025	Jan 1, 2026	July 1, 2026	Jan 1, 2027	July 1, 2027
Step 4	\$59.24	\$60.13	\$61.57	\$62.80	\$64.06	\$65.34	\$66.97	\$68.98
Step 3	\$60.29	\$61.20	\$62.66	\$63.92	\$65.19	\$66.50	\$68.16	\$70.20
Step 2	\$61.35	\$62.27	\$63.75	\$65.03	\$66.33	\$67.66	\$69.35	\$71.43
Step 1	\$62.40	\$63.34	\$64.85	\$66.15	\$67.47	\$68.82	\$70.54	\$72.66

Overtime Hourly Rate Guide *

Patrolman	Jan 1, 2024	July 1, 2024	Jan 1, 2025	July 1, 2025	Jan 1, 2026	July 1, 2026	Jan 1, 2027	July 1, 2027
Probation	\$36.26	\$36.81	\$37.69	\$38.44	\$39.21	\$39.99	\$40.99	\$42.22
Step 9	\$39.65	\$40.25	\$41.21	\$42.03	\$42.87	\$43.73	\$44.82	\$46.17
Step 8	\$43.26	\$43.91	\$44.96	\$45.86	\$46.78	\$47.71	\$48.91	\$50.37
Step 7	\$47.19	\$47.90	\$49.04	\$50.02	\$51.03	\$52.05	\$53.35	\$54.95
Step 6	\$51.48	\$52.25	\$53.50	\$54.57	\$55.66	\$56.77	\$58.19	\$59.94
Step 5	\$56.16	\$57.00	\$58.36	\$59.53	\$60.72	\$61.93	\$63.48	\$65.39
Step 4	\$61.26	\$62.18	\$63.67	\$64.94	\$66.24	\$67.57	\$69.26	\$71.33
Step 3	\$66.83	\$67.83	\$69.45	\$70.84	\$72.26	\$73.70	\$75.55	\$77.81
Step 2	\$74.53	\$75.65	\$77.46	\$79.01	\$80.59	\$82.20	\$84.26	\$86.78
Step 1	\$83.73	\$84.98	\$87.01	\$88.75	\$90.53	\$92.34	\$94.65	\$97.49

Corporal	Jan 1, 2024	July 1, 2024	Jan 1, 2025	July 1, 2025	Jan 1, 2026	July 1, 2026	Jan 1, 2027	July 1, 2027
	\$86.29	\$87.59	\$89.68	\$91.47	\$93.30	\$95.17	\$97.55	\$100.48

Sergeant	Jan 1, 2024	July 1, 2024	Jan 1, 2025	July 1, 2025	Jan 1, 2026	July 1, 2026	Jan 1, 2027	July 1, 2027
Step 4	\$88.86	\$90.19	\$92.35	\$94.20	\$96.08	\$98.00	\$100.45	\$103.47
Step 3	\$90.44	\$91.80	\$93.99	\$95.87	\$97.79	\$99.74	\$102.24	\$105.30
Step 2	\$92.02	\$93.40	\$95.63	\$97.55	\$99.50	\$101.49	\$104.02	\$107.14
Step 1	\$93.60	\$95.00	\$97.28	\$99.22	\$101.20	\$103.23	\$105.81	\$108.98

* Hourly rates are based on 2096 hours for 2024.

* Hourly rates are based on 2088 hours for 2025, 2026 and 2027.

Appendix B

	Rank	Total Accrued Sick Time	Total Accrued Sick Dollars
Henry	Sergeant 1	708.00 Hours	\$15,000.00
Notte	Sergeant 1	957.00 Hours	\$15,000.00
Salamone	Sergeant 3	636.00 Hours	\$15,000.00
Shea	Sergeant 4	416.50 Hours	\$13,379.86
Robinson	Corporal	567.50 Hours	\$15,000.00
Steckel	Corporal	703.75 Hours	\$15,000.00
Fandel	Corporal	582.50 Hours	\$15,000.00
Ellmann	Corporal	494.00 Hours	\$14,923.00
Bohn	Patrolman 1	21.00 Hours	\$1,176.63
Durkin	Patrolman 1	612.00 Hours	\$15,000.00
Capone	Patrolman 1	194.50 Hours	\$5,994.49
Lowry	Patrolman 2	475.00 Hours	\$14,442.03
Schiffman	Patrolman 9	148.00 Hours	\$3,707.88
Barberan	Patrolman 9	142.00 Hours	\$3,555.52
Matasker	Patrolman 9	142.00 Hours	\$3,555.52
Lauer	Patrolman 9	101.50 Hours	\$2,457.17
Moitozo	Probation	64.00 Hours	\$1,553.28
O'Mealy	Patrolman 9	36.00 Hours	\$ 955.44

Appendix C

	Effective Anniversary Date	Rank Effective January 1, 2024	2024 Rank on Anniversary Date
Henry	April 1	Sergeant 1	Sergeant 1
Notte	April 1	Sergeant 1	Sergeant 1
Salamone	September 1	Sergeant 3	Sergeant 2
Shea	October 1	Sergeant 4	Sergeant 3
Robinson	January 1	Corporal	Corporal
Steckel	January 1	Corporal	Corporal
Fandel	January 1	Corporal	Corporal
Ellmann	January 1	Corporal	Corporal
Bohn	April 1	Patrolman 1	Patrolman 1
Durkin	January 1	Patrolman 1	Patrolman 1
Capone	January 1	Patrolman 1	Patrolman 1
Lowry	October 1	Patrolman 2	Patrolman 1
Schiffman	May 15	Patrolman 9	Patrolman 8
Barberan	June 1	Patrolman 9	Patrolman 8
Matasker	June 1	Patrolman 9	Patrolman 8
Lauer	November 1	Patrolman 9	Patrolman 8
Moitozo	February 15	Probation	Patrolman 9
O'Mealy	August 1	Patrolman 9	Patrolman 8