

2021 - 2025 AGREEMENT

SUPERIOR OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

POLICEMEN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION – LOCAL 145A

AND THE

TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK

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2021-2025 AGREEMENT
SUPERIOR OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
AND THE
TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK

ARTICLE I
RECOGNITION

SECTION A.

The Employer hereby recognizes the Association as the exclusive representative for collective negotiations with respect to rates of pay, wages, hours of work and other terms and conditions of employment for an appropriate negotiating unit established in accordance with CU-81-38 dated February 26, 1982.

SECTION B.

Included in the negotiating unit shall be those Employees of the Township within the Department of Public Safety whose job titles are Deputy Chief, Captain, Lieutenant, and Sergeant.

ARTICLE II

REPRESENTATION FEE

SECTION A.

Purpose of Fee: If a member of this bargaining unit does not become a member of the Association during any membership year which is covered by this Agreement, in whole or in part, said employee will be required to pay a representation fee to this Association for that membership year. The purpose of this fee will be to offset the employee's per capita cost of services rendered by the Association as majority representative.

SECTION B.

Amount of Fee:

Notification

Prior to the beginning of each membership year, the Association will notify the Chief Finance Officer in writing of the amount of regular membership dues, initiation fees, and assessments charged by the Association to its own members for that membership year.

SECTION C.

Deduction and Transmission of Fee:

1. Notification

Once during each membership year covered in whole or in part by the Agreement, the Association will submit to the Chief Finance Officer a list of those employees who have not become members of the S.O.A. for the then current membership year. The Township will deduct from the salaries of such employees, in accordance with paragraph 2 below, the full amount of the representation fee and promptly will transmit the amount so deducted to the Association.

2. Payroll Deduction Schedule

The Township will deduct the representation fee in equal installments, as nearly as possible, from the paychecks paid to each employee on the aforementioned non-member list during the remainder of the membership year in question. The deductions will begin with the first paycheck paid:

- a. Ten (10) days after receipt of the aforementioned non-member list by the Chief Finance Officer, or
- b. Thirty (30) days after the employee begins his or her employment in a bargaining

unit position, unless the employee previously served in a non-bargaining unit position and then became covered by this Agreement or was laid off, in which event the deductions will begin with the first paycheck paid to said employee after the resumption of the employee's employment in a bargaining unit position.

3. **Termination of Employment**

An employee who is terminated for any reason shall only pay that portion of the annual fees of the Association due in equal installments to the date of termination.

4. **Mechanics**

Except as otherwise provided in this Article, the mechanics for the deduction of representation fees and the transmission of such fees to the Association will, as nearly as possible, be the same as those used for the deduction and transmission of regular membership dues. The Township will provide a list with each transmission of fees listing current members and those paying the representation fee.

5. **Changes**

The Association will notify the Chief Finance Officer in writing of any changes in the list of non-members provided for in paragraph 1 above and/or the amount of the representation fee, and such changes will be reflected in any deductions made more than ten (10) days after the Chief Finance Officer received said notification.

6. **New Employees**

The S.O.A. will be informed of the employment of each individual eligible for membership in the Association.

7. **Hold Harmless**

Provided the employer has met its obligations pursuant to this Article, the Association shall hold the employer harmless against any and all claims.

ARTICLE III

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

SECTION A.

Definitions:

1. A "grievance" shall be any difference of opinion, controversy, or dispute arising between parties involving interpretation or application of any provision of this Agreement.
2. Grievances arising out of the application, interpretation, and alteration of managerial policies and rules and regulations which do not affect negotiable terms and conditions of employment and are management prerogatives and non-negotiable matters, may not proceed to binding arbitration.
3. An "aggrieved employee" is the person or persons making the claim of a grievance or the Association.

SECTION B.

Procedure:

A grievance shall be processed as follows:

A grievance must be presented no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the grievance arises or after the aggrieved employee or Association may reasonably be presumed to have knowledge of the matter causing the grievance. The time limitations in this Article are of the essence and not merely procedural. No grievance shall be entertained or processed unless it is filed within the time limits set forth in this Section.

All references to days herein shall mean Monday through Friday, exclusive of holidays, except as set forth above.

No response to a grievance at any Step in the procedure shall be deemed a denial entitling the Association to proceed to the next Step of the Procedure.

Grievances shall only be processed on the approved form mutually agreed upon by the parties for such purpose.

STEP 1: The grievance shall be reduced to writing by the Association and submitted to the Department Director, Chief of Police or his/her designee. The answer to such grievance shall be in writing to the Association and shall be provided within fifteen (15) days of the submission of the grievance.

STEP 2: If the grievance is not settled at Step 1, then the Association shall, within seven (7) days of the due date of the Step 1 response, submit the grievance to the Business Administrator. A written response shall be provided by the Business Administrator within fifteen (15) days of its submission.

STEP 3: If no settlement of grievance has been reached by the parties at Step 2, and the grievance is not within the meaning of Section A (2), the Association shall have the right to submit the unresolved grievance to binding arbitration. However, the request for arbitration must be initiated within ten (10) days of the time the answer was received from the Business Administrator (or considered due in Step 2). The Association shall make written application to the New Jersey Public Employment Relations Commission requesting that an arbitrator be appointed to hear the grievance in accordance with its rules and make a final determination. The arbitrator can add nothing to nor subtract anything from the agreement between the parties. The decision of the arbitrator shall be in written form setting forth findings of fact, reasons, and conclusions and shall be submitted to the employer and to the Association. It shall be binding and final on the parties and the employees. All employees shall continue to observe all assignments and rules and regulations during the pendency of a grievance and until it is finally determined, except where an imminent danger to safety and health exists.

SECTION C.

The cost of fees and expenses of the Arbitrator shall be shared equally by the Association and the employer. It is agreed that any arbitrator appointed pursuant to this Agreement may not in any way alter the provisions of this Agreement. Furthermore, the right to request arbitration shall be limited to the Association.

However, it is understood that for grievance arbitration, the prevailing party shall not be responsible for the cost of fees and expenses of the arbitrator.

SECTION D.

If either or both parties desire a verbatim record of the proceedings, it may cause a record to be made, and the cost of such record shall be either equally borne by the parties or borne by the party requesting the record.

ARTICLE IV

HOLIDAYS

SECTION A.

The following holidays are hereby recognized:

New Years Day	Columbus Day
Martin Luther King Day	General Election Monday
Lincoln's Birthday	General Election Day
Washington's Birthday	Veterans Day
Good Friday	Thanksgiving Day
Easter Sunday	Thanksgiving Friday
Memorial Day	Christmas Eve
Independence Day	Christmas Day
Labor Day	New Years Eve

SECTION B.

For employees working a Monday-Friday schedule, if a holiday falls on a Sunday it shall be observed on the next scheduled day of work, and if it falls on Saturday, it shall be observed on the preceding scheduled day of work. If, however, Christmas Eve or New Years Eve falls on a Sunday, they will be celebrated on the preceding scheduled day of work that is not a holiday, and if Christmas or New Years Day falls on a Saturday, they will be celebrated on the next scheduled day of work that is not a holiday.

For employees working a Monday-Thursday schedule, if a holiday falls on a Sunday, it shall be observed on the next scheduled day of work that is not a holiday, and if it falls on a Friday or Saturday, it shall be observed on the preceding scheduled day of work that is not a holiday. If, however, Christmas Eve or New Years Eve falls on a Sunday, it shall be observed on the preceding scheduled day of work that is not a holiday, and if Christmas or New Years Day falls on a Friday or Saturday, it shall be observed on the next scheduled day of work that is not a holiday.

For employees working a Tuesday-Friday schedule, if a holiday falls on a Sunday or Monday, it shall be observed on the next scheduled day of work that is not a holiday, and if it falls on a Saturday, it shall be observed on the preceding scheduled day of work that is not a holiday. If, however, Christmas Eve or New Years Eve falls on a Monday, it shall be observed on the preceding scheduled day of work that is not a holiday, and if Christmas or New Years Day falls on a Saturday, it shall be observed on the next scheduled day of work that is not a holiday.

Employees assigned to the Patrol Division shall observe holidays on the actual day of occurrence.

SECTION C.

Any employee who is a member of the SOA and was hired as of December 31, 2018 shall receive 189 hours of straight pay added to their base salary, which shall be paid with, and become part of, the regular salary for all purposes effective January 1, 2019. All members hired after January 1, 2019 shall receive 144 hours of straight pay added to their base salary, which shall be paid with, and become part of, the regular salary for all purposes. Additionally, members shall receive one additional day off for each holiday actually worked, to a maximum of 12 days. The additional days actually worked shall be posted as vacation at the time they are earned.

ARTICLE V

PERSONAL DAYS

Each employee shall be granted thirty-two (32) hours off with pay in each agreement year, non-cumulative, and in units of no less than one half ($\frac{1}{2}$) hour. Should a member desire not to disclose reason(s) for requesting a personal day, the member need not divulge said reason(s).

Upon separation, any employee leaving prior to July 1 shall be granted sixteen (16) hours. Any employee leaving July 1 or after shall be entitled to the full year's allotment.

ARTICLE VI
LONGEVITY PAY

SECTION A.

All employees who were a member of SOA prior to January 1, 2000, shall be entitled to longevity compensation as follows:

ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION PERCENTAGE OF GROSS SALARY

4%..... at the end of the 5th year and start of the 6th year
6%..... at the end of the 9th year and start of the 10th year
8%..... at the end of the 14th year and start of the 15th year
10%..... at the end of the 19th year and start of the 20th year
12%..... at the end of the 24th year and start of the 25th year
14%..... at the end of the 29th year and start of the 30th year

Employees who become members of the SOA on or after January 1, 2000 shall be entitled to longevity compensation as follows:

4%..... at the end of the 5th year and start of the 6th year
6%..... at the end of the 9th year and start of the 10th year
8%..... at the end of the 14th year and start of the 15th year
10%..... at the end of the 19th year and start of the 20th year
12%..... at the end of the 24th year and start of the 25th year

For all Officers hired on or after January 1, 2011, the following longevity schedule shall apply:

6%.....at the end of the 12th year and start of the 13th year
8%..... at the end of the 21st year and start of the 22nd year
10%.....at the end of the 25th year and start of the 26th year

For all employees hired on or after January 1, 2019, the following longevity schedule shall apply:

4%.....at the end of the 12th year and start of 13th year
6%.....at the end of the 21st year and start of 22nd year
8%.....at the end of the 25th year and start of 26th year

The SOA agrees to be bound by any agreement reached with the PBA relative to longevity for employees hired after January 1, 2021.

SECTION B.

The additional compensation provided for in this section shall commence on January 1st of each year and shall be paid as part of the employee's regular wages.

ARTICLE VII

VACATIONS

SECTION A.

The following vacation schedule is agreed to and shall be used in units of half hour increments.

3 - 5 years of completed service	80 hours
Start of 6th year to end of 9th year of completed service.....	120 hours
Start of 10th year to end of 14th year of completed service	160 hours
Start of 15th year to end of 19th year of completed service	200 hours
Start of 20th year to end of 24th year of completed service	240 hours
Start of 25th year and over.....	280 hours

For all employees who become SOA members on or after 4/1/14, the two hundred-eighty (280) hours step shall be eliminated.

SECTION B.

Vacation leave for the forthcoming year shall be accrued and be credited to each employee on January 1 of each year.

Payment for unused vacation time in the member's final year shall include time carried over into that year. In addition, members retiring on or after February 1 shall also be entitled to their full year's allotment.

SECTION C.

Accumulation of vacation leave beyond that earned in a twelve (12) month period shall be permitted only with the consent of the Administrator. No employee shall be permitted to accumulate more than two hundred-forty (240) hours of unused vacation leave. Vacation leave, subject to the approval of the department head, may be taken from time to time in units of no less than one half (1/2) hour.

Uniform policy for granting vacation time shall be maintained based upon the existing framework for vacation scheduling currently utilized in the Patrol Section of the Department.

SECTION D.

At the employer's option, the employee shall have the right to sell back unused vacation days at 75% of the employee's current rate of pay. This program shall be initiated, if at all, solely at the employer's discretion on or about November 1 of each calendar year.

SECTION E.

Upon service or special retirement, ordinary disability, or accidental disability retirement, in accordance with the service retirement provision of the Police and Fireman's Retirement System, an employee shall receive full pay for all unused vacation days accrued and not previously used. At the time of any other separation from service, an employee shall be entitled to the pro-rated amount of vacation leave for that portion of the calendar year worked by said employee in addition to previously accumulated unused vacation leave. Upon the death of an employee that person's designated beneficiary shall receive full pay for all unused vacation days accrued by the employee.

ARTICLE VIII

UNIFORM REIMBURSEMENT

SECTION A

Each Police Officer shall be responsible to maintain their uniform and equipment in accordance with the standards of the department.

SECTION B.

The Township will pay for replacement or repair to any part of a uniform damaged in the line of duty. Payment for personal items, i.e. prescription glasses, watches, etc. damaged in the line of duty shall be capped at \$250.00 per incident.

The uniform allowance has been previously eliminated.

ARTICLE IX

SICK LEAVE

SECTION A.

Sick leave shall be paid leave when each employee who through sickness or injury becomes incapacitated to a degree that makes it impossible for him to perform all the duties of his position or who is quarantined by a physician because he has been exposed to a contagious disease. Such leave will be available for the use of the employee for personal illness, illness in his immediate family which requires attendance upon the ill person, quarantine restrictions, pregnancy, or disabling injuries.

The term "immediate family" for the purpose of this paragraph, shall mean and refer only to the employee's spouse, child, parent or unmarried brother or sister.

SECTION B.

A certificate from the Employer's physician or the Employee's own physician may be required as proof of the need for sick leave. In case of sick leave due to a contagious disease or exposure to same, a certificate from the Department of Health shall be required.

SECTION C.

Sick leave for the forthcoming year shall be credited to each employee on January 1 of each year at the rate of one hundred-twenty (120) hours per year. Sick leave may be accumulated without limit during each employee's term of service subject to the provisions of this contract.

Effective 1/1/15 employees will earn one hundred-four (104) sick hours per year.

At the employer's option, the employee shall have the right to sell back unwanted sick days at 50% of the employee's current rate of pay. This program shall be initiated, if at all, solely at the discretion of the employer. On or about November 1 of each calendar year, notice of the option to purchase will be given to each employee by the employer.

SECTION D.

1. The Township has established a mandatory program for excess sick leave purchase. This program affects anyone promoted into the ranks represented by the SOA. The Township will purchase accumulated and unused sick leave in excess of two hundred-forty (240) hours at a value determined by years of completed service at the time of promotion. Each employee will have the option to sell back an additional eighty (80) hours retaining a minimum of one hundred-sixty (160) sick hours.

a. Percentage of value for payment under this program will be as follows:

<u>Years of Completed Service</u>	<u>Percentage of Value</u>
10 years or less	50%
11 years	55%
12 years	60%
13 years	65%
14 years	70%
15 years	75%
16 years	80%
17 years	85%
18 years	90%
19 years	95%
20 years or more	100%

2. The value of days purchased by the Township under number 1 above will be paid at the employee's option as follows:

- a. Single cash payment to the employee at an agreed upon date and subject to current Federal and State taxes.
- b. Applied as an investment to the members' deferred compensation account and subject to annual contribution limit and State and Social Security taxes.
- c. Applied as an investment to a special trust account established by the Township and not subject to State or Federal taxes until disbursement to said employee.

An employee may choose any one or combination of a, b or c above. In options b and c, the employee may select the type of investment instrument(s) in which said funds will be held.

3. At the time of separation or retirement the employee shall be entitled to receive 50% of the value of accumulated, unused sick leave.
4. Any employee hired on or after June 1, 1986 shall, upon separation or retirement, be entitled to receive 50% of the value of accumulated unused sick leave to a maximum payment not to exceed \$15,000 per employee.

SECTION E.

Upon the death of an employee, the employee's estate or designated beneficiary shall receive payment for unused sick days in the manner and amount to which the employee would otherwise have been entitled.

SECTION F.

Upon separation, if an employee leaves prior to July 1, the employee shall be granted sixty (60) sick hours for the last year. Any employee leaving July 1 or after, shall be entitled to the full year's sick leave allotment.

Effective 1/1/15, the above amount shall be revised to fifty-two (52) hours.

ARTICLE X

COMPENSATORY TIME OFF

SECTION A.

Each employee will be granted eighty (80) hours compensatory time off, non-cumulative and to be taken in units of full or half days. Hours granted on January 1st of each year will be provided in lieu of overtime worked in the preceding year.

SECTION B.

Any employee promoted to the rank of Sergeant will not receive comp days until January 1 of the following year. On January 1, the employee will receive a pro-rated number of hours based upon the following formula, 40 hours plus 3.33 hours per month of service at the rank of Sergeant during the previous year.

SECTION C.

At the time of separation from service, an employee shall be entitled to full pay for all unused comp hours granted for the preceding year as well as pro-rated payment for the number of hours earned during the year of separation.

ARTICLE XI

SCHEDULING

1. The following schedules are hereby established:
 - a. **Three-Three**: this consists of a 10.5 (ten and one half) hour workday on a 28-day rotation of 3-days on/3-days off, 3-days on/3-days off, 2-days on/3-days off, 3-days on/3-days off, 3-days on/2-days off.
 - b. **Four-Three**: this consists of a 10 (ten) hour workday with 4 (four) days on followed by 3 (three) days off. The days off shall be Saturday, Sunday and Monday or Friday, Saturday and Sunday with scheduling to provide adequate coverage. Selection of the days off shall be made by seniority within the police department.
 - c. **Five-Two**: This consists of an 8 (eight) hour workday with 5 (five) days on followed by 2 (two) days off. The days off shall be Saturday and Sunday.
2. **Operations Division**
 - a. The Operations Division Commander will work a **Five-Two** schedule. At the discretion of the Chief of Police, the Operations Division Commander may be placed on a **Four-Three** schedule based on assignment and/or need. Hours of these schedules will be determined according to the assignment and 7 (seven) days' notice must be provided to the employee.
 - b. Lieutenants and Sergeants assigned to the Patrol Section will work a **Three-Three** schedule. The hours of the schedule will be as follows:
 - i. Day Watch: 6:30 AM to 5:00 PM
 - ii. Afternoon Watch: 2:30 PM to 1:00 AM
 - iii. Night Watch: 8:30 PM to 7:00 AM
 - c. Lieutenants and Sergeants assigned to the Special Operations Section will work a **Four-Three** schedule. At the discretion of the Chief of Police, Lieutenants and Sergeants assigned to the Special Operations Section may be placed on a **Five-Two** based on assignment and/or need. Hours of these schedules will be determined according to the assignment and 7 (seven) days' notice must be provided to the employee.
3. **Investigative Division**
 - a. The Investigative Division Commander and the Assistant Investigative Division Commander will work a **Four-Three** schedule. At the discretion of the Chief of Police, the Investigative Division Commander and/or the Assistant Investigative Division Commander assigned to the Investigative Division may be placed on a **Five-Two** schedule based on assignment and/or need. Hours of these schedules will be determined according to the assignment and 7 (seven) days' notice must be provided to the employee.
 - b. Sergeants assigned to the Investigative Division will work a **Three-Three** or **Four-Three** schedule to coincide with the respective squads.
4. **Administrative Division and Office of Professional Standards**
 - a. The Administrative Division Commander, the Assistant Administrative Division Commander, and the Lieutenant assigned to the Office of Professional Standards will work a **Four-Three** schedule. At the discretion of the Chief of Police, the Administrative

Division Commander, the Assistant Administrative Division Commander, and the Lieutenant assigned to the Office of Professional Standards may be placed on a **Five-Two** schedule based on assignment and/or need. Hours of these schedules will be determined according to the assignment and 7 (seven) days' notice must be provided to the employee.

5. **Personnel on Loan**

- a. Personnel assigned to work "on loan" to agencies outside the Township will adopt the work schedule of their temporary assignment, and employees assigned to temporary or special assignment will adopt the schedule of the division/section to which they are assigned.

6. **Modified Duty**

- a. Modified duty assignments shall be granted at the discretion of the Township, shall be assigned as determined by the Chief of Police or his/her designee.
- b. This modified schedule may consist of either **Three-Three, Four-Three, or Five-Two**. Hours of these schedules will be determined according to the assignment and 7 (seven) days' notice must be provided to the employee.

7. **Compensation for Five-Two Schedule**

- a. For each week that an employee is assigned to a Five-Two schedule, he/she shall earn three (3) hours of vacation time.

ARTICLE XII

EMPLOYEE STATUS

SECTION A.

A Sergeant or Lieutenant will be granted additional compensation equivalent to the salary rate of a higher rank when said officer is required to work without a superior officer who would be normally assigned as his immediate supervisor and when said officer replaces a superior who has been out of work for a period of fifteen (15) consecutive days or longer for any reason. Compensation shall be retroactive to the first day an officer assumes the additional responsibilities of the position.

SECTION B.

A six-month probationary period together with written evaluation at the second and fourth months based on performance only shall pertain to an employee promoted to a higher rank. Worker's Compensation and disability leave shall not be included as part of the time duration to complete the probationary period. Such probationary status shall in no way affect the rights and status in the original or lower classification. Any employee who has attained full-time permanent status and transferred within rank shall not be required to serve a probationary period.

SECTION C.

When it becomes necessary for the Employer to abolish a position(s) of an employee covered by this agreement such actions shall be taken in accordance with the provisions of NJSA 40A:14-143. The employee affected by such action shall have all rights enumerated in this agreement and in the Code of the Township of East Brunswick.

SECTION D.

Any Lieutenant who is required to perform in the capacity of "Departmental Duty Officer" shall receive compensation equivalent to the salary rate of Captain for each day of the Officer's normally scheduled tour of duty. This provision shall not be effective until January 1, 1987 and will not be effective should the "Departmental Duty Officer" procedure be eliminated.

SECTION E.

For purpose of computing years of service, any sworn police officer hired after January 1, 1988 whose employment commences between January 1 and July 1 shall be credited with a full year of service and previous permanent part-time employment with the employer shall be accumulated and the employee shall be given credit for an equivalent amount of full-time employment. All sworn police officers hired prior to January 1, 1988 would continue to utilize the January 1 - October 1 seniority criteria. Only when a full-time employee leaves the employer's employment for active duty in the military service of the United States or receives a

leave of absence with pay shall the period of active duty or leave of absence with pay be included in computing years of service.

ARTICLE XIII

DEATH IN FAMILY

SECTION A.

The employer agrees that immediately upon a death in the employee's immediate family, the employee will be granted up to four (4) working days off with pay. Such leave must be used consecutively and immediately upon the death in the employee's immediate family. In unusual circumstances, the Director of Public Safety, Chief of Police or his/her designee, may waive the requirement that such leave be used immediately.

SECTION B.

The definition of immediate family includes the employee's spouse, child, parent, brother, sister, great-grandparent, grandparent, grandchild, and the brother, sister, parent, and grandparent of their spouse.

SECTION C.

The employer agrees that upon the death of the employee's or their spouse's aunt, uncle, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, niece, nephew, step-parent, or step-grandparent the employee will be granted one (1) day off with pay to be in attendance at those activities involved in the internment of and mourning for the deceased. In addition, up to three (3) additional days of earned but unused leave (personal, compensatory, vacation leave) may be used upon the death of the employee's step-parent or step grand-parent. The use of such leave for this purpose shall not be denied.

ARTICLE XIV

HEALTH BENEFITS

SECTION A.

1. Current levels of basic medical, hospitalization, major medical, prescription drug and dental insurance will be maintained with the following modifications:
 - a. Second surgical opinion, pre-admission review and case management shall be part of the Plan provided that failure to use these processes shall not cause any reduction in benefit nor penalty to the employee.
 - b. Mental Health and Substance Abuse Benefits:
 - (1) In-patient treatment at the facilities listed in the attached sheet will be without limit subject to the same considerations as in the current program.
 - (2) Out-patient treatment limits shall be \$5,000 per year, subject to the total lifetime cap.
 - (3) Treatment at facilities other than those listed in the attached shall be subject to a \$25,000 per stay annual limit and a \$50,000 lifetime limit.
 - (4) The list of the approved facilities is subject to change by mutual agreement of the Township and the Superior Officers Association.
 - c. Chiropractic coverage shall be limited to thirty (30) visits annually as a maximum under the same eligibility standards as currently used.
 - d. Effective January 1, 2008, the insurance deductible shall be \$350.00 for single coverage and \$700.00 for family coverage.

Those employees participating in the township's EPO plan shall pay a \$10.00 co-pay effective January 1, 2008.
 - e. The current levels of dental and orthodontic insurance shall be set at a \$1,500 maximum effective as soon as practicable after the signing of the collective negotiations agreement.
2. If at retirement an employee moves out of New Jersey, the employee is responsible to inform the employer of their new residence. The employer will then investigate a mental health facility of comparable or better rating to those utilized within the jurisdiction of New Jersey, in the State in which the retired employee is residing.

3. All employees shall contribute a portion of their salary towards health insurance (including medical, prescription and dental) premiums in accordance with Tier 4 rates as set forth in Ch. 78, P.L. 2011.

SECTION B.

Effective January 1, 2019, the co-pay for brand-name prescription drugs and specialty drugs (non-generic drugs) shall increase to \$35.00. The co-pay for generic prescription drugs shall remain at \$5.00. After two (2) refills, employees who utilize maintenance drugs shall be enrolled in the mail-order program or at CVS for a ninety (90) day supply at a rate of \$35.00 for each such brand-name prescription drugs and specialty drugs (non-generic drugs) and \$0.00 for generic prescription drugs.

SECTION C.

1. Any member who is not vested by the pension disability will be provided with current levels of short and long term disability insurance. The maximum monthly payment will be \$4,000.00.
2. The contract shall include the \$5,000 life insurance provision and the two-thirds (2/3) long-term disability benefit (after Worker's Compensation) for work-related disabilities.

SECTION D.

In accordance with NJSA 40A:10-23, current levels of benefits under Section A shall be provided to any employee who retires:

- (a) After 20 years or more service with the Township and 25 years of credited service in the Police and Fire Pension System; or
- (b) After having reached the age of 62 or older with at least 15 years of service where the retirement has been shown to the satisfaction of the employer to have been necessitated by medical illness or disability of the employee.
- (c) The Township will provide secondary coverage only for eligible retirees when coverage by Medicare or another carrier including Veterans benefits is available.
- (d) During the term of this Agreement (January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025), those employees who retire and qualify for retiree medical coverage as set forth in Section D, Subsection a, shall contribute towards his/her health insurance (including medical, prescription, dental and vision) premiums as follows:
 - 1.5% of the retired officer's annual pension toward health insurance (including medical, prescription, dental and vision) premiums; or
 - 2.5% of the retired officer's annual pension toward health insurance (including medical, prescription, dental and vision) premiums should the Township enroll in

State Health Benefits plan (“SHBP”).

The retiree will only be required to contribute to his/her health benefits coverage at the rates set forth above until such time that the retiree and his/her spouse both achieve Medicare eligibility and have no other qualifying dependents.

The Township agrees to set up an automatic withdrawal option and a means of receiving electronic payment for all retiree healthcare contributions. Any qualifying retiree who fails to make his/her required health care contribution to the Township during his/her retirement in a timely manner shall be notified by the Township in writing via certified mail. The retiree shall have 45 days from the date the default notice is received to pay any outstanding contributions. If after 45 days from the date the default notice is received the contribution is not paid, the retiree shall forfeit the Chapter 78, Tier IV reduction set forth herein and shall pay the full Chapter 78, Tier IV contributions for his/her health care.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:10-23, the Township agrees to provide the same levels of benefits, which shall include medical, prescription, dental and vision, provided to active employees under Sections A and B shall be provided to the retiring employee and his/her spouse/civil union partner at the time of the employee’s retirement and their qualifying dependents. If an employee remarries after retirement, the retired employee’s spouse/civil union is eligible for health care coverage, but dependents from that marriage/civil union are not eligible for health care coverage.

The Parties understand that the Township cannot reduce or eliminate any form of healthcare coverage (including medical, prescription, dental and vision) to reduce healthcare costs, but can negotiate cost-sharing measures with active members (co-pays, deductibles, networks, prescription drug tiering) and same shall apply to the retiree health insurance coverages.

- (e) Due to the unpredictable nature of health care costs, upon the expiration of this agreement, the parties will negotiate health benefit contributions for future retirees. The parties further agree that in the absence of a negotiated agreement, all future retirees after January 1, 2026 shall contribute a portion of their salary towards health insurance (including medical, prescription and dental) premiums in accordance with Tier IV rates as set forth in Ch. 78, P.L. 2011.

SECTION E.

Service in the military, which has been used as the basis for purchase of pension credit, shall count as service with the Township provided the employee has twenty (20) years with the Township and twenty-five (25) years or more service in the Police and Fire Pension System.

SECTION F.

Current levels of benefits under Sections A, B, & C shall be provided to the employee's dependents in the event the employee:

- (a) Dies in the line of duty, or
- (b) Dies after twenty (20) years municipal service with the Township of East Brunswick.

This Section (E) applies:

1. If no comparable health insurance is available from any other source (spouse's employment, post-retirement employment, etc.), or
2. If coverage is available from another source other than the Employer, the Employer reserves the right to either reimburse the employee for the cost of coverage not provided by the Employer or to continue enrollment in the Employer's plan.

ARTICLE XV

DEPARTMENTAL TRAINING

The Township will pay the Rutgers per credit rate for both Graduate and Undergraduate courses up to a maximum of 18 credits per year per employee. Reimbursement would include tuition; books; registration fees; activity fees and required course work. Not included are late fees, parking fees or any fees that are not required for course enrollment. All course work must be successfully completed with a passing grade. Reimbursement will be for an accredited institution of higher education only, and when no other source of reimbursement is available to the employee (i.e., G.I. benefits). Reimbursement will be provided upon the employee submitting a copy of their original tuition bill listing all charges, courses and a copy of his/her grades to the Personnel Manager.

The courses must be job related course work, per current practice, approved by the Department head and the business administrator.

Employees promoted into the unit on or after July 1, 1997 must remain employed by the Township for three years after completion of the course pursuant to this Article. If the employee leaves the Township's employ before the three year time period has passed, he/she will be responsible for reimbursing the Township thirty-three and one-third percent (33 1/3%) of the payment per year for each year he/she leaves before the completion of three years.

Effective 1/1/14, total annual tuition reimbursement for all SOA members shall be capped at \$20,000. Effective 1/1/15 tuition reimbursement shall be limited to tuition only which will be capped at \$30,000 annually for all members.

ARTICLE XVI
SALARY AND COMPENSATION

SECTION A.

	2021 2.5%	2022 2.5%	2023 2.75%	2024 3.0%	2025 3.25%
Sergeant	\$134,275.49	\$137,632.38	\$141,417.27	\$145,659.79	\$150,393.73
Lieutenant	\$147,638.16	\$151,329.11	\$155,490.67	\$160,155.39	\$165,360.44
Captain	\$163,136.83	\$167,215.25	\$171,813.67	\$176,968.08	\$182,719.54
Deputy Chief	\$176,063.00	\$180,464.57	\$185,427.35	\$190,990.17	\$197,197.35

All Sergeants shall be paid on the higher pay scale effective January 1, 2021 and thereafter.

The pay schedule may be the 15th and 30th of the month (or last day of February) for direct deposit.

SECTION B.

Any member becoming or possessing a Drug Recognition Expert (“DRE”) will be provided a base stipend of \$2,500 per year.

ARTICLE XVII

DUES CHECK OFF

The Employer shall deduct dues from the wages of all personnel covered by this agreement who have filed with the Employer a proper dues deduction authorization card as required by the laws of the State of New Jersey. The Association shall advise the Employer of the fixed and standard dues of its members. The Employer shall deduct a proportionate amount from each bi-weekly pay check and deliver to the Association on the first of each month the previous month's dues collection.

ARTICLE XVIII

**CONTINUATION OF BENEFITS NOT COVERED
BY THIS AGREEMENT**

All benefits, terms and conditions of employment presently enjoyed by employees covered by this Agreement, that have not been included in this Agreement, shall be continued.

This Article shall not be construed to apply to anything included in the rules and regulations and the standard operating procedures of the Department of Public Safety, Chief of Police or his/her designee; which cannot knowingly controvert anything in this agreement or any rights granted to employees by applicable law, or rights which are subject to negotiation.

This Agreement represents and incorporates the complete and final understanding and settlement by the parties. During the term of this Agreement, neither party will be required to negotiate with respect to any such matter, whether or not covered by this Agreement, and whether or not within the knowledge or contemplation of either or both of the parties at the time they negotiated and signed this Agreement. This Agreement shall not be modified in whole or in part by the parties except by an instrument in writing, executed by both parties.

Should agreement not be reached for 2026 and/or subsequent years by January 1, 2026, all rights, privileges and responsibilities under this Agreement shall be continued until a new Agreement is agreed upon and signed.

ARTICLE XIX

MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

SECTION A.

The Employer reserves to itself sole jurisdiction and authority over matters of policy and retains the right, subject only to the limitations imposed by the language of this Agreement, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations (a) to direct employees of the Department; (b) to hire, promote, transfer, assign, and retain employees in positions in the Department, and to suspend, demote, discharge, or take other disciplinary action against employees; (c) to relieve employees from duty because of lack of work or for other legitimate reasons; (d) to maintain efficiency of the Department operations entrusted to them; (e) to determine the methods, means and personnel by which such operations are to be conducted; and (f) to take whatever actions may be necessary to carry out the mission of the Department in situations of emergency.

SECTION B.

Nothing in this Article shall be interpreted to deprive any employee's rights guaranteed to him or her by Federal or State Law, and all the rights enumerated in this Agreement.

SECTION C.

The parties agree that the right to make reasonable rules and regulations shall be considered and acknowledged as the function of the employer except as such right may be modified by the terms of this Agreement.

ARTICLE XX

STATEMENT OF POLICY AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

The Employer and Association both agree that they shall not discriminate against any employee because of race, religion, color, sex, marital status, military service, national origin, political affiliation, age, physical or mental disablements (except where age, physical or mental disablement constitute a bona fide occupational qualification) and the parties further agree that no employee shall be discriminated against or interfered with because of Association activities or inactivity.

ARTICLE XXI

DURATION OF AGREEMENT

SECTION A.

This Agreement shall remain in full force and effect from the effective date of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025.

SECTION B.

The parties do hereby agree that they shall commence negotiations for an agreement for the year 2026 by November 15, 2025.

ARTICLE XXII

SAVING CLAUSE

Should any part or any provision herein contained be rendered or disclosed invalid by reason of any existing or subsequently enacted State or Federal Legislation, or any decree of a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidation of such part or portions of this Agreement shall not invalidate the remaining portion thereof.

ARTICLE XXIII

S.O.A. RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

SECTION A. Information. Management agrees to provide all information, in response to reasonable requests, pertaining to the employees' terms and conditions of employment as articulated in this Agreement.

SECTION B. Released Time for Meetings. Whenever any representative of the S.O.A. or any other employee covered by this Agreement is required or scheduled to participate during working hours in negotiations, grievance proceedings, conferences, or meetings, he shall suffer no loss in pay or any other Agreement benefit to which he is entitled, such as vacation time or personal leave, etc., such activities shall be scheduled by or be scheduled with the approval of the Director of Public Safety, Chief of Police or his/her designee. Approval as required shall not unreasonably be withheld.

SECTION C. Use of Municipal Meeting Rooms. The S.O.A. and its representatives may schedule the use of Municipal meeting rooms at all reasonable hours.

SECTION D. Use of Township Equipment. The S.O.A. may use Township office equipment (not to include supplies) as may be needed at reasonable times when such equipment is not otherwise in use. This use shall be arranged and approved by the Director of Public Safety, Chief of Police and/or his/her designee. Such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

SECTION E. Bulletin Boards. The S.O.A. may have exclusive use of a bulletin board at a location to be approved by the Director of Public Safety, Chief of Police or his/her designee. The S.O.A. shall also be designated adequate space by the Director of Public Safety, Chief of Police and/or his/her designee, on all official bulletin boards that may serve notice to anyone covered by this agreement.

SECTION F. Mail Facilities. The S.O.A. may use municipal mail facilities, except postage.

SECTION G. Leave Time for the S.O.A. President. During fixed times as approved by the Director of Public Safety, Chief of Police or his/her designee, the President of the S.O.A. shall be permitted to meet during his tour of duty with his members. Such approval shall not unreasonably be withheld. If the President of the S.O.A. is required to appear at a hearing, court proceeding, or other action on behalf of the S.O.A., the President's schedule shall be changed to preclude the requirement that he work more than eight (8) hours in any 24-hour period.

SECTION H. Representatives to the State P.B.A. The S.O.A. state delegate and S.O.A. President may attend authorized state and county meetings, workshops, and S.O.A. state convention during their normal working hours with the approval of the Director of Public Safety, Chief of Police or his/her designee. Such approval shall not unreasonably be withheld. The representative's schedule shall be changed to preclude the requirement that he work more than eight (8) hours in a twenty-four hour period.

ARTICLE XXIV

DISCIPLINARY MATTERS



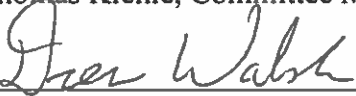


Disciplinary actions must be in conformance with 40A:14-147 et seq. of New Jersey Statutes Annotated. It is Management's right and duty to review all allegations of negligence, improper procedure, misconduct, etc., of its employees in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Township of East Brunswick. Such review procedures shall be informal and shall not abridge the rights of the employee in accordance with 40A:14-147 et seq.

ARTICLE XXV

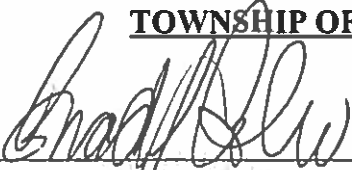
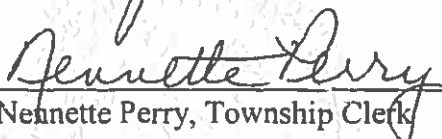
CHANGES AND SUPPLEMENTS

Provisions of this Agreement may only be changed, supplemented, or altered only if both parties agree to such amendments in writing.

S.O.A.:

 Anthony DeSantis, President	<u>9/23/21</u> Date
 Thomas Kienle, Committee Member	<u>9/23/21</u> Date
 Drew Walsh, Committee Member	<u>09/21/21</u> Date
 Frank Sutter, Committee Member	<u>9-23-21</u> Date
 Jason Fama, Committee Member	<u>9/23/21</u> Date
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TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK:

 Brad Cohen, Mayor	<u>9/27/21</u> Date
 Nennette Perry, Township Clerk	<u>9/27/21</u> Date