

**AGREEMENT**

Between  
THE BOROUGH OF NORWOOD  
and  
IBT LOCAL 125

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JANUARY 1, 2021 through DECEMBER 31, 2025

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Shafron Law Group, LLC  
2 University Plaza Drive  
Suite 400  
Hackensack, NJ 07601  
201-343-7200

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**PREAMBLE**

This AGREEMENT, is made this        day of        2022 by and between the BOROUGH OF NORWOOD (hereinafter referred to as the Employer), a body politic and corporate of the State of New Jersey, and IBT Local 125 (hereinafter referred to as the Union).

**ARTICLE I**

**UNION RECOGNITION**

The Employer recognizes the Union as the exclusive bargaining representative of all regular full time employees for the purpose of collective negotiations concerning negotiable terms and conditions of employment.

## ARTICLE II

### RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

The Employer hereby retains and reserves unto itself all powers, rights, authority, duties and responsibilities conferred upon and vested in it prior to the signing of this Agreement by the Laws and Constitution of the State of New Jersey and of the United States, including, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the following rights:

- (a) To execute management and administrative control of the Employer Government and its properties and facilities and the activities of its Employees;
- (b) To hire all Employees and subject to the provisions of law, to determine their qualifications and conditions for continued employment or assignment and to promote and transfer Employees;
- (c) To suspend, promote, demote, transfer, assign, reassign, discharge, or take any other disciplinary action for good and just cause according to law, all of which are subject to any limiting provisions of this Agreement.

Nothing contained herein shall be construed to deny or restrict the Employer of their rights, responsibilities and authority under N.J.S.A. Titles 40 and 40A or any other national, state, county or other applicable laws.

Unless a contrary intent is expressed in this Agreement, all existing benefits, rights, duties, obligations and conditions of employment applicable to any employee pursuant to any rules, regulations, instructions, directives, memoranda, practices, statutes or otherwise shall not be limited, restricted, impaired, removed or abolished.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **NON-DISCRIMINATION**

- A. The Employer and the Union agree that there shall be no discrimination against any employee because of:
- Race or color;
  - Religion or creed;
  - National origin, nationality or ancestry;
  - Sex, pregnancy or breastfeeding;
  - Sexual orientation;
  - Gender identity or expression;
  - Disability;
  - Marital status or domestic partnership/civil union status;
  - Liability for military service; or
  - Age, atypical hereditary cellular or blood genetic information, the refusal to submit to a genetic information, the refusal to submit to a genetic test or make available to an employer the results of a genetic test.
- B. The Employer and the Union agree that all employees covered under this Agreement have the right without fear of penalty or reprisal to join and assist any employee organization or to refrain from any such activity. There shall be no discrimination by the Employer or the Union against any employee because of the employee's membership or non-membership or activity or non-activity in the Union.
- C. All references in this Agreement to the male gender, if any, are used for convenience only and shall be construed to include both male and female employees.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **UNION RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. The Employer agrees that it will not enter into any collective negotiation Agreement with any organization other than the Union with regard to the employees covered in Article I, Recognition, so long as it continues to represent such employees during the Term of this Agreement.
- B. The Union shall be responsible for acquainting its members with the terms and provisions of this Agreement and shall make every reasonable effort to secure compliance by its members with those terms and conditions.
- C. The Union business agent and/or their representatives previously designated by the Union shall be admitted on the premises of the Employer for Union business, and can raise with the Employer any questions concerning the enforcement and applicability of this Agreement and all terms and conditions of employment. The actions by the Union business agent and/or representatives shall be only during regular business hours and upon prior notice to the Superintendent.
- D. The Union may designate one (1) employee representative as "shop steward" who can raise with the Employer any questions concerning the enforcement and applicability of the Agreement, and all terms and conditions of employment. The Union shall furnish to the Employer in writing within thirty (30) days of the date of the signing of this Agreement the name of such representative and notify the Employer of any changes within thirty (30) days after said changes are made. Time spent on Union business shall not be included as qualifying time toward overtime calculations.



## ARTICLE V

### DUES, DEDUCTION, AND AGENCY FEE

- A. The Union shall advise the Employer, in writing, the amount of dues to be deducted from each employee's paycheck.
- B. The Union has made membership available to all employees covered by the within unit on an equal basis. It is therefore agreed between the parties that all non-member employees are required to pay a representation fee in lieu of dues as a condition of employment. Any permanent employee in the bargaining unit on the effective date of this Agreement who does not join the Union within (30) days thereafter, any new permanent employee who does not join within (30) days of initial employment within the unit, and any permanent employee previously employed within the unit who does not join within ten (10) working days of re-entry into employment with the unit shall, as a condition of employment, pay a representation fee to the Union by automatic payroll deduction. This fee shall not exceed eighty five percent (85%) of the regular membership dues, fees and assessments, as permitted under the New Jersey Employer-Employee Relations Act as amended, N.J.S.A. 13A-5.4. The Union shall certify to the Employer that the amount of said fee is as permitted by law and the Union has established and maintains a demand and return system as required by N.J.S.A. 34:13A-5.5.
- C. The Employer shall deduct such fee by means of a payroll deduction and remit same to the Treasurer of the Union together with the list of the names of all employees for whom the deductions were made by the tenth (10th) day of the succeeding month after such deductions are made.

- D. The Union may revise its certification of the amount of the representation fee at any time to reflect changes in the regular Union membership dues, fees and assessments. The Union's entitlement to the representation fee shall continue beyond the termination date of the Agreement so long as the Union remains the majority representative of the employees in the unit and that no modification is made in this provision by a successor agreement between the Union and the Employer.
- E. Seasonal and part time employees can work no more than one hundred twenty (120) days in one calendar year and are exempt from dues and initiation fees. Except in the case of emergency or in the event of performance of an assigned job, no seasonal or part-time employee shall perform work in excess of forty (40) hours per week, to a maximum of 120 days in any calendar year. Seasonal or part-time employees shall not be hired or retained if regular permanent employees are on temporary layoff due to reduction in force.
- F. The Union agrees to indemnify the Borough with respect to any deductions made under the provisions of this Article.

**ARTICLE VI**

**PROBATIONARY PERIOD**

All employees hired during the term of this Agreement shall serve a probationary period of one year. During this probationary period, the Borough reserves the right to terminate the employee in its sole subjective discretion. A probationary employee so terminated shall not have any rights or recourse under this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **SENIORITY**

- A. SENIORITY - Seniority is defined as employment based on length of continuous service with the Borough from the date of hire.
- B. SENIORITY LIST - A seniority list shall be made available to the Union twice a year - January 1 and July 1, showing the date of hire and rank or last date of rehire of all employees in the bargaining unit by the Borough Clerk's Office.
- C. Seniority shall prevail in all matters where a preference may be established, such as, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, economic layoff, recall and vacation choices. The person or persons last hired shall have the last preference. Employees who are laid off will be eligible for recall up to a maximum of nine months from date of layoff. Employees shall be recalled in the inverse order of their layoff provided that the employee reports for duty within forty-eight hours of their notice of recall which shall be by regular mail or certified mail addressed to the employee's last address in the employer's file, a copy of which shall be given to the Union.
- D. An employee shall, on the date worked immediately following successful completion of the probationary period, be considered to have seniority as of the date of hire.
- E. LAYOFF - The Borough shall provide sixty (60) days notice of any layoff. The purpose of the notice is to allow the Union the opportunity to provide the Borough with alternatives to layoffs. In the event that the Borough does implement layoffs, it agrees to reopen negotiations regarding wages.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **HOURS OF WORK**

- A. The regular workweek shall consist of forty (40) working hours, Monday through Friday, inclusive. The regular workday shall consist of eight (8) working hours commencing no earlier than 7:00 a.m. and ending no later than 3:30 p.m., with one half (1/2) hour unpaid lunch break.
- B. During each regular workday, employees covered by this Agreement shall receive two (2) fifteen (15) minute duty-free breaks: one during the morning and one during the afternoon. The scheduling of these breaks shall be at the discretion of the Superintendent of the Department. In no instance may these breaks be scheduled to permit late arrival or early dismissal of any employee.
- C. The Borough of Norwood will pay Twenty (\$20.00) Dollars toward meals whenever any employee works twelve consecutive hours. In a call-out emergency situation when an employee is not scheduled to work, the employee is entitled to one (1) Twenty (\$20.00) Dollar meal payment per eight (8) hour shift. Payment shall be made by the submission of a cash voucher.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **OVERTIME**

- A. Work in excess of the employee's basic eight (8) hour or forty (40) week shall be overtime and shall be paid at time and one-half (1.5) rate in pay. For a consecutive period that includes more than eight (8) hours of overtime, any overtime hours worked beyond that period shall be paid at double (2) the straight hourly rate for snowplowing and emergency situations only.
- B. An employee may elect to receive compensatory (CTO) time in lieu of overtime pay at the rate of time and one-half (1.5) for each hour worked. The maximum number of compensatory time at any one time shall be sixteen (16) hours.
- C. For time worked on a Sunday or Holiday, compensation shall be paid at the rate of two (2) times the hourly rate of pay for each hour of work, provided that the Employee works all scheduled days during the work week on which the Sunday or Holiday falls.
- D. If an employee works twenty-four (24) hours without being relieved for the day, he or she shall receive overtime for his next contiguous shift as well.
- E. The approval for the use of compensatory time shall be scheduled in the same manner as vacation time.
- F. The payment of overtime will be paid together with the regular paycheck, consistent with all applicable law.
- G. In snow emergencies, or other declared emergencies, all employees are required to report for duty. Every effort will be made by the Superintendent, in good faith, to accommodate family or personal emergencies. Regular doctor or dental appointments, not of an emergency nature, ordinarily do not constitute a personal emergency justifying the refusal of work in an emergency situation. The part-time outside employment of a Department of Public Works employee, employed full-time by the Borough of Norwood, does not constitute justification for the refusal of mandatory overtime.
- H. It is recognized that as a condition of employment, the employees of the Department of Public Works must acquire and maintain a commercial driver's license. It is recognized that the

DWI standards for a commercial driving license are more stringent than the general requirements for a New Jersey driving license. If employees are called in on a snow or other emergency, they shall advise the Superintendent if they are unable to meet the commercial driving license standards. It is expected that all employees arrive at work on their regular shift, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., fit for work. When employees anticipate a snow emergency, it is the responsibility of the employees to conduct themselves in such manner as they will be fit for work when called in.

- I. Cash overtime payment shall be computed at one and one-half (1.5) times the employee's regular rate of pay. Compensatory time off shall be calculated at the rate of one and one-half (1.5) hours of CTQ for each hour of overtime work. Compensatory time off shall be calculated at the rate of two (2) hours of CTO for each hour worked on a Sunday or Holiday. Each employee shall complete his/her own overtime voucher and have it signed by the Superintendent and it shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent to submit the voucher for payment. To be eligible for premium pay (1.5x or 2x) the employee must work or "be paid" for 40 hours in that workweek. The term "be paid" shall mean paid vacation time, paid personal time, or use of Compensatory Time Off (CTO), all of which must have been requested at least five (5) business days prior to the day off. Paid sick time shall NOT count toward 40 hours in a workweek.
- J. In the event of a threatened snow storm prior to the normal quitting time, the Superintendent with the consent of the shop steward may send employees home early. When the employees return after quitting time to resume working, the employees will be paid straight time for the same number of hours the employees were excused early before the payment of overtime is required. (Example: Employees are sent home 2 hours early. The employees return later that day and work 6 hours. The first two (2) hours are paid at straight time and the last four (4) hours are paid at time and one-half overtime.)

**ARTICLE X**

**SALARIES**

1. The base annual salaries shall be set forth in Appendix "A".
2. Any monies due employees by virtue of this Agreement shall be paid as soon after the execution of this Agreement as practicable.
3. Employees automatically move to the next highest step on their anniversary date of hire.
4. To compute an employee's regular rate of pay, the employee's base pay and longevity, if any, shall be added and then divided by two thousand eighty (2080) hours so that the employee's annual salary is converted to an hourly rate.



**ARTICLE XI**

**LONGEVITY**

All full-time employees covered under this Agreement hired on or before January 1, 1998 shall be entitled to longevity payments compounded with base annual salary as set forth in the following schedule:

After five years of service .....	2% per annum
After ten years of service .....	3.5% per annum
After fifteen years of service .....	5% per annum
After twenty years of service .....	6.5% per annum
After twenty-five years of service .....	8% per annum

All other employees covered under this Agreement hired on or after January 1, 1998 are ineligible for longevity benefits.

## ARTICLE XII

### STAND BY TIME

1. One employee in the Public Works Department shall be available for employment by the Department on each weekend and on each holiday described in Article XXI. The employee on standby shall be compensated at the rate of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) per day. Any employee who is called into work shall be guaranteed a minimum of two (2) hours pay at the designated overtime rate. However, if the employee is called into work, released before the two (2) hour minimum period has elapsed and then recalled within the same two (2) hour period, they shall not be entitled to receive a second two (2) hour minimum pay.
2. In the event of a sewer emergency, any employee holding a CI or CII Waste Water Treatment License called into work shall be guaranteed a minimum of four (4) hours pay at the designated overtime rate. However, if the employee is called into work, released before the four (4) hour minimum period has elapsed and then recalled within the same four (4) hour period, he shall not be entitled to receive a second four (4) hour minimum pay.
3. A list of those employees to be assigned to standby duty for each weekend of the year shall be posted by December 1 of each year for the following year. The Borough may change such assignments when reasonably necessary due to employee termination, hiring, promotions, illnesses or other incapacity.
4. In the event a designated employee is unable, for any reason, to be on standby, they shall be given the opportunity to secure a qualified replacement and shall submit written confirmation of such replacement or substitution to the Superintendent within a reasonable time before the commencement of such standby duty.
5. Any employee called out on the Holidays listed in Article XXI, paragraph 1, will receive double-time pay.

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### **RECALL**

- A. Each Recall to work will be compensated at a minimum of two (2) hours multiplied by one and one-half (1.5) times the employee's hourly rate of pay, which will be defined as weekly base pay plus all items compounded with base pay divided by 40 hours, in addition to the portal-to-portal allowance of one-half hour. A Recall is defined as any call to return to duty, except for snow or other emergencies, as defined in the Emergency Management Guide in place as of January 1, 1998, which occurs at least three hours after the conclusion of an employee's shift. Once the reason for the recall subsides, the employee shall be dismissed from duty. If the recall takes place on a Sunday or Holiday, then the employee shall be compensated at double the hourly rate of pay in accordance with Article IX, Paragraph C.
- B. The Superintendent of the Department shall keep a record of all overtime and shall make every effort, consistent with the needs of the Borough, to distribute overtime assignments equally among the members of the Department. Overtime shall be rotated by seniority. Upon request of the Union business agent or shop steward, the Superintendent shall supply a list of overtime assignments and the names of the employees who worked overtime.
- C. The parties agree that when an employee is injured while traveling in response to, or as a result of a recall, and he sustains an injury during such period, such injury shall be considered as an injury on duty for all purposes under this Agreement.

**ARTICLE XIV**

**SICK LEAVE**

**Section One - Sick Leave**

- A. Sick leave may be used by employees who are unable to work because of:
  - 1. personal illness or injury;
  - 2. exposure to contagious disease; or
  - 3. care which is necessary because of the serious health condition of members of the employee's immediate family in accordance with the Federal FMLA or NJ State FLA.
- B. Employees shall be entitled to annual sick leave as set forth below:
  - 1. Newly hired employees shall receive eight (8) hours of sick leave for the initial month of employment if they begin work on the 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> day of the calendar month, and four (4) hours of sick leave if they begin on the 9<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month.
  - 2. After the initial month of employment and up to the end of the first calendar year, employees shall be credited with eight (8) hours of sick leave for each month of completed service.
- C. Thereafter, at the beginning of each calendar year, in anticipation of continued Employment, employees shall be credited with ninety-six (96) hours of sick leave.
- D. Sick leave credits shall not accrue after an employee has resigned or applied for retirement although the employee's name is being retained on the payroll until exhaustion of vacation leave or other compensated leave, if applicable.
- E. An employee who exhausts all paid sick leave time in any one year shall not be credited with additional paid sick leave until the beginning of the next calendar year.
- F. If an employee will be absent for reasons that entitle the employee to sick leave, the Superintendent shall be notified promptly but no later than one (1) hour prior to the employee's usual reporting time, except in cases of emergency as approved by the Superintendent.

1. Failure to notify the Superintendent may be cause for disciplinary action.
  2. Absence without notice for five (5) consecutive scheduled working days shall constitute a resignation not in good standing.
- G. An employee who is absent on sick leave may be required to submit reasonable verification, including verification by a physician, of the need for sick leave. Before returning to work from sick leave of five (5) consecutive working days or more, an employee must provide a written physician's statement verifying that the employee is fit for duty and may safely return to work.
- H. Abuse of sick leave may be cause for disciplinary action.
- I. The Superintendent may require an employee who has been absent because of personal illness or injury, as a condition of the employee's return to duty, to be examined, at the Employer's expense, by a physician designated by the Employer. The examination shall establish whether the employee is capable of performing the employee's normal duties and that the employee's return will not jeopardize the health and safety of the employee or other employees or citizens.
- J. An employee using paid sick leave shall be confined to the employee's designated domicile during the employee's regularly scheduled work day, excepting periods of hospitalization, examinations at doctor's office or medical facility, and visits to a local drug store for purposes of obtaining medications.
- K. An employee using paid sick leave shall not engage in any other work or employment during the employee's period of sick leave.
- L. The Superintendent may require verification of illness, accident, disability, injury, disease or death of an employee's immediate family member when the employee's use of paid sick leave is due to the serious illness or death of an immediate family member.
- M. Failure to follow sick leave notification and verification procedures may result in denial of sick leave for that specific absence, be considered an abuse of sick leave, and/or constitute cause for disciplinary action.

- N. At the employee's option, an employee may bank up to seventy-two (72) days of sick time. Unused sick time shall be compensated only upon retirement and in no case more than \$15,000. The rate of payout shall be the daily rate of pay in effect at the time the Borough elects to cash-out an employee's sick leave bank.
- O. In charging an employee with sick leave, the smallest unit to be considered is one-half (1/2) of a working day.

**ARTICLE XV**

**WORKERS COMPENSATION POLICY**

Employees who suffer job related injuries and illnesses may be entitled to medical expenses, lost income and other compensation under the New Jersey Workers Compensation Act. The Borough covers workers compensation benefits through its membership in the Bergen County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund (JIF). Any occupational injury or illness must be immediately reported to the supervisor or Department Head. All required medical treatment must be performed by a Workers Compensation Physician appointed by the JIF and payment for unauthorized medical treatment may not be covered pursuant to this Act.

**ARTICLE XVI**

**COURT DUTY**

Jury Duty will be considered a leave with pay for the time required to attend jury duty that is scheduled during work hours as prescribed by N.J.S.A. 2A:69-5.



**ARTICLE XVII**

**MILITARY LEAVE**

Military leave for employees training or serving with any Armed Forces of the United States will be granted for a period not to exceed 15 days. Military leave will also be granted in accordance with the laws applying in such cases for a period not to exceed 90 days for those units which are federally activated. Employees will be compensated with differential pay periods as approved by the Borough Council.

**ARTICLE XVIII**

**BEREAVEMENT LEAVE**

1. All full-time employees covered by this Agreement shall be entitled to three (3) consecutive working days Bereavement Leave, with pay, upon the death of a member of his immediate family. (One day of such leave must be either the day of death or the day of the funeral.) Immediate family is defined as spouse, children, parents, brothers, sisters and grandparents of the employee or spouse. Such Bereavement Leave shall not be charged against the employee's vacation or other leave time.
2. An employee may request to use vacation leave in addition to the bereavement leave provided for in this Article. The Superintendent may approve or disapprove the use of vacation leave as Bereavement Leave in the Superintendent's sole discretion.

## **ARTICLE XIX**

### **PERSONAL LEAVE**

1. An employee covered by this Agreement shall be granted twenty-four (24) hours of personal leave per annum. The employee shall not be required to advise his superior of the reason for such personal days.
2. Newly hired employees shall receive pro-rated personal leave up to the end of their first calendar year. Thereafter, at the beginning of the next calendar year, in anticipation of continued employment, newly hired employees shall be credited with the same personal leave as other employees.
3. Employees shall be required to give the Superintendent of the Department a minimum of twelve (12) hours notice of the intent to take such leave and must receive approval from the Superintendent of the Department to insure that the Borough has adequate personnel on hand to perform all necessary functions.
4. In charging an employee with personal time, the smallest unit to be considered is one-half (1/2) of a working day.

**ARTICLE XX**

**VACATIONS**

1. All vacation time is earned January 1 of each year. Employees covered under this Agreement shall be entitled to vacation as follows:
  - 1 to 5 years of service .....11 working days x 8 = 88 hours
  - 6 to 10 years of service .....16 working days x 8 = 128 hours
  - 11 to 16 years of service .....21 working days x 8 = 168 hours
  - 17 to 19 years of service .....24 working days x 8 = 192 hours
  - 20 or more years of service .....26 working days x 8 = 208 hours
2. All vacation time shall be scheduled subject to the approval of the Superintendent of the Department.
3. Employees shall be entitled to carry over unused vacation hours, to a maximum of forty (40) hours, to the next succeeding year only if the employee is precluded for business reasons from using the vacation days. Any vacation hours to be carried over must be requested, in writing, to the Borough Administrator no later than November 1.
4. With respect to new hires, such employees will earn vacation during their first year of employment on a pro-rated basis; i.e., eight (8) hours per month up to a maximum of eighty-eight (88) hours. Upon separation from employment of a newly hired employee during the first year of employment, there will be no docking of that employee's final pay based upon his or her use of any amount of vacation days during the initial year of employment.
5. A winter vacation will be permitted on a seniority basis of one man per week with prior approval of the Superintendent. It is understood that in the event of a snow emergency, if the employee is not away, they will be available for overtime and the vacation day(s) will not be forfeited.
6. In charging an employee with vacation leave, the smallest unit to be considered is one-half (1/2) of a working day.

**ARTICLE XXI**

**HOLIDAYS**

1. All employees covered by this Agreement shall be entitled to thirteen (13) holidays at their regular rate of pay. Such holidays shall be:

- |                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| i. New Year's Day      | vii. Labor Day             |
| ii. Lincoln's Birthday | viii. Columbus Day         |
| iii. President's Day   | ix. Veteran's Day          |
| iv. Good Friday        | x. Thanksgiving Day        |
| v. Memorial Day        | xi. Day after Thanksgiving |
| vi. Independence Day   | xii. Christmas Day         |
|                        | xiii. Personal Holiday     |

2. The thirteenth holiday will be a fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Personal Day and may be taken in one hour increments with the approval of the Superintendent.
3. If any of the foregoing Holidays are changed by State or Federal Law, then this Article shall be automatically adjusted according to the legal change in holiday. In addition, all employees covered by this Agreement shall be granted such other holidays, as may be declared by State or Federal Law.
4. An employee must work a full day before and the full day after a holiday in order to be compensated for the holiday unless vacation leave has been utilized.

## **ARTICLE XXII**

### **MEDICAL BENEFITS**

1. Hospitalization and Medical Benefits: Active employees and eligible spouses and dependents shall be entitled to hospitalization and medical benefits under the Hospital-Medical Plan in effect on January 1, 2009, except as otherwise modified by this Agreement.
2. The Employer reserves the right to change or modify the foregoing plan and benefits, to substitute insurance carriers or to self-insure provided that in the aggregate substantially similar benefits are provided and at least thirty (30) days advance notification of any such change is provided to the Union.
3. The Employer will annually reimburse each employee, to a maximum of One Hundred Fifty (\$150) Dollars, for the purchase of prescription eyewear such as eyeglasses (frames and/or lenses) and contact lenses upon submission of a receipt and duly signed voucher.
4. The Employer will provide all full-time employees covered under this Agreement with a family dental plan.
5. If the Employer remains a participant in the New Jersey State Health Benefits Program and adopts Chapter 48 coverage for retirees, then said coverage shall be extended to employees covered by this Agreement to the fullest extent required by law, as employees are eligible are described in Appendix "B".
6. Employee's contribution towards health care shall be in accordance with Chapter 78. All contributions will be on a pre-tax basis.

7. In the event an employee elects to waive health coverage, the Employer shall pay the employee on a quarterly basis twenty-five percent (25%) of the cost of saved premium based upon the lowest cost plan and the employee's status (Single, Husband and Wife, Parent and Child and Family.) To be eligible the employee must be able to prove alternative coverage. Should a qualifying event take place, the employee shall be immediately reinstated to the Employer's health insurance plan. Any other re-enrollment shall be in accordance with the health insurance carrier's rules pertaining to enrollment.

## **ARTICLE XXIII**

### **SAFETY**

1. It is the intent of both the Employer and the Union that all operations of the DPW be conducted in a manner consistent with minimizing risk of injury to any person. To this end, the Employer shall form a Safety Committee consisting of two (2) employees from the Bargaining Unit, the Borough Administrator and DPW Liaison. This committee shall meet from time to time when request for such meetings is received from two (2) of the members. The committee shall discuss matters of safety as it pertains to the Borough operations and procedures and shall be entitled to bring its comments and recommendations to the governing body of the Borough for consideration.
2. Some of the best safety improvement ideas come from employees. Those with ideas, concerns, or suggestions for improved safety in the workplace are encouraged to raise them with their supervisor or bring them to the attention of a member or the joint management-labor safety advisory group. Reports and concerns about workplace safety issues may be made anonymously if the employee wishes. All reports can be made without fear of reprisal.
3. In instances where such recommendations shall take the form of recommended protective wearing apparel such as protective eyewear, hearing protectors, etc., the Employer will provide each employee covered by this Agreement with such equipment. Every employee shall be required to utilize such safety equipment at all times in accordance with the safety training provided by the Employer.
4. Failure of an employee to properly maintain and utilize such safety equipment shall be deemed neglect of duty and shall subject the employee to appropriate disciplinary action. Each employee is expected to obey safety rules and to exercise caution in all work activities. Employees must immediately report any unsafe condition to the appropriate supervisor. Employees who violate safety standards, who cause hazardous or dangerous situations, or who fail to report or, where appropriate, remedy such situations, may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.



5. Any employee/driver covered by this Agreement shall be required to break for a period of four (4) hours after having driven for ten (10) hours of duty during snowplowing, sanding and salting operations.
6. The Union shall have the power to appoint its two members as Safety Delegates to the Employer's Safety Committee.
7. In the case of accidents that result in injury, regardless of how insignificant the injury may appear, employees should immediately notify Bergen Risk Management, the Safety delegate and the Superintendent. Such reports are necessary to comply with laws and initiate insurance and workers' compensation benefits procedures.
8. All full-time employees are required to use safety helmets, shoes, vests, work boots and gloves. Other safety gear such as goggles, face masks, ear protection and filter masks are required as appropriate to the situation.
9. Each employee is required to maintain their safety equipment in good condition and request replacement of equipment no longer safe to use.

**ARTICLE XXIV**

**DISCIPLINE**

1. Discipline of an employee shall be imposed only for just cause. Discipline under this Article means oral or written reprimand, suspension or dismissal from service based on the personal conduct or performance of the employee involved.
2. In all matters where disciplinary action is contemplated the Borough shall supply forthwith the employee and the Union office with the charge.
3. Upon charges being brought against an employee, the employee and Union office shall be immediately supplied with the charges and any written documentation submitted.

## ARTICLE XXV

### GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

The following steps are hereby established as the personal grievance procedure to be followed by all employees of the Employer covered by this Agreement. The term "grievance" shall mean any complaint concerning employee discipline or the application, interpretation or violation of this Agreement or of policies and administrative decisions affecting employees covered by this Agreement. With respect to disciplinary disputes, any discipline issued by the Borough to an employee during their one-year probationary period shall not be subject to review under the grievance and arbitration procedures set forth herein.

**Step 1.** Within five (5) working days after either the occurrence of the event or act which gave rise to a grievance, or the date on which the employee knew or should have known of such an event or act, the employee or the Union shall submit a written grievance with the Superintendent of the Department outlining the basis of the grievance. Within seven (7) working days next following such oral discussion, the Superintendent of the Department shall communicate in writing their decision to the employee and the Union. If the decision is unsatisfactory to the employee or the Union, or if the Superintendent fails to communicate their decision within the said seven (7) working days, the employee may proceed to Step 2 of this grievance procedure.

**Step 2.** Within five (5) working days following the denial or failure of relief under Step 1, the employee or the Union shall submit the grievance to the DPW Committee, which shall be identified by the Employer upon the signing of the Agreement. Within ten (10) working days thereafter, the DPW Committee shall communicate its decision, in writing, to the employee and the Union. In the event that the employee and the Union do not receive satisfactory relief within the time herein provided, either shall have the right to proceed to Step 3 of this grievance procedure.

**Step 3.** Within five (5) working days after an unsatisfactory decision or result under Step 2, the employee or the Union may present the written grievance to the Mayor and Council, by way of service on the Borough Clerk or Borough Administrator. Within ten (10) working days after the grievance has been filed with the Mayor and Council shall issue a written decision on the grievance. The Mayor and Council may designate this task to the Borough Administrator, at the Mayor and Council's sole discretion.

**Step 4.** Within five working days after the employee's and Union's receipt of the Step 3 decision of the Mayor and Council, or its designee, the Union and the employee may submit the grievance to binding arbitration in accordance with the rules and regulations of the New Jersey Public Employment Relations Commission. Unless the Award is vacated by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the decision of the Arbitrator shall be binding upon the parties and shall be implemented within a reasonable period of time from the issuance of the Award. The parties agree to be bound by common law arbitration procedures with respect to the filing of an appeal to challenge any Arbitration Award in a court of competent jurisdiction. An arbitrator shall have no authority to alter, amend, or detract from this Agreement. Each party will be responsible for their own attorney's fees.

**ARTICLE XXVI**

**BULLETIN BOARD**

The Employer shall provide adequate space in the DPW Building designated by the Superintendent for an exclusive Union bulletin board. The Union may use the bulletin board to post notices of union meetings, union recreational and social affairs, elections and notices concerning the welfare of the employees in general. The Superintendent may approve, in their sole discretion, other postings provided such postings are not inflammatory, discriminatory, disparaging, obscene, defamatory or derogatory. Bulletin boards shall not be used to post any information or materials pertaining to elected officials or political candidates (e.g., candidates for Norwood Borough elected office). All postings shall be signed by the Union representative.

## **ARTICLE XXVII**

### **PERSONNEL FILES**

1. A separate personnel history file shall be established and maintained for each employee covered by this Agreement. Personnel history files are confidential records and shall be maintained in the office of the Borough Clerk or other suitable place.
2. Any employee may by appointment review his personnel file. This appointment for review must be made through the Borough Administrator.
3. Whenever a written complaint concerning an employee or their actions is to be placed in the employee's personnel file, a copy shall be made available to them and they shall be given the opportunity to rebut such complaint if they so desire, and they shall be permitted to place said rebuttal in their file.
4. All personnel history files will be carefully maintained and safeguarded permanently. Nothing placed in any file shall be removed there from.
5. Information contained in an employee's personnel history file shall only be shared with other municipal employees on a need-to-know basis and with the public in accordance with the Open Public Records Act (OPRA). To the extent that any records contained in an employee's personnel history file are not exempt from public disclosure and the Employer has the legal obligation to release same, such action shall not be subject to the grievance procedure contained herein. Additionally, the Employer may release an employee's personnel history file to any county, state or federal law enforcement agency at the request of the agency.

**ARTICLE XXVIII**

**UNIFORMS**

1. The Borough will provide Employees with a \$550.00 annual uniform allowance for the purpose of purchasing articles of clothing, gear and safety shoes of a brand, quality and style approved by the Superintendent of Public Works as may be reasonably needed by the Employee. The Uniform Allowance will be permitted by voucher at a mutually agreed upon Vendor. The accounting of each employee's uniform allowance will be the sole responsibility of the Employer.
2. Under no conditions are Employees to use the uniforms for any purpose other than for Borough activities.

## **ARTICLE XXIX**

### **DUTIES OF THE FOREMAN**

The Foreman shall be responsible for overall supervisory duties as directed by the Superintendent including, but not limited to the following:

1. Assist with daily operations of the Department.
2. Coordinate, oversee and assist with daily work assignments given by the Superintendent.
3. Maintain inventory of supplies and tools (to be ordered only after the Superintendent approves or in their absence, the Borough Administrator).
4. Receive daily reports on work completed and any repairs to machinery, trucks and other equipment. Inform Superintendent of any machinery, trucks, and/or equipment that need repair.
5. Operate all machinery, i.e. trucks and equipment.
6. Responsible for safety inventory.
7. The Foreman shall receive additional compensation of \$4,680.00 annually.



**ARTICLE XXX**

**CDL LICENSE REIMBURSEMENT**

Employees shall be reimbursed for the cost of a renewal of a CDL License within thirty (30) days. The employee must submit a voucher with the receipt of purchase attached in order to be reimbursed.

**ARTICLE XXXI**

**SEPARABILITY AND SAVINGS**

If any provision of this Agreement or any application of this Agreement to any employee or group of employees is held to be contrary to law, then such provision or application shall not be deemed valid and existing, except to the extent permitted by law, but all other provisions or applications shall continue in full force and effect.

**ARTICLE XXXII**

**FULLY BARGAINED AGREEMENT**

This Agreement represents and incorporates the complete and final understanding and settlement by the parties for the life of this Agreement of all bargainable issues, which were or could have been the subject of negotiations. During the terms of this Agreement, neither party will be required to negotiate with respect to any matter, whether or not covered by this Agreement, nor whether or not within the knowledge or contemplation of each or both of the parties at the time they negotiated or signed this Agreement.

**ARTICLE XXXIII**

**EFFECTIVE AGREEMENT**

This Agreement shall be in effect from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025.

**ARTICLE XXXIV**

**RETROACTIVITY**

All terms and conditions of employment are retroactive to January 1, 2021, unless a different date is expressly stated herein.

**APPENDIX A**

**SALARIES**

The following salary guide is established. All step increases shall be effective on the Employee's anniversary date of employment. All other employees shall receive their salary increase on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year of their employment.

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4.00%	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Step 1	\$31,849.22	\$33,123.18	\$34,448.10	\$35,826.02	\$37,259.06
Step 2	\$45,383.17	\$47,198.49	\$49,086.42	\$51,049.87	\$53,091.86
Step 3	\$51,477.83	\$53,536.94	\$55,678.41	\$57,905.27	\$60,221.48
Step 4	\$55,109.11	\$57,313.47	\$59,606.00	\$61,990.24	\$64,469.84
Step 5	\$58,350.22	\$60,684.22	\$63,111.58	\$65,636.04	\$68,261.48
Step 6	\$61,252.31	\$63,702.40	\$66,250.49	\$68,900.50	\$71,656.13
Step 7	\$64,833.76	\$67,427.11	\$70,124.19	\$72,929.15	\$75,846.31
Step 8	\$68,074.73	\$70,797.71	\$73,629.61	\$76,574.82	\$79,637.81
Step 9	\$71,317.28	\$74,169.97	\$77,135.76	\$80,221.19	\$83,430.03
Step 10	\$74,558.32	\$77,540.65	\$80,642.27	\$83,867.96	\$87,222.67

Employees that have completed the Tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) Step shall receive a four (4.0%) percentage increase in their base pay for the term of this Agreement.

All employees holding a Collection I License shall receive an additional \$.50/hour. (Added to base pay).

All employees holding a Collection II License shall receive an additional \$1.00/hour (Added to base pay).

All employees holding a Basic Pesticide Certificate shall receive an additional \$.50/hour. (Added to base pay)

Recycling Coordinator shall receive an additional \$1.00/hour (Added to base pay).

Foreman shall receive an additional \$2.25/hour (Added to base pay).

Education – Step 1 Plus \$.50/hour more than laborers rate (Added to base pay).

Education – Step 2 Plus an additional \$.50/hour over Step 1 totaling \$1.00/hour (Added to base pay).

Education – Step 3 Plus an additional \$.50/hour over Step 2 totaling \$1.50/hour (Added to base pay).

### **Step 1**

To be eligible for Step 1 and the \$.50 per hour additional compensation related thereto, an employee must have five (5) or more years of employment with the Borough of Norwood, Department of Public Works (DPW) and must have completed twenty (20) hours of training in DPW related areas, safety or other areas beneficial to the Borough or must possess the applicable experience.

### **Step 2**

To be eligible for Step 2 and the total \$1.00 per hour additional compensation related thereto, an employee must have ten (10) or more years of employment with the Borough of Norwood, Department of Public Works (DPW) and must have completed twenty (20) hours of training in DPW related areas, safety or other areas beneficial to the Borough, or must possess the applicable experience.

### **Step 3**

To be eligible for Step 3 and the total \$1.50 per hour additional compensation related thereto, an employee must have fifteen (15) or more years of employment with the Borough of Norwood, Department of Public Works (DPW) and must have completed twenty (20) hours of training in DPW related areas, safety or other areas beneficial to the Borough or must possess applicable experience.

**NOTE: All full time employees who are employed at the Borough of Norwood as of January 1, 2012, shall deemed qualified and entitled to the Experience/Education Step 1 classification and related compensation.**

**POSSIBLE DPW AREAS OF EXPERIENCE**  
**(this is not an all-inclusive list)**

Plowing	Wire Safety
Traffic Safety	Park Equipment Safety
Garbage Truck Safety	All Safety Classes
Tree Removal	Pump Station Classes
Sewer Maintenance	Ball Field Maintenance
Defensive Driving	Introduction to Small Engine
Understanding Synthetic Fields	Supervisory Classes
New Technology Classes	Fire Extinguisher
Playground Safety	

Any and all classes for Certified Public Works.

Any and all classes that Protect the residents, such as First Responder class.



## **APPENDIX B**

### **Retirement Health Benefits for Current Employees**

#### **Tom Schoppe – hired October 1993 – 28 years of service – Step 10**

- Eligible for health benefits into retirement.
- Spouse and dependents shall be entitled to benefits only if he had 25 or more years of service credit in a state or locally administered retirement system at the time of retirement from Norwood.

#### **Tim Quinn – hired May 2000 – 21 years of service – Step 10**

- Eligible for health benefits into retirement.
- Spouse and dependents shall be entitled to benefits only if he had 25 or more years of service credit in a state or locally administered retirement system at the time of retirement from Norwood.

#### **John Oddo – hired August 2000 – 21 years of service – Step 10**

- Eligible for health benefits into retirement.
- Spouse and dependents shall be entitled to benefits only if he had 25 or more years of service credit in a state or locally administered retirement system at the time of retirement from Norwood.

#### **Michael Congiusti – hired July 2006 – 15 years of service – Step 10**

- Eligible for health benefits into retirement.

#### **Alex Naylis – hired August 2017 – 4 years of service – Step 4**

- Not eligible for health benefits into retirement.

#### **Eric Shuck – hired October 2018 – 3 years of service – Step 3**

- Not eligible for health benefits into retirement.

#### **Matt Payraudeau – hired October 2018 – 3 years of service – Step 3**

- Not eligible for health benefits into retirement.

#### **Sean Rawdon – hired January 2020 – 2 years of service – Step 2**

- Not eligible for health benefits into retirement.

**Chris Bodrato – hired January 2021 – 1 years of service – Step 1**

- Not eligible for health benefits into retirement.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties have hereunto set their hands and seal the day and year first written above.

BOROUGH OF NORWOOD

IBT LOCAL 125

  
James P. Barsa, Mayor

  
David Braunman

Dated: 1-26-23

Dated: 12/15/22

  
Attest:   
Jordan Padovano,  
Borough Clerk

Attest:   
Tom Schoppe

Dated: 1-26-23

Dated: 12-15-22

**BOROUGH OF NORWOOD**

**Resolution#2023-57**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF NORWOOD AND IBT LOCAL 125 FOR THE TERM JANUARY 1, 2021 TO DECEMBER 31, 2025**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Norwood and IBT Local 125 have negotiated the terms and conditions of certain positions of employment within the Department of Public Works of the Borough for the years 2021 through 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the terms are set forth in a Proposed Collective Negotiation Agreement that is subject to approval and ratification; and

**WHEREAS**, IBT Local 125 made some changes to language within the agreement since last review; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council find that the terms set forth are in the best interests of the Borough.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Norwood that:

1. The Mayor is authorized and directed to execute and the Borough Clerk is authorized and directed to attest, a Collective Negotiation Agreement between the Borough of Norwood and IBT Local 125 respecting the terms and conditions of employment of certain positions within the Department of Public Works for the years 2021 through 2025, a copy of which shall be kept on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk and made available for public inspection.
2. This authorization is subject to the adoption of any ordinance necessary to establish, ratify and confirm certain offices and positions of employment with the Department of Public Works of the Borough of Norwood, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey and to provide for and determine the rate and method of compensation for such officers and employees for the years 2021 through 2025.
3. A copy of this Resolution will be on file in the office of the Borough Clerk and be available for public inspection during regular business hours.

Council Member	Motion	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Ascolese			X			
Brizzolara		X	X			
Condoleo			X			
Foschino	X		X			
Hausmann			X			
Kim			X			

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Jordan Padovano, Borough Clerk of the Borough of Norwood, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council at their meeting held on January 25, 2023.

  
Borough Clerk