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**AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**CITY OF LINDEN**

**AND**

**FIREMEN'S MUTUAL BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION  
FIRE OFFICERS LOCAL 234  
(CAPTAINS AND LIEUTENANTS)**

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**January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2004**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>ARTICLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
PREAMBLE	1
I. RECOGNITION	1
II. F.M.B.A. LOCAL 234 GOOD AND WELFARE COMMITTEE - GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE - DELEGATES	
A. Good and Welfare Committee	1-2
B. F.M.B.A. Local 234 Grievance Committee	2
C. Delegates - Meetings	2
D. President and Executive State Delegate or Alternate	2
III. ACTING OFFICERS	3
IV. HOURS OF WORK AND OVERTIME	
A. Hours of Work	3-4
B. Overtime	4-5
C. In-Service Training While on Duty	5
V. VACATION	5-6
VI. HOLIDAYS - PERSONAL DAYS	
A. Holidays	6-7
B. Personal Days	7-8
VII. LEAVES	
A. Sick Leave	8-10
B. Retirement - Unused Sick Leave	10
C. Sick Leave - Sell Back	11
D. Leaves of Absence as a Result of Injury in Line of Duty	11
E. Sick Leave Donor System	11-12
F. Leave Because of Death in Immediate Family	12-13
G. Military Leave	13
H. Leave of Absence	13-14
VIII. COMPENSATION	
A. Salary	14
B. Death of a Fire Captain or Fire Lieutenant	14
C. Compensation for Promotion of a Fire Captain or Fire Lieutenants	15
D. Senior Fire Official Differential	16

<b>IX.</b>	<b>LONGEVITY</b>	<b>15-16</b>
<b>X.</b>	<b>GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE</b>	
	Step 1	16
	Step 2	16-17
	Step 3	17
	Step 4	17-18
<b>XI.</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	
	<b>A.</b> Clothing Allowance	18-19
	<b>B.</b> Clothing Maintenance Allowance	19-20
	<b>C.</b> Emergency Meals	20
	<b>D.</b> Outside Employment	20
	<b>E.</b> In Case of Death of an Active Fire Officer	20
	<b>F.</b> Duties	20-21
	<b>G.</b> Immunization	21
	<b>H.</b> Fire Science Program	21-22
	<b>I.</b> F.M.B.A. Local 234 Dues Deduction	22
	<b>J.</b> Fire Inspection	23
	<b>K.</b> Hourly Differential	23
	<b>L.</b> Supervisors Day	23
	<b>M.</b> Direct Deposit	23
<b>XII.</b>	<b>INSURANCE</b>	
	<b>A.</b> Health Insurance	24-25
	<b>B.</b> Life Insurance	25
	<b>C.</b> Workmen's Compensation	25
	<b>D.</b> Automobile Liability Insurance	25
	<b>E.</b> Temporary Disability Insurance	25-26
<b>XIII.</b>	<b>F.M.B.A. LOCAL 234 ACTIVITY PROTECTED</b>	<b>26-27</b>
<b>XIV.</b>	<b>PRIOR PRACTICES</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>XV.</b>	<b>MANAGEMENT RIGHTS</b>	<b>28-29</b>
<b>XVI.</b>	<b>SEPARABILITY AND SAVINGS</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>XVII.</b>	<b>FULLY BARGAINED PROVISION</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>XVIII.</b>	<b>DURATION</b>	<b>29-30</b>

**PREAMBLE**

This Agreement, effective the first day of January 1, 2002, through December 31, 2004 between the CITY OF LINDEN, New Jersey, hereinafter referred to as the CITY AND FIRE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, LOCAL 234, hereinafter referred to as the F.M.B.A. LOCAL 234 is designed to maintain and promote a harmonious relationship between the City of Linden and such of its employees who are within the provisions of the Agreement, through collective negotiations, in order that more efficient and progressive public services may be rendered and represents the complete and final understanding of all bargainable issues between the City and the F.M.B.A. Local 234.

**ARTICLE I**

**RECOGNITION**

The City recognizes F.M.B.A Local 234 as the exclusive representative and bargaining agent for the bargaining unit consisting of officers of the Fire Department holding the permanent rank of Captain or Lieutenant.

**ARTICLE II**

**F.M.B.A. LOCAL 234 GOOD AND WELFARE COMMITTEE -**

**GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE - DELEGATES**

**A. Good and Welfare Committee**

Members of the F.M.B.A. Good and Welfare Committee are designated as the F.M.B.A. Negotiating Committee. These members, four (4) in number, (only two (2) of which may be on duty), shall be granted leave without loss of regular straight time pay for all meetings between the City and the F.M.B.A. Local 234 for the purpose of

negotiating the terms of an Agreement, when such meetings take place at a time during which such members are scheduled to be on duty.

**B. F.M.B.A. Local 234 Grievance Committee**

The F.M.B.A. Local 234 Grievance Committee, four (4) in number, (only two (2) of which may be on duty) shall be granted leave without loss of regular straight time pay for all meetings between the City and the F.M.B.A. Local 234 for the purpose of processing grievances, when such meetings take place at a time during which such members are scheduled to be on duty.

**C. Delegates - Meetings**

The President of the F.M.B.A. Local 234 or the next member of the Executive Committee in line, should the President be unable to attend, shall be granted leave from duty without loss of regular straight time pay to attend all State, Regional and Local F.M.B.A. meetings (not to exceed one (1) State and one (1) Local meeting per month), provided recall of a Fire Officer is not required to replace the absence of the President or the Alternate State Delegate from duty.

**D. President and Executive State Delegate or Alternate**

The President and Executive State Delegate or the Alternate Executive State Delegate or the Alternate Executive State Delegate of the F.M.B.A. Local 234 shall be granted leave from duty without loss of regular straight time pay to perform the duties of their respective offices.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **ACTING OFFICERS**

A. A Fire Lieutenant serving as an Acting Captain will receive an additional thirty-five (\$35.00) dollars per day for each day so served beyond the Fire Lieutenants daily base salary.

B. The Fire Officer designated by the Chief on each tour shall keep a roster of Lieutenants on the basis of seniority. This shall be a rotating list of all Lieutenants. All acting assignments in the classification of Captain shall be offered on such a list, provided such employees are qualified for such assignments in the judgement of the Chief.

C. In the event of a temporary vacancy in the rank of Deputy Chief, the most qualified Captain, in the judgement of the Chief, shall be elevated and fill the vacancy. Payment for work performed at a higher rank shall be at the base hourly rate of that particular rank provided the employee qualifies for such payment.

### **ARTICLE IV**

#### **HOURS OF WORK AND OVERTIME**

##### **A. Hours of Work**

1. The work week for all Fire Officers who perform firefighting duties shall be an average of not more than forty-two (42) hours per week, computed over a period of one (1) fiscal year, based on the work schedule cycle of two (2) days of eleven (11) hours each (7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) Followed by forty-eight (48) hours off, followed by two (2) nights of thirteen (13) hours each (6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) Followed by seventy-two (72) hours off.

2. Any Fire Officer that has reported for duty, if ordered by the Officer in charge to report to a Firehouse other than the Firehouse he is normally assigned to, shall be considered on duty from the time of the order for the purpose of City insurance coverage only.

**B. Overtime**

1. Whenever a Fire Officer works in excess of his regularly assigned work week or work schedule, as provided for in Section A above, in addition to any other benefits to which he may be entitled, he shall be paid for such overtime work at one and one-half (1½) times his hourly rate of pay including any earned longevity pay for such assigned duty. A Fire Officer in lieu of overtime payment, choose compensatory time off provided he shall notify the Chief of th Department within five (5) days, and if in the opinion of the Chief, such time off would not adversely affect the operation of the Fire Department.

2. Whenever a Fire Officer is held over beyond his regular tour of duty, he shall be paid at one and one-half (1½) times his hourly rate of pay including any earned longevity pay to the next one-half (½) hour time period.

3. Whenever a Fire Officer is called back to duty after completion of his regular tour of duty or at any time he is off duty, he shall be paid a minimum of two (2) hours pay at one and one-half (1-½) times the hourly rate of pay for such assigned duty.

4. The Fire Officer designated by the Chief on each tour shall establish a roster of the employees in his group for each classification or rank. Whenever overtime work is required, and it is not of an emergent nature as determined by the Chief or Deputy Chief, it shall be rotated amongst Fire Officers on the appropriate roster. If a Fire Officer refuses

an assignment to work overtime assignment for the purpose of maintaining a proper order of rotation for future assignments.

5. For purposes of overtime work under this Article, any Fire Officer servicing in an acting capacity in a higher rank or classification shall be considered as holding such rank and shall be compensated accordingly pursuant to Article III, Section A.

**C. In-Service Training While Off-Duty**

A twenty-eight (28) day work cycle of one hundred ninety five (195) hours in duration shall prevail for Fire Officers covered under this Agreement. Hours worked in excess of the regular work schedule and in excess of twenty-five (25) of in-service training in said cycle will be compensated at the overtime rate. In-service training as noted above up to twenty-five (25) hours during said cycle will be compensated in compensatory time at the rate of straight time.

**ARTICLE V**

**VACATION**

A. Vacations are to be granted in accordance with the following scale based on the established annual salary pay rates.

<b><u>Length of Service</u></b>	<b><u>Days Annual Vacation</u></b>
<b>(Shift of Workers)</b>	
2 through 5 years	8 working days
6 through 9 years	10 working days
10 through 14 years	14 working days
15 through 19 years	16 working days
20 through 24 years	18 working days
25 years and over	22 working days



**Length of Service**

**Days Annual Vacation**

**(Others)**

2 through 5 years	13 working days
6 through 10 years	15 working days
11 through 15 years	19 working days
16 through 20 years	22 working days
21 through 25 years	24 working days
26 through 30 years	26 working days
31 years and over	32 working days

B. During the second full fiscal year of employment and every year of employment thereafter, earned vacation shall be granted in accordance with the schedule listed.

C. After the first full year of employment, the amount of vacation shall be determined by the anniversary date of employment and said vacation shall be granted during the fiscal year of said anniversary date.

D. Fire Officers shall be entitled to eight (8) working days vacation during the summer period from July through August of any calendar year. During any calendar year there will be allowed two (2) Fire Officers (Captain/Lieutenant) off per shift on vacation.

E. Vacation time shall not be carried over to the following year unless personal illness or accident prevents a Fire Officer from so doing or special permission is granted by the Council upon recommendation of the Chief of the Department.

**ARTICLE VI**

**HOLIDAYS - PERSONAL DAYS**

**A. Holidays**

1. Fire Officers shall receive ten (10) working days off in lieu of all official holidays, all of which shall be the choice of the individual Fire Officer subject only to the approval of the

dates by the Fire Chief. Six (6) of said working days off shall be selected by March 15, and taken no later than July 1 of each year. All days off granted in lieu of holidays must be taken in the current year. There shall be allowed two (2) Fire Officers (Captain/Lieutenant), off per shift on holiday and or time coming during any calendar year.

2. Each Fire Officer may work at his option, seven (7) of the above stated paid holidays for which he presently received time off, provided he gives written notice to the Chief no later than March 1, of any given year. Payment for holidays worked will be at the same rate of pay as presently in effect for six (6) paid holidays granted annually to all Fire Officers described in Paragraph 3.

3. **Pre-January 1, 1997:** Prior to 1997, six (6) additional holidays were paid at twelve (12) hours base rate of pay in lieu of time off, three (3) holidays were payable prior to June 1 and three (3) holidays were payable prior to December 1 of each year.

4. **Calendar Year 1997 and Thereafter:** The six (6) additional holidays noted in Section A.3 will be included in annual salary in accordance with Article VIII, Section A, paragraph 2.

#### **B. Personal Days**

1. Each Fire Officer shall receive annually a personal day(s) off with pay equivalent to twelve (12) hours base rate of pay each day as follows.

a. Hired before April 3, 2000 - Two (2) personal days.

b. Hired on or after April 3, 2000 - One (1) personal day.

2. A Fire Officer, at his option, may work the annual personal days off and receive twelve (12) hours base rate of pay in lieu thereof, provided he gives written notice to the

Chief's Office prior to June 1 of the current year.

3. One (1) personal day shall be scheduled and taken no later than July 1 and one (1) personal day shall be scheduled and taken no later than December 1 of each year.

4. A Fire Officer may take personal days whenever scheduled. However, with the exception of retirement or death, he shall be required to have (6) months of credited service in applicable calendar year to qualify for one (1) paid personal day off. He shall be required to have twelve (12) months of credited service in the applicable calendar year to qualify for two (2) paid personal days off.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **LEAVES**

#### **A. Sick Leave**

1. Sick leave shall mean paid leave that will be granted to Fire Officer who, through sickness or injury becomes incapacitated to a degree that makes it impossible for him to perform the duties of his position, or who is quarantined by a physician because he has been exposed to a contagious disease.

2.a. A certificate from the Fire Officer's doctor or Department physician shall be required as sufficient proof of the need for sick leave after one (1) working day. A Fire Officer may return to work after an illness of one (1) working day without said doctor's certificate but shall be required to sign the duty roster to attest to the fact that he is physically able to perform his assigned duties. In no event shall a Fire Officer be allowed to return to work without said doctor's certificate if he has reported off because of illness for a period of two (2) or more working days. If the platoon line Deputy Chief and the Chief

of the Department question the officer's physical ability to perform his assigned duties, they may require the officer to be examined by the Department's designated physician.

**2.b.** Abuse of sick leave shall be cause for disciplinary action. The City may require proof of illness whenever there is an indication of possible abuse.

**3.a.** All members of the Fire Department are entitled to fifteen (15) working days of sick leave per year cumulatively. In the case where cumulative sick leave has been exhausted, the City Council may, upon receiving request for extended sick leave from the office of the Chief, grant additional sick leave of one calendar year or less, as may be required, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A: 14-16. The determination for the amount of additional leave to be granted shall be based solely on medical reports received by the City Council. The request for additional sick leave, as set forth herein, shall be made in ninety (90) day intervals during the first calendar year when such leave is applicable.

**3.b.** Additional sick leave will be considered only after all sick leave, earned vacation, paid holidays, personal days and earned temporary disability benefits have been used by the Fire Officer.

**3.c.** If additional paid sick leave is granted the affected Fire Officer shall owe and return to the City an equal amount of sick leave as may be earned after returning to duty.

**4.a.** Accumulated sick leave of no more than four (4) days annually may be used by a Fire Officer to personally attend a member of his immediate family, who due to disabling illness or injury, pregnancy or quarantine restrictions require such personal attendance. The Chief of the Department may, at his discretion, grant a Fire Officer more than four (4) days accumulated sick leave for the purpose heretofore mentioned, upon request and

presentation of just and valid reasons in the opinion of the Chief.

**4.b.** For two (2) or more consecutive workdays, evidence of need for a Fire Officer's personal attendance shall be provided in the form of a doctor's certificate.

**4.c.** For the purpose of this paragraph immediate family shall mean spouse, unwed child, parent or unmarried brother or sister.

**B. Retirement - Unused Sick Leave**

1. Upon retirement or layoff, a Fire Officer will receive one (1) day for each three (3) days of unused earned sick leave for the first two hundred one (201) days of accumulated earned sick leave; and one (1) day of base pay for each two (2) days of unused earned sick leave over and above the first two hundred one (201) days of accumulated earned sick leave.

2. In no event, however, will a Fire Officer receive more than nineteen thousand dollars (\$19,000) total unused sick leave payment.

3. In the event of death prior to retirement, the Fire Officer's heirs or estate will receive the unused sick leave pay earned by the deceased.

4. Any Fire Officer who chooses to leave the Department or any Fire Officer terminated by the City for reasons other than retirement, illness, injury or layoff, will not be entitled to unused sick leave pay.

5. A day of unused sick leave pay will be calculated by dividing a Fire Officer's annual base salary by the number one hundred eighty-two point five (182.5), based on a 12 - hour day.

**C. Sick Leave - Sell Back**

Any Fire Officer who has accumulated sixty (60) days may at his option sell back no more than five (5) of those days to the City, provided that the Firefighter has used no more than five (5) sick days during the calendar year. The Firefighter will inform the City Treasurer of his decision no later than October 15 of that year. (Effective 1-1-2001)

**D. Leaves of Absence as a Result of Injury in Line of Duty**

When a Fire Officer is injured in the line of duty, the City Council shall pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-16, pass a resolution giving the officer up to one year's leave of absence with pay; said leave shall be granted in units of thirty (30) calendar days at one time. When such action is taken, the officer shall not be charged any sick leave time lost due to such injury.

**E. Sick Leave Donor System**

1. Each Fire Lieutenant and Fire Captain may, at his option, participate in a "sick leave donor system" which shall enable participating employees who have exhausted all accrued sick leave, vacation, holidays, personal days, compensatory time off and all other time off may be entitled to continue receiving sick leave donated by fellow officers. The following conditions shall apply to the sick leave donor system.

a. All donations of sick leave shall be on a voluntary basis.

b. A Committee consisting of six (6) individuals will be established to administer the sick leave donor system. The Committee shall consist of Chairman of the City Fire Committee, the Fire Chief and one other Councilman and three (3) individuals designated by the City of Linden F.M.B.A. Local 234 (Captains/Lieutenants).

- c. A list of Captains and Lieutenants of the Linden Fire Department who wish to donate any sick days shall be maintained by the City.
- d. The list used for donation of sick time shall be seniority.
- e. No more than a total of five (5) sick days may be donated by any one (1) officer during the calendar year.
- f. A Captain or Lieutenant may request a donation of sick time when he has exhausted or is about to exhaust all his accumulated sick leave, vacation, holidays, personal days, compensatory time off and all other time off to which he may be entitled.
- g. The Chief's Office will at end of each January prepare a report of the sick time used by all officers for the Committee.
- h. The donation or refusal to donate sick time will be kept confidential.
- i. All requests for donation of sick leave from the sick leave donor program are subject to approval by not less than five (5) members of the Committee. Denials of any such requests are not subject to the Grievance Procedure.

**F. Leave Because of Death in Immediate Family**

1. Up to a maximum of three (3) working days leave will be granted to Fire Officer in the event of death in his immediate family which is defined as the Fire Officer's spouse, child, parent, grandparent, brother or sister or the child, parent, grandparent, brother or sister of his spouse and a relative living in the Fire Officer's household. A Fire Officer will return to duty the day after the funeral unless the funeral leave is extended by the Chief without pay or with pay in event the Fire Officer has unused personal or vacation days.
2. One (1) day off with pay will be granted to a Fire Officer in th event of death of

an aunt, uncle, niece or nephew of the Fire Officer or his spouse, provided said Fire Officer attends funeral.

**G. Military Leave**

1. Any Fire Officer who is a member of the National Guard, Naval Militia, Air National Guard or a reserve component of any of the Armed Forces of the United States and is required to engage in field training, as is authorized by law, shall be granted paid leave of absence for such Annual Active Duty For Training (ANACDUTRA) in addition to his vacation up to a maximum of fifteen (15) work days per year.

2. Any Fire Officer who has been called to active duty or inducted into the military or naval forces of the United States shall automatically be granted an indefinite leave of absence without pay for the duration of such active military service and the City shall make pension payments required during said leave. Each Fire Officer must be reinstated without loss of privileges or seniority provided he reports for duty with the City within sixty (60) calendar days following his honorable discharge or separation from military service, and provided he has notified the City of his intent to report for duty thirty (30) calendar days prior to his discharge from military service.

**H. Leave of Absence**

1. A request for a leave of absence by a Fire Officer shall be made in writing to the Fire Chief. The request along with a Fire Chief's recommendation explaining the circumstances for the request shall be forwarded to the City Council. The City Council shall grant a leave provided it determines that his special circumstances warrant such action.

2. During any leave of absence granted without pay, a Fire Officer's seniority will fail



to accrue and all other benefits, considerations and entitlements will be suspended, unless superseded by the New Jersey Department of Personnel of rules or otherwise provided for the New Jersey Statutes.

## ARTICLE VIII

### COMPENSATION

#### A. Salary

1. Salary for the purpose of this Agreement shall be the highest salary that a Fire Captain and Fire Lieutenant is duly and properly authorized to receive at the beginning of each calendar year.

2. **Annual Salary** is defined effective January 1, 1997 to include clothing allowance, clothing maintenance allowance and six (6) paid holidays.

3. **Total Salary** is defined to consist of **Annual Salary** as noted above, longevity, college incentive plan, hourly differential, Senior Fire Officer Differential and additional stipend pay.

4. **Maximum Annual Salary** for 2002, 2003 and 2004 for Fire Captains and Fire Lieutenants shall be as follows:

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
Fire Captain	86,095	89,108	92,672
Fire Lieutenant	77,096	79,794	82,986

#### B. Death of a Fire Captain or Fire Lieutenant

In the event of the death of a Fire Captain or Fire Lieutenant, payment of salary shall be made to and including the day of death, together with any accumulated time which the officer may be entitled for services rendered to the City including sick leave benefits.

C. Fire Captains or Fire Lieutenants who are promoted to those ranks will be compensated as follows:

<u>Fire Lieutenants</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
Upon Promotion	72,040	74,561	77,543
One (1) year after promotion	74,197	76,794	79,866
Two (2) years after promotion	77,096	79,794	82,986
<u>Fire Captains</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
Upon Promotion	78,667	81,420	84,677
One (1) year after promotion	82,243	85,122	88,527
Two (2) years after promotion	86,095	89,108	92,672

**D. Senior Fire Officer Differential**

Effective January 1, 2000, Fire officers who have completed their twentieth (20<sup>th</sup>) year of service with the City of Linden shall receive a Senior Fire Officer Differential in the amount of \$1,500.00 per year to be paid in equal bi-weekly installments.

**ARTICLE IX**

**LONGEVITY**

A. All Fire Officers of the Fire Department covered by the within Agreement shall be entitled to and paid longevity pay provided they were appointed to the Fire Department prior to the January 1, 1975. Anyone appointed to the Fire Department or employed in any work assignment connected with the Fire Department after December 31, 1974 shall not be entitled to longevity pay.

B. Each classified Fire Officer who shall have completed more than five (5) years, but less than ten (10) years of consecutive service shall be entitled to a longevity payment of two percent (2%) of his salary.

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B. Each classified Fire Officer who shall have completed more than five (5) years, but less than ten (10) years of consecutive service shall be entitled to a longevity payment of two percent (2%) of his salary.

More than 10 years, but less than 15 years	4%
More than 15 years, but less than 20 years	6%
More than 20 years, but less than 25 years	8%
More than 25 years	10%

C. Longevity for Fire Officers entitled thereto between the period of January 1 and June 30 shall commence on the preceding January 1. Longevity for officers entitled thereto for the period of July 1 to December 31 shall commence on the preceding July 1. Longevity shall be calculated based on the salary as of December 31 of the preceding year.

D. There shall be a twelve hundred (\$1,200) annual maximum or the amount of longevity pay received. Leaves of absence at the request of a Fire Officer shall not be included in determining length of service.

## ARTICLE X

### GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A grievance is defined as a dispute between the City and the F.M.B.A. Local 234 concerning the application or interpretation of the terms of this Agreement. An earnest effort shall be made to settle such disputes in the following manner:

**STEP 1:** Within three (3) calendar days of the occurrence of a grievance, the aggrieved Fire Officer, a representative of F.M.B.A. Local 234, upon the request of the aggrieved Fire Officer only, and the aggrieved Fire Officer's immediate Commanding Office shall attempt to resolve such grievance informally. If said grievance is not resolved satisfactorily within three (3) calendar days of the meeting, F.M.B.A. Local 234 shall formally notify the Chief of the Department in writing of the grievance and the desire to pursue said grievance through Step 2.

**STEP 2:** Within five (5) calendar days of the F.M.B.A. Local 234's notification

of the unsatisfactory resolution of the grievance under Step 1, the aggrieved Fire Officer, no more than two (2) members of the F.M.B.A. Local 234, the aggrieved Fire Officer's immediate Commanding Officer or immediate shift Deputy Chief shall meet to resolve such grievance. If said grievance is not resolved satisfactorily within three (3) working days of the meeting, F.M.B.A. Local 234 shall notify the Chief of the Department in writing of its desire to pursue said grievance through Step 3.

**STEP 3:** Within seven (7) calendar days of the F.M.B.A. Local 234 notification of the unsatisfactory resolution of a grievance under Step 2, the aggrieved Fire Officer's immediate Commanding Officer or immediate shift Deputy Chief and the Chief of the Department shall meet to resolve the grievance. If said grievance is not resolved within seven (7) calendar days of the meeting, F.M.B.A. Local 234 shall notify the Chief of the Department in writing of its desire to pursue said grievance through Step 4.

**STEP 4:**

**A.** Within fifteen (15) calendar days of the F.M.B.A. Local 234's notification of the unsatisfactory resolution of a grievance under Step 3, the aggrieved Fire Officer, F.M.B.A. Local 234 President, no more than four (4) members of the F.M.B.A. Local 234 Grievance Committee and no more than two (2) of which shall be on duty, the F.M.B.A. Local 234 attorney, the aggrieved Fire Officer's immediate Commanding Officer immediate Deputy Chief, the Chief of the Department, the City Council Fire Committee, City Attorney and the City's Labor Relations Representative shall meet to resolve the grievance. The City Council Fire Committee shall within ten (10) days of the meeting advise F.M.B.A. Local 234 in writing of its decision.

**B.** In the event such grievance shall not have been satisfactorily adjusted between the parties, in the manner provided above, then such grievance may be submitted to arbitration at the request of either party to the New Jersey Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) within twenty (20) calendar days of the City Council Fire Committee's decision. The arbitrator shall be selected from the panel of arbitrators maintained by the Public Employment Relations Commission in accordance with the selection procedures of the Commission. The arbitrator shall have no authority to add to, subtract from or modify the provisions of this Agreement and shall confine his decision solely to the interpretation of this Agreement. He shall confine himself to the one (1) issue submitted for arbitration unless the parties have agreed otherwise. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on the parties to the extent permitted by and in accordance with this Agreement and applicable law. No arbitration decisions shall conflict with any law, rulings or regulations having the force of law.

**C.** The cost of the services of the arbitrator shall be borne equally by the parties. Any other expenses including the presentation of witnesses incurred in connection with the arbitration shall be paid by the party incurring same. Only the F.M.B.A. Local 234 or the City shall have the rights to submit a matter to arbitration.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **A. Clothing Allowance**

1. Prior to January 1, 1997, all Fire Officers covered by this Agreement were entitled to an annual clothing allowance credit of six hundred fifty dollars (\$650). Prior to January

1, 1997, Fire Officers assigned to the Fire Prevention Bureau and Training Division were entitled to an annual clothing allowance credit of seven hundred dollars (\$700). Said clothing allowance credit shall be applied to the cost of replacing items of personal issue, excluding rubber goods, and will be purchased by the City in the manner provided by law.

2. Effective January 1, 1997 the aforementioned clothing allowance will be included in the Annual Salary in accordance with Article VIII, Section A, Paragraph 2.

3. In addition to the clothing allowance, turn out gear shall be replaced as needed by the City.

4. Evidence of need for replacement of all items of clothing or equipment requested by a Fire Officer shall be furnished upon demand of the Chief of the Department.

5. All uniform clothing issued or purchased under this section must conform with clothing specifications established by the Fire Department.

6. Upon promotion to Fire Lieutenant, the Fire Officer will receive a one time cash payment not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) for the purchase of a new uniform consisting of a jacket, trousers, two (2) shirts (1 long-sleeve and 1 short-sleeve), two (2) work shirts and a winter hat.

#### **B. Clothing Maintenance Allowance**

1. Prior to January 1, 1997, all shift Fire Officers were entitled to an annual clothing maintenance allowance of five hundred fifty dollars (\$550) in cash.

2. Prior to January 1, 1997, Fire Officers assigned to the Fire Prevention Bureau and Training Division shall be entitled to an annual clothing maintenance allowance of six hundred twenty dollars (\$620) in cash.



3. Effective January 1, 1997 the aforementioned clothing maintenance allowance will be included in the Annual Salary in accordance with Article VIII, Section A, Paragraph 2.

**C. Emergency Meals**

The City agrees to feed Fire Officers of the Fire Department who are working emergency overtime for any period which exceeds four (4) hours. The cost of each overtime meal is not exceed seven dollars, fifty cents (\$7.50).

**D. Outside Employment**

An employee may engage in any lawful outside employment or outside business activity while off-duty provided the Chief has been notified in advance concerning the name of the employer and the nature of such employment. However, officers will consider their positions with the City as their primary employment. Any outside employment or business activity must not interfere with the officer's efficiency in his position with the City, nor constitute any conflict of interest. Other employment or business activity must not involve work contracts or bids submitted for the City of Linden, agencies or autonomous bodies of the City of Linden. The City will notify the officer in writing of the event the officer's outside employment or business activity is interfering with the officer's efficiency in his position and/or constitutes a conflict of interest.

**E. In Case of Death of an Active Fire Officer**

In case of death of an active Fire Officer laid out in uniform, and on request of the family for an honor guard, it will be provided by the Fire Department.

**F. Duties**

The duties of a Fire Officer are prescribed, but not limited to the duties appearing in

the Department's Book of Rules and Regulations.

**G. Immunization**

The Chief of the Department after consultation with F.M.B.A. Local 234 President shall decide what immunization program is to be undertaken, the cost which shall be borne by the City.

**H. Fire Science Program**

1. Any Fire Officer attending an accredited school to attain an Associate's or Bachelor's Degree in Fire Science Technology, Fire Administration or Fire Protection Engineering or a Fire Officer required to take similar related courses as a result of his particular assignment position in the Department shall, in addition to his regular annual salary, receive fourteen dollars (\$14.00) per credit or credit equivalent earned up to a maximum of one hundred thirty-two (132) credits and upon satisfactory completion of each course with a minimum passing grade of "C" or its equivalent, each Fire Officer shall be reimbursed for all books and tuition costs.

2. This additional compensation shall be effective January 1 and July 1 of the current year, whichever date is closest to having earned such credit.

3. Effective July 1, 1996 Fire Officers will receive no additional payment for credits earned on or after that date until they have earned an Associate's Degree (or sixty-four (64) credits when enrolled in a Bachelor's Degree program at an institution which does not grant an Associate's Degree) or Bachelor's Degree. The Fire Officer will, however, continue to receive payment for those credits, credit equivalent or required courses as a result of his particular assigned position in the Department earned before July 1, 1996.

Upon receiving a Degree as noted above, the Fire Officer will receive total compensation under this program as follows:

- a. Associate Degree                 \$ 950.00
- b. Bachelor Degree                 \$1,900.00

Effective January 1, 2000 the following is to be included:

- c. Master's Degree                 \$2,850.00

4. Compensation for the Degrees noted above shall be effective on January 1 and July 1 of the current year, whichever date is closet to having earned such Degree.

**I. F.M.B.A. Local 234 Dues Deduction**

1. The City agrees deduct F.M.B.A. Local 234 membership dues from the pay of each Fire Officer member of F.M.B.A. Local 234 once each month. Said membership dues shall be transmitted with a list of Fire Officer members to F.M.B.A. Local 234 within fifteen (15) calendar days of such deduction.

2. F.M.B.A. Local 234 agrees to furnish the City written authorization from each Fire Officer member of F.M.B.A. Local 234 to effort such dues deduction in specific dollar amount.

3. The City agrees to deduction eight-five percent (85%) of established F.M.B.A. Local 234 membership dues from all non-F.M.B.A. Local 234 member employees as provided for under New Jersey State Statue, and shall transmit said dues deduction in accordance with Paragraph 1 hereinabove.

4. F.M.B.A. Local 234 agrees to indemnify and hold the City harmless from and against any and al claims, legal suits or liability of any kind whatsoever arising from the aforementioned deduction of dues.

**J. Fire Inspection**

1. A Fire Officer who is licensed by State of New Jersey, as a Fire Inspector and does fire inspections in the City of Linden, shall receive an additional two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per year. A separate check will be issued by the City Treasurer no later than December 1.

2. All Fire Officers assigned to the Fire Prevention Bureau shall, in addition to annual salary, receive six percent (6%) of annual base pay. To receive this payment, the Fire Officers must obtain and maintain certification for all of the following construction subcode licenses: Industrial Construction Specialist (ICS), now combined with the former Residential Construction Specialist (RCS), High Hazard Specialist (HHS) and Fire Subcode (FS).

**K. Hourly Differential**

All shift Fire Officers will receive an hourly differential payment of five hundred dollars (\$500) per year.

**L. Supervisors Day**

Each Fire Officer in the Bargaining Unit hired before April 3, 2000 shall in lieu of a paid day off, receive \$200.00 per year. Payments shall be made by July 1 of each year and such payment shall not be considered part of the officer's annual salary.

**M. Direct Deposit**

Fire Officers may elect to receive their paycheck via direct deposit.

## ARTICLE XII

### INSURANCE

#### **A. Health Insurance**

1. All Bargaining Unit Employees covered by this Agreement and their eligible dependants shall receive coverage of Blue Cross/Blue Shield Hospitalization Plan, including Rider "J", and Major Medical, the premiums of which are paid for by the City.

2. All Fire Officers and their eligible dependents shall also receive Dental, Vision and Prescription Plan Health Insurance selected and administered by the City or the City's designee. The Prescription Co-payment shall be \$5.00 for generic drugs and \$10.00 for name brand drugs effective December 31, 2000. The entire cost of premiums to these benefits plans will be paid by the City.

3. The total cost of Health Insurance described in Paragraphs 1 and 2 hereinabove shall be borne by the City.

4. Upon retirement, all eligible Fire Officers and their dependants shall be entitled to Health Benefits as provided through N.J.S.A. 40A:10-23.

5. The City reserves the right to change insurance carriers and/or plans or to self-insure so long as substantially similar benefits are provided. The F.M.B.A. Local 234 will be furnished a copy of the proposed new plan. In the event the Union files a grievance in accordance with the provisions of Article X, the matter will be expedited and no changes will be made during the pendency of the arbitration proceedings.

## **6. Waiving Health Insurance Coverage**

Employees who are covered under the health insurance plan of a spouse, may waive the City's health insurance coverage and will be entitled to an annual cash payment in accordance with the provisions of the City of Linden Resolution approved December 20, 2000.

### **B. Life Insurance**

The City shall assume the full cost of life insurance of each Fire Officer of the Fire Department to a maximum coverage of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000).

### **C. Workmen's Compensation Insurance**

The City shall maintain in full force and effect, Workmen's Compensation Insurance for all Fire Officers of the Fire Department. Fire Officers shall return to the City of Linden all temporary disability benefits which the said Fire Officers received for that period of time that the Fire Officer was receiving full pay from the City.

### **D. Automobile Liability Insurance**

The City shall provide adequate automobile liability insurance for all vehicles of the Fire Department and shall keep same in effect at all times.

### **E. Temporary Disability Insurance**

1. All Fire Officers will receive New Jersey State Temporary Disability Insurance as provided for an administered by the New Jersey Division of Unemployment and Disability Insurance.

2. Premium payment of this insurance coverage, a portion paid by each Fire Officer, will be programmed annually in accordance with the State Division of Temporary

Disability directives.

### **ARTICLE XIII**

#### **F.M.B.A. LOCAL 234 ACTIVITY PROTECTED**

##### **A. Maintenance of Operations**

1. Except for the right to strike or to withhold services which are hereby prohibited, all other F.M.B.A. Local 234 activities are protected, except as such activities are restricted by or are in conflict with other provisions of the Agreement. Nothing shall abridge the right of any duly authorized representative of F.M.B.A. Local 234 to present the views of F.M.B.A. Local 234 to the citizens on issues which affect the welfare of its members, except by mutual agreement of the parties.

2. The F.M.B.A. Local 234 agrees that neither the F.M.B.A. Local 234 nor any person acting on its behalf will cause, authorize, engage in, sanction, assist or support, nor will any of its members take part in any strike, work stoppage, slow down, sick out, walk out or other job action, nor shall there be any individual action the purpose of which is to induce employees to engage in such activities against the City in any form.

3. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be constructed to eliminate or restrict the City in its right to seek and obtain such judicial relief as it may be entitled to have in law or in equity for injunction or damages, or both, in the event of such breach by the F.M.B.A. Local 234 or its members.

4. The City agrees not to cause, authorize or engage in any lockout of employees covered under this Agreement.

5. The City and the F.M.B.A. Local 234 may modify this Agreement during its term,

provided any modifications agreed to are put in writing and are signed by both parties.

**B.** The City will not condone or entertain any outside interference from any other Union or Employee Group without the sanction of F.M.B.A. Local 234 as long as this contract is in force.

**C. 1.** Fire Officers will not be subjected to hardship during any review, inspection or training period.

**2.** When the temperature is less than 32 degree Fahrenheit, or over 90 degrees Fahrenheit, all outside activity will be suspended except recruit training, pre-planned industry training conducted by the Training Division and when members of the Department have been given the opportunity to attend outside demonstrations of Fire Department related functions.

**3.** In-service inspections may be held at temperatures between 32 degrees and 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

#### **ARTICLE XIV**

#### **PRIOR PRACTICES**

All other rights, benefits and privileges enjoyed by the Fire Officers which are not specifically provided for or abridged in this Agreement are hereby protected by this Agreement, including but not limited to any rights, benefits and privileges bestowed on the Fire Officers by laws of the United States, laws of New Jersey, Civil Service Laws of New Jersey or City Ordinances of Linden.



## ARTICLE XV

### MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

**A.** The City of Linden hereby retains and reserves unto itself, without limitations, all powers, 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:

1. The executive management and administrative control of the City Government and its properties and facilities and activities of its employees utilizing personnel, methods and means of the most appropriate and efficient manner possible as may from time-to-time be determined by the City.

2. To use improved methods and equipment, to decide the number of employees needed for any particular time to be in sole charge of the quality of the work required.

3. To hire all employees, to promote, transfer, assign or retain employees in position within the Fire Department of the City.

4. To reprimand, suspend, discharge or take any other appropriate disciplinary action against any employees for just cause.

5. To lay off employees in the event of lack of funds.

**B.** The exercise of the foregoing powers, rights, authority, duties and responsibilities of the City, the adoption of policies, rules, regulations and practices in furtherance thereof, and the use of judgement and discretion in connection therewith shall be limited only by the specific and express terms of this Agreement and then only to the extent such

specific and express terms are in conformance with the Constitution and laws of New Jersey and of the United States and the Ordinances of the City of Linden.

C. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to deny or restrict the City of its powers, rights, authority, duties or responsibilities under R.S. 40A and 11 or any other national, state, county or local laws or ordinances.

## **ARTICLE XVI**

### **SEPARABILITY AND SAVINGS**

If any provision of this Agreement or application of this Agreement shall be held invalid by operation of law or by any tribunal of competent jurisdiction, or if compliance with or enforcement of any provision shall be restrained by such tribunal pending a final determination as to its validity, such provision or application shall be inoperative but all other provisions shall not be affected thereby and shall continue in full force and effect.

## **ARTICLE XVII**

### **FULLY BARGAINED PROVISIONS**

This Agreement represents and incorporate the complete and final understanding and settlement by the parties on all bargainable issues which were or could have been the subject of negotiations. During the term of this Agreement, neither party will be required to negotiate with respect to any such matter.

## **ARTICLE XVIII**

### **DURATION**

A. This Agreement entered into this            day of            , 2001 shall be effective from January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2004. Any changes in salary

or other economic benefits will apply only to those Fire Officers in the employ of the City as of the date of signing of this Agreement or who retired from the employ of the City or who died during the term of this Agreement. Either party wishing to terminate, amend or modify such contract must so notify the other party in writing no more than ninety (90) calendar days nor less than sixty (60) calendar days prior to such expiration date. Within fifteen (15) calendar days of the receipt of notification by either party, a conference shall be held between the City and the F.M.B.A. Negotiating Committee for the purpose of such Agreement modification or termination.

B. In the event neither party serves such written notice of desire or intention to terminate, amend or modify this Agreement on or before aforementioned sixty (60) calendar days prior to expiration of this Agreement, then the duration of this Agreement shall continue for one (1) additional year.

**LINDEN F.M.B.A. FIRE OFFICERS  
LOCAL 234  
(CAPTAINS & LIEUTENANTS)**

By: *March Blain*

**ATTEST:**

By: *Suzanne L. Lukenda*

By: \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY OF LINDEN**

By: *John J. Dupont*  
MAYOR

**ATTEST:**

By: *Constance E. Dikowski*

## **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

This Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Linden, New Jersey (hereinafter referred to as "City") and Fire Officers Local 234, Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association (hereinafter referred to as the "Fire Officers") is being entered into by the parties for the purpose of implementation of a 24-72 work schedule and requires modification of those provisions of the Fire Officers Agreement and noted below.

The City and the Fire Officers agree and intend that the trial work schedule shall qualify for and be consistent with the fire protection modification and exemption from overtime compensation provisions of the United States Fair Labor Standards Act, Section 7 (k).

The parties therefore agree as follows:

### **A. Trial Work Schedule**

A. In accordance with the provisions of this Memorandum of Agreement, the City and the Fire Officers agree to the implementation of a 24-72 work schedule for employees assigned to line fire fighting platoons for a one (1) year trial period commencing on or about January 1, 2001. The 24-72 work schedule shall be based upon a recurring work period of 28 days consisting of a 24 hour tour of duty, followed by 72 hours off on a recurring basis. The aforementioned schedule constitutes a regular recurring work period within the meaning of Section 7 (k) of the FLSA. Each employees specific days on and days off duty shall be determined by the City.

B. Employees who are scheduled and required to attend training sessions on days other than their normally scheduled work day will be compensated at straight time in compensatory time for such in-service training.

## II. Conversion of "Days" to "Hours"

A. During the trial period and any continuation thereof, days as noted below shall be converted to "hours" on the basis of one (1) day equals twelve (12) hours.

1. "Operational Periods" shall mean either eleven (11) or thirteen (13) hours as presently utilized.

2. Vacation time shall be taken as full shifts only in blocks of twenty-four (24) hours.

3. Sick time may upon approval of the Chief or his designee be taken in operational periods of eleven (11) (short day) or thirteen (13) (long night) hours.

## B. Agreement Adjustments

1. Article III - Acting Officers - Section A "per day" equals per operational period.

2. Article V - Vacation - "Working days" to be converted to twelve (12) hours per working day.

3. Article VI - Holidays-Personal Days - Throughout this Article "day" to be converted to hours at the rate of twelve (12) hours per day.

4. Article VII - Leaves - "Day" to be converted to hours at the rate of twelve (12) hours per day.

**Section A. 3a.** - First sentence to read as follows during the trial period: "All member of the Fire Department are entitled to 180 hours of sick leave per year cumulatively to be taken in unites of 11 or 13 hour operational periods or 10 hours for those employees

engaged in non-fire fighting duties.

Throughout the balance of Article days to be converted to hours at the rate of twelve (12) hours per day.

Section G clarified to read "fifteen (15) calendar days" in the seventh line.

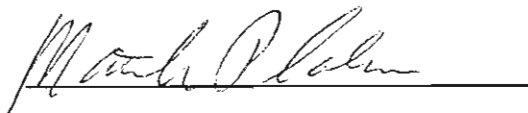
**Article VIII** - Compensation - "Days" to be converted to hours on the basis of twelve (12) hours per day.

5. It is the intention of the City and the Fire Officers that by implementing on a trial basis a 24-72 work schedule that no employees will receive any additional benefits by way of time or otherwise. In the event that any provisions of the Agreement have not been specifically mentioned above, with regard to the conversion to hours from days during the trial period, the parties agree that such conversion shall be so done, so that vacations, other time off and like benefits of employees during the trial period are as close to the previous (11/13) schedule as possible without any increases.

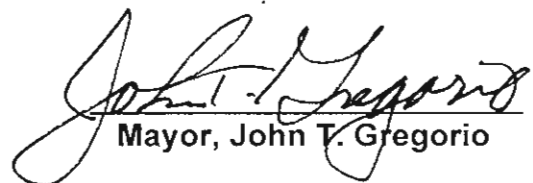
C. The City, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to change back to the 11/13 hour operational periods after thirty (30) days prior written notice to the deputy Fire Officers, Local 234. Such decision by the City is not subject to negotiations or arbitration.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties have hereunto subscribed their hands and seal this 2/28 day of August 2001.

**F.M.B.A. FIRE OFFICERS LOCAL 234  
CAPTAINS AND LIEUTENANTS**



**CITY OF LINDEN**



Mayor, John T. Gregorio

