MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATIVES OF
MANAGEMENT FOR THE CITY OF WEST COVINA
AND
WEST COVINA FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

EFFECTIVE
JULY 1, 2012 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2014
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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATIVES OF
MANAGEMENT FOR THE CITY OF WEST COVINA
AND WEST COVINA FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

PREAMBLE

In the interest of maintaining harmonious and stable relationships between the City of West Covina (hereinafter City) and employees represented by the West Covina Fire Management Association, (hereinafter referred to as the "Association"), representatives of management for the City and representatives of the Association have met and conferred in good faith regarding wages, hours, fringe benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment for employees represented by the Association.

The representatives have reached an understanding as to recommendations to be made to the City Council for the City of West Covina and have agreed that the parties hereto will jointly urge said Council to adopt one or more resolutions which will provide for the changes in wages, hours, fringe benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment contained in these joint recommendations.

I. RECOGNITION/REPRESENTATION UNIT

The City hereby recognizes the West Covina Fire Management Association for the term of the Memorandum of Understanding, notwithstanding any ordinance, resolution, rule, or regulation to the contrary as the majority representative of the employees in the bargaining unit which consists of Assistant Fire Chiefs (which, effective July 1, 2012 no longer includes the classification of Fire Marshal) subject to the right of an employee to represent himself/herself. The recognition requirements of Rule XVI, Section 16.3 of the Personnel Rules, City of West Covina, are waived for the term of this Memorandum. It is further agreed that during the term of this Memorandum of Understanding, no class will be removed from the bargaining unit except upon mutual agreement of the City and Association.

II. SCOPE AND PREVAILING RIGHTS

It is the intent and purpose of this Memorandum to assure sound and mutually beneficial working and economic relations between the parties hereto, to provide an orderly and peaceful means of resolving any misunderstanding or difference, which may arise, and to set forth herein the basic agreement between the parties concerning wage, hours and other terms and working conditions of employment.

A. Employee and Employer Rights

The parties hereto agree that this MOU does not in any manner abridge, modify or restrict the rights and prerogatives of employees and the City as set forth in Chapter 2 of the West Covina Municipal Code. It is understood that said rights and prerogatives of the City include, but are not limited to, determinations as to the levels of service, Manning requirements, work schedules, transfers, overtime assignments and approval, number and
location of work stations, nature of work to be performed, contracting for any work or operations, employee performance standards, discipline and discharge, and reasonable work and safety rules and regulations in order to maintain the efficiency and economy desirable, in the performance of City services. It is further agreed that the City agrees to meet and confer with the recognized bargaining representatives regarding the impact of such management decisions on matters within the scope of representation.

B. Maintenance of Benefits
All rights and privileges and working conditions within the scope of representation in effect at the time of the signing of the agreement and not changed herein, in addition to all rights, privileges and working conditions provided for in the current Memorandum of Understanding, shall remain in full force and effect during the term of this agreement unless changed subsequent to completion of required meet and confer process.

C. Contracting
Should the City consider contracting out any bargaining unit work, it shall notify the Association of its intent for such work and meet and confer in good faith prior to the implementation if it impacts wages, benefits or conditions of employment. Absent such impacts, management shall be provided discretion in entering into agreements with other agencies.

III. SEVERABILITY
It is understood and agreed that this MOU is subject to all present and future federal and state laws and regulations and the provisions hereof shall be effective and implemented only to the extent permitted by such laws and regulations. If any part of this MOU is in conflict or inconsistent with such applicable provisions of federal or state laws or regulations, or otherwise held to be invalid or unenforceable by a tribunal of competent jurisdiction, such part of provision shall be suspended and superseded by such applicable laws and regulations and the remainder of this MOU shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect.
ARTICLE ONE

SALARIES AND COMPENSATION

See Appendix “A-1” for the corresponding salary schedule.

I. FIRE SERVICE SENIORITY PAY

All sworn Fire Management covered by this agreement and in recognition of continuous sworn service with the City of West Covina, the City shall provide additional compensation for years of service as follows:

- 10 years of service: 2% of base salary
- 15 years of service: 3% of base salary
- 20 years of service: 4.5% of base salary
- 25 years of service: 7% of base salary

All sworn fire personnel covered by this agreement shall include years of service from other full time paid fire suppression positions with a comparable fire agency in determining eligibility. A maximum of 5 years from comparable fire agencies shall be allowed.

II. FIRE OFFICER CERTIFICATION PAY

Employees shall receive four percent (4%) above base salary for maintaining State Fire Officer Certification.

III. EDUCATIONAL INCENTIVE

Fire Management Employees shall be eligible for the following educational incentives in the month following the month in which the degree is obtained:

- $168/month - Associate of Arts Degree or equivalent (60 semester or 90 quarter units)
- $335/month - Associate of Arts Degree or equivalent plus State Firefighter II Certificate
- $268/month - Bachelor’s Degree
- $435/month - Bachelor’s Degree plus State Firefighter II Certificate
- $368/month - Master’s Degree
- $535/month - Master’s Degree plus State Firefighter II Certificate

In order for an employee to be eligible for an educational incentive pay increase for their Bachelor’s or Master’s Degree, said degree must be from an accredited institution and be in a field that supports the employee’s job related responsibilities or has value to the organization (Department and/or City). An employee’s Associates of Arts Degrees or equivalent college units will qualify the employee for educational incentive pay if the degree or college units are meeting general education requirements, support job related
responsibilities or have value to the organization. Employees currently receiving educational pay for their degrees will continue to receive educational incentive pay under the new educational incentive pay program, subject only to proof that their degree is from an accredited institution. The parties agree that to the extent permitted by law, this is special compensation and shall be reported as such pursuant to Title 2 CCR, Section 571(a)(2) as Educational Incentive.

IV. BILINGUAL SKILLS PAY

Employees with bilingual skills shall receive one hundred dollars ($100) per month provided they possess and are using a language skill necessary for effective communication within the community, are assigned by the Fire Chief and have been certified by Human Resources. The Fire Chief shall determine the language skills necessary to effectively conduct fire business and activities with the citizens of the community, subject to approval of the City Manager. Human Resources shall certify, through testing, that the employee has a basic fundamental conversational skill level. Only one (1) allowance will be paid to an employee regardless of the number of certified languages. The parties agree that this is special compensation and shall be reported as such, to the extent legally permissible, pursuant to Title 2 CCR, Section 571(a)(4) as Bilingual Premium.

V. UNIFORM ALLOWANCE

The City shall provide a uniform allowance of seven hundred fifty dollars ($750) per year to each employee. The parties agree that to the extent permitted by law, this is special compensation and shall be reported as such pursuant to Title 2 CCR, Section 571(a)(5) as Uniform Allowance for the purchase, rental and/or maintenance of the required uniforms.

VI. DEFERRED COMPENSATION

Fire Management Employees

A. The City shall contribute for each Fire Management unit employee, one hundred and fifty dollars ($150.00) per month to a deferred compensation plan.

B. The employees shall select the deferred compensation plan from a list of plans provided by the City.

VII. PROMOTION PAY (CAPTAIN TO ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF)

Employees promoted from Captain to Assistant Fire Chief shall receive a salary that, when combined with special pays, results in a minimum increase of ten percent (10%) above the total amount of salary and special pays they received in the Captain position. The calculation of this increase will exclude deferred compensation, overtime pay, and FLSA pay.
VIII. SALARY ADMINISTRATION

A. Specific Information in Personnel Rules
   Specific detailed information dealing with such subject as salary anniversary dates, increases within the salary range, salary on appointments and other related types of salary administration issues are set forth in the City Personnel Rules.

B. Effective Date of Step Increases and Extra Compensation
   All step increases and extra compensation shall be made effective at the start of the next regular pay period, except as otherwise approved by management.
ARTICLE TWO
FRINGE BENEFITS

I. FRINGE BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION PROVISION

A. Administration

The City reserves the right to select, administer, or fund any fringe benefits programs involving insurance that now exist or may exist in the future.

B. Selection and Funding

1. In the administration of fringe benefits programs involving insurance, the City shall have the right to select any insurance carrier, self insure, or other method of providing coverage to fund the benefits provided, as long as the benefits of the plan are substantially the same.

2. The City may choose to exercise its right to select the insurance carrier and select Medicare as the City’s Retirement Insurance Carrier for eligible Fire Management Employees and retirees. In such case, the Fire Management Employees and retirees who are eligible will be required to enroll in Medicare and continue to be eligible to participate in other City medical plans.

II. CAFETERIA PLAN

Effective January 1, 2013, Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance will be provided as set forth below for all bargaining unit members: To comply with the Public Employees’ Hospital and Medical Care Act (PEHMCA) the City will contribute the statutory minimum amount ($115 in 2013 and a yet undetermined amount for 2014) for the provision of medical insurance. In addition, the City will contribute an additional amounts for current bargaining unit members into a cafeteria plan in accordance with IRS Code section 125. Those additional amounts will be as follows:

A. Health Insurance:

An amount that when added to the PEHMCA statutory minimum amount is up to the Kaiser Full Family premium rate. If an employee chooses a plan that is less than Kaiser Full Family premium rate (e.g., Blue Shield two party), the amount provided for health insurance through the cafeteria plan will be the PERS statutory minimum plus the additional amount to pay for Blue shield two-party premium rate. If an employee chooses a plan that is more than Kaiser Full Family premium rate (e.g., PERS Care Family), the amount provided for health insurance through the cafeteria plan will be the PERS statutory minimum plus the additional amount to pay Kaiser Full Family. The employee would pay the additional amount for the PERS Care Family plan premium through a payroll deduction.
III. RETIREE HEALTH SAVINGS PLAN (RHS)

A. Employees will contribute $50 per month to the RHS Plan.

B. The RHS Plan will be subject to regulatory and provider regulations.

IV. RETIREE HEALTH

The City contracts with CalPERS for the provision of health insurance. To comply with the Public Employees’ Hospital and Medical Care Act, the City will contribute the statutory minimum amount ($115 in 2013 and a yet undetermined amount for 2014) for the provision of retiree medical insurance for all retirees in the bargaining unit.

In addition to the provision of the statutory minimum amount for all retirees, to comply with PEHMCA, the City will provide a retiree longevity stipend to offset the cost of retiree medical benefits as follows:

A. Tier 1 Employees:

1. For employees hired prior to July 1, 2012 with a minimum of five years sworn service with the West Covina Fire Department, when they retire from the City, each month the City will contribute up to nine hundred thirty-one dollars and twenty six cents ($931.26) minus the PERS statutory minimum for that year into a qualified Health Reimbursement Account (HRA). The City will cover all administrative costs associated with the HRA and benefits will not be reduced to retirees as a result of administrative fees/costs. For retirees that do not use PERS Medical, the amount placed into the HRA will not be reduced by the PERS statutory minimum. The money placed into the HRA by the City on behalf of the retiree will be available to be used to purchase health insurance.

2. If the retiree chooses a plan that is less $931.26, the amount the City will contribute into the HRA per month will be the amount of the plan chosen minus the PERS statutory minimum for that year. If the retiree chooses a plan that is $931.26 or more, the amount the City will contribute into the HRA per month will be $931.26 minus the PERS statutory minimum for that year. For retirees that do not use PERS Medical, the amount placed into the HRA will not be reduced by the PERS statutory minimum. For retirees that do not use PERS Medical, the amount placed into the HRA will not be reduced by the PERS statutory minimum.

2. Effective January 1, 2013, for employees hired prior to July 1, 2012 with a minimum of five years sworn service with the West Covina Fire Department, when they retire from the City, each month the City will
contribute up to one thousand four dollars and eighty cents ($1,004.80) minus the PERS statutory minimum for that year into a qualified Health Reimbursement Account (HRA). The money placed into the HRA by the City on behalf of the retiree will be available to be used to purchase health insurance. The City will cover all administrative costs associated with the HRA and benefits will not be reduced to retirees as a result of administrative fees/costs. For retirees that do not use PERS Medical, the amount placed into the HRA will not be reduced by the PERS statutory minimum.

4. Effective January 1, 2013, if the retiree chooses a plan that is less $1,004.80, the amount the City will contribute into the HRA per month will be the amount of the plan chosen minus the PERS statutory minimum for that year. If the retiree chooses a plan that is $1,004.80 or more, the amount the City will contribute into the HRA per month will be $1,004.80 minus the PERS statutory minimum for that year. The City will cover all administrative costs associated with the HRA and benefits will not be reduced to retirees as a result of administrative fees/costs. For retirees that do not use PERS Medical, the amount placed into the HRA will not be reduced by the PERS statutory minimum.

5. Employees hired prior to July 1, 2012 with less than five years sworn service with the West Covina Fire Department are not eligible for the retiree longevity stipend, until they reach five years of service.

B. **Tier 2 Employees:**
Employees hired on or after July 1, 2012 will not receive the retiree longevity stipend, but like all retirees of the City, as set forth above, the City will contribute the PERS statutory minimum amount on the retiree’s behalf.

V. **SECTION 125 PLAN**

A. The City has established a program consistent with Section 125 of the IRS Code, which enables employees to voluntarily use pre-tax earnings for medical, dental, and dependent care expenses.

B. It is understood by the parties that participation in the plan is voluntary for Fire Management Employees and the City will not be obligated to contribute to pay any employee costs for employees to participate in the plan.

VI. **LIFE INSURANCE**

**Term Policy**
The City shall provide all Fire Management Employees a term life insurance policy in the amount of $100,000 while employed, and $100,000 AD&D while on duty, and a post-retirement death benefit of $10,000.
VII. TUITION REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

A. **Maximum Reimbursement**
   Fire Management Employees' maximum annual tuition reimbursement (including books) shall be one thousand one hundred and thirty dollars ($1,130.00) per fiscal year.

B. **Administrative Policy**
   The specific details of the Tuition Reimbursement Program is set forth in Administrative Policy approved on March 10, 2008, and as amended thereafter.

VIII. PERS RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The contract between the City and Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) shall provide the following benefits:

A. Fourth Level of 1959 Survivor Benefits) (Section 21574).
B. Credit for unused sick leave. (Section 20862.8)
C. Three percent (3%) at age fifty (50) formula. (Section 21363.121252.01)
   Effective July 1, 2012, the retirement formula for all new hires after July 1, 2012 shall be the three percent (3%) at age fifty-five (55) formula. (Section 21363.1)
D. One-half (1/2) pay continuance. (Section 21263) (Post Retirement Survivor)
E. One year final Compensation. (Section 21367.53)
F. A soon as practicable in September 2014, retirement benefits for all new employees hired on or after the effective date of the PERS contract amendment shall be computed using the Three Year Average Final Compensation Option pursuant to Government Code Section 20037.
G. Retiree death benefit $600 dollars. (Section 21367.53)
H. Military service credit as public service. (Section 21024)
I. Continuation of Pre-Retirement Death Benefits After Remarriage Of Survivor. (Section 21551)
J. Pre-Retirement Optional Settlement 2 Death Benefit. (Section 21548)
K. Effective July 1, 2012, the Employee shall pay the normal member contribution (9% of salary) to the Public Employees' Retirement System

IX. PARS SUPPLEMENTAL RETIREMENT PLAN

The City will replace the Employer Paid Member Contribution (EPMC) gross up amount that has been historically reported to CalPERS with a PARS Supplemental retirement plan. This supplemental plan will make the employees whole in consideration for the loss of the incremental stipend amount due to the "West Covina Plan" method of calculation no longer being allowable under CalPERS regulations.

The PARS plan will pay a retirement amount for all years of service to those unit employees retiring from the City based on .89% of PERSable compensation. At the time of retirement, the employee can make a one-time election to receive either an ongoing
monthly stipend or a lump sum amount at the time of retirement based on an actuarially
determined net present value of the annual stipends. The monthly stipends will contain
the same benefit options as the City’s PERS plan including 2% annual COLA’s and
survivor benefits. This plan will be available to all future retirees, and any past retirees
who retired after July 1, 2004 who can provide documentation to the City that the .89%
of compensation was disallowed by CalPERS in determining their retirement stipend.

The City retains the responsibility to fund this plan with actuarially determined
contributions.

New employees hired on or after July 1, 2012, will not be eligible to participate in the
benefits provided in this Section.

X. MILEAGE AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

The City shall reimburse for mileage and expenses incurred during the course of City
business consistent with the provisions of the City-wide Travel and Expense
Reimbursement Policy. The mileage reimbursement rate shall be the rate set forth by the
IRS.

XI. MISUSE OF BENEFITS

Assistant Fire Chiefs who fraudulently gain or fraudulently attempt to gain for
themselves or others by deception, omission, or fraud the benefits of the City’s Workers’
Compensation, retirement, medical, dental, or other insurance policies or any other
benefit which they would not otherwise be entitled to shall be subject to: a) denial of
requested benefits; and/or b) disciplinary action up to and including termination.
ARTICLE THREE

WORK PERIODS/SCHEDULES

I. HOURS OF WORK POLICY

It is the policy of the City that the hours of work, as negotiated by unit employees or determined by the City Council for non-represented employees, shall constitute a week’s work for all full-time employees, except that work days and work weeks of a different number of hours may be established in order to meet the varying needs of the different City departments.

II. WORK PERIODS

A. 48/96 Work Schedule – Unit Employees

1. The 48/96-work schedule is a three-platoon system in which employees work two (2) consecutive twenty-four (24) hour shifts for a total of forty-eight (48) hours, and have ninety-six (96) consecutive hours off.

A typical work schedule is as follows: X= work day, and 0=day off:
X00000XX0000XX0000 and so on.

2. The 48 hour cycle is in reality two (2) 24-hour shifts. Therefore, sick leave and annual leave will be used in 24-hour increments (i.e., to take off one cycle will take two (2) 24-hour shifts).

3. In the event one shift is scheduled to work both December 24th and December 25th of the same year, the shift assigned to work on December 23rd will be reassigned to work December 24th. The shift originally scheduled to work on December 24th will be reassigned to work December 23rd.

4. Members of the Unit were previously assigned to work as the 40 hour Administrative Chief. Effective July 1, 2012, this assignment will no longer be made.
ARTICLE FOUR

LEAVE POLICIES

I. TIME OFF BENEFITS FOR SHIFT EMPLOYEES
Leave benefits for fire safety employees working a twenty-four (24) hour shift shall be calculated on the basis of one-and-one half times the hourly benefit granted to employees working an eight (8) hour day.

II. HOLIDAYS
Assistant Fire Chiefs (Shift Employees) - Holidays shall be granted to all shift employees on the basis of one holiday (12 hours) per month with no specific date. If an employee terminates prior to the effective date of the traditional holiday, the holiday pay will be deducted from the final check. On an annual calendar year basis, employees can elect to take said time as follows:

1. Holiday Pay = 12 hours (per month)

2. Holiday Leave Time (Comp) = 8 hours/per month (non-PERSable)

Election must be made by December 1st of the previous calendar year. See attached Appendix “A-2” Holiday Leave Time/Holiday Pay Request Form.

III. VACATION

A. Vacation Policy

It is the policy of the City that when possible, Fire Management Employee vacations be taken annually in the year earned. The time during the year at which a Fire Management Employee may take vacation shall be determined by the Fire Chief, with due regard for the wishes of the Fire Management Employee and particular regard for the service needs of the City.

B. Vacation Leave Earned and Accumulated – Assistant Fire Chiefs (Shift Employees)

Usable after 6 mos. of employment, eligible Assistant Fire Chiefs (shift employees) shall earn and accumulate to a maximum vacation leave as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Months of Service</th>
<th>Hours Accumulated Per Pay Period</th>
<th>Hours Accumulated Per Month</th>
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<td>192 +</td>
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*At the completion of 60 months, add 60 hours of vacation leave.

C. **Vacation Leave Earned and Accumulated – (Non-Shift Employee)**

Usable after 6 months of employment, employees assigned to non-shift work shall earn and accumulate to a maximum vacation leave as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Months of Service</th>
<th>Hours Accumulated Per Pay Period</th>
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D. **Limitation – Vacation Leave Accrual**

1. Fire Management Employees shall not be allowed to accrue vacation leave beyond the stated maximums.

2. No Fire Management Employee shall lose earned vacation leave because of work urgency as approved by management. Work urgency is defined as the department’s need to have the Fire Management Employee at work to perform duty assignments for a specified period of time.
3. If a Fire Management Employee has reached the maximum allowed unused vacation leave balance, and is unable to take vacation leave due to work urgency, industrial injury, extended medical leave, special or pre-scheduled leave as authorized by management, the Human Resources Director will approve a waiver of the maximum allowed unused balance for a period not to exceed six (6) months per fiscal year.

E. **Payment for Unused Vacation Leave Time at Termination**

Any Fire Management Employee, who has been in continuous full-time service of the City for a period of six (6) full months or more, who is terminating his/her employment, shall be paid for accrued vacation leave time on the effective date of termination.

F. **Payment for Unused Vacation**

1. **Eligibility**

   Upon request from the Assistant Fire Chief and approval from both the Fire Chief and City Manager, in order to address unusual or emergency conditions, an employee may be paid the straight time daily equivalent of his/her salary in lieu of vacation time off. Such payments shall be for no more than forty (40) hours in any one calendar year, except as otherwise provided herein.

2. **Vacation Cash Out – Assistant Fire Chiefs**

   a. Assistant Fire Chiefs (shift employees) with less than five (5) years City service, may receive payment in lieu of up to one hundred twenty (120) hours of accumulated vacation time in any one calendar year upon filing a written request with the Finance Department five days prior to requested date of issuance of the check, upon approval of the Fire Chief.

   b. Assistant Fire Chiefs (shift employees) with five (5) or more years of City service may receive payment in lieu of up to one hundred eighty (180) hours accumulated vacation time in any one calendar year upon filing a written request with the Finance Department five (5) days prior to requested date of issuance of the check, upon approval of the Fire Chief.

G. **Advance Payment for Vacation**

1. Any Fire Management Employee who is authorized to take sixty (60) or more hours for Assistant Fire Chiefs (shift employees) of vacation with pay at one time may apply for the payment of salary in advance for any pay period occurring during the period of the Fire Management Employee’s authorized vacation.
2. The application must be approved by the Fire Chief and filed with the Finance Director at least seven (7) days before the vacation period for which the salary advance is requested.

3. In cases of extreme emergency where the Fire Management Employee is unable to give the required notice, approval for an advance vacation check may be given where such request can be justified to, and approved, by the Fire Chief and Finance Director.

H. **Vacation Leave – Reinstated/Reemployed Fire Management Employees**

Any Fire Management Employee who is reinstated or reemployed under the provisions of these rules shall accrue vacation at the same rate as prior to his/her termination.

IV. **SICK LEAVE**

A. **Allowance/Accumulation**

Fire Management shift employees shall accrue sick leave under the same conditions as general city employees and at the same rate using the 1: 1.5 ratio factor.

B. **Sick Leave Benefit**

1. Sick leave is a benefit and not a right and is to be utilized by Fire Management Employees who are unable to work because of an injury or illness not arising out of the course of their employment, except as provided otherwise in this article.

2. The sick leave benefit should be thought of as an insurance policy; it insures and protects Fire Management Employees from a loss in wages when they are unable to work because of an illness or injury.

C. **Sick Leave Earned**

1. Shift employees accrue twelve (12) hours per month; Non-Shift employees accrue eight (8) hours per month.

2. Sick leave may be used by new Fire Management Employees following thirty (30) calendar days of employment.

3. Unused sick leave may be accumulated without limit.

D. **Reinstatement of Sick Leave**

Any Fire Management Employee who is reinstated to full-time City employment shall be given full credit for his/her unused accumulated sick leave at the time of termination, provided, however, that no payoff for accumulated sick leave was received upon termination.
E. **Sick Leave Annual Payoff Program**

The employee Sick Leave Annual Payoff Program shall be administered as follows:

1. By November of each calendar year, the City will determine the amount of unused sick leave for each regular Fire Management Employee.

2. The maximum amount of sick leave hours cashed each calendar year at the Assistant Fire Chief's (shift employee) hourly rate is eighty (80) hours.

3. Each Fire Management Employee must carry over to a sick leave “bank” a minimum of sixty-four (64) hours for the Assistant Fire Chief (shift employee) of current year unused hours in December, and may request cash payment for any hours above sixty-four (64) hours for the Assistant Fire Chief (shift employee) of current year unused hours or may add it to the sick leave bank.

4. Sick leave used by a Fire Management Employee during each calendar year will be charged against the Fire Management Employee's current year earnings.

5. If sixty-four (64) hours for the Assistant Fire Chief (shift employee) per calendar year of unused sick leave are not available, the number of unused hours must be carried over to the sick leave bank.

6. To qualify for this program, Fire Management Employees shall not be allowed to charge sick leave to other forms of paid leave.

F. **Sick Leave Payoff Upon Termination**

Upon termination of over three years of full-time salaried City service, other than by discharge, Fire Management Employees shall be paid for one third (1/3) of all sick leave accrued to the time of such termination at current compensation to a maximum of 400 hours.

G. **Use of Sick Leave**

1. **Approval**

   Fire Management Employees sick leave can only be granted upon the approval of the Fire Chief in the case of bona fide illness or injury of the Fire Management Employee or in the event of the care or attendance of serious illness of the Fire Management Employee's immediate family.
2. **Physician’s Certificate on Use of Sick Leave**

The Fire Chief may require evidence in the form of a physician’s certificate, or written statement, as to reason for any Fire Management Employee’s absence of three (3) or more consecutive working days for which sick leave was requested. A failure to supply or provide said certificate or written statement shall be grounds for denial of sick leave pay and the imposition of such disciplinary action as may be deemed appropriate.

3. **Physical Examination May be Required**

Any Fire Management Employee absent from work, due to illness or accident, may be required by the Fire Chief to submit to and successfully complete a physical examination before returning to active duty. The physical examination will be conducted by a physician of the City’s choice, with all costs to be paid by the City.

H. **Use of Sick Leave – Care of Immediate Family**

1. No more than seventy-two (72) hours for Assistant Fire Chiefs (shift employees), of sick leave within any calendar year may be granted to a Fire Management Employee for the care or attendance upon members of his/her immediate family.

2. The phrase “immediate family,” for the use of sick leave, is defined under Bereavement Leave of this Article Five, as spouse, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child, stepchild, grandchild, and in-laws.

I. **Temporary Disability**

1. A Fire Management Employee who is entitled to temporary disability indemnity under Div. 4, Div. 4.5 of the State Labor Code may elect to take that number of days or portions of days of his/her accumulated sick leave, or his/her accumulated vacation, as when added to his/her disability indemnity will result in payment to him/her of his/her full salary.

2. When his/her accumulated sick leave, or vacation, or both are exhausted, he/she is still entitled to receive disability indemnity.

J. **Sick Leave Limitations**

No Fire Management Employee shall be entitled to sick leave with pay while absent from duty on account of the following causes:

1. Disability arising from sickness or injury purposely self-inflicted or caused by any of his/her own willful misconduct.
2. Sickness or disability sustained while on leave of absence, other than regular vacation leave or sick leave.

3. Disability or illness arising from compensated employment other than with the City of West Covina.

K. **Sick Leave During Vacation**

Sick leave shall not be used in lieu of or in addition to vacation leave. However, a Fire Management Employee who becomes seriously ill on an approved vacation may contact the Fire Chief and request that sick leave be granted in lieu of vacation for the period of illness. The Fire Chief has discretion in approving or disapproving such request.

L. **Use of Sick Leave to Offset Disability Retirement**

No Fire Management Employee shall use sick leave days to offset the date of disability retirement. The effective date of disability retirement shall be as soon as practicable after the City’s physician has determined that the Fire Management Employee can no longer perform the duties of his/her or an alternate position.

V. **WORK-RELATED DISABILITY LEAVE**

A. **Injury/Illness Arising Out Of and In The Course of Job Duties**

Whenever Fire Management Employees of the City are disabled, whether temporarily or permanently, by injury or illness arising out of and in the course of their duties, they shall be entitled, regardless of their period of service with the City, to leave of absence while temporarily disabled, without loss of salary, per L.C. 4850. The period of such disability shall not exceed one (1) year, or until such earlier date as they are determined to be permanent and stationary and unable to return to their usual and customary duties.

B. **Paid Leave During Disability**

No sworn members of the Fire Department, while on or entitled to industrial disability leave of absence, shall suffer the loss of any vacation, sick leave, or increase in compensation which would have accrued, or to which he/she would have been entitled, if he/she were actually performing his/her duties.

VI. **Bereavement Leave**

Bereavement leave up to seventy-two (72) hours for Assistant Fire Chiefs (shift employees) per occurrence in the event of the death of said Fire Management Employee’s immediate family member, which is defined as a grandparent, parent, spouse, in-laws, child, stepchild, grandchild, brother, or sister. Evidence of proof may be requested.
VII. MILITARY LEAVE

A. State Military and Veteran’s Code

Military leave with pay shall be granted in accordance with Section 395 of the State Military and Veteran’s Code.

B. Inactive Military Service

1. Any Fire Management Employee is on inactive duty such as scheduled reserve drill periods, and who has been in the service of the public agency from which leave is taken for a period not less than one year immediately prior to the day on which the absence begins shall be entitled to receive his/her salary or compensation as such public employee for the first thirty (30) calendar days of any such absence.

2. Pay for such purposes shall not exceed thirty (30) days in any one year of public agency service, all service of said public employee in the recognized military service shall be counted as public agency service.

3. The City may grant a military leave of absence without pay for an indefinite period of time to any Fire Management Employee who is called into active military service even though the Fire Management Employee does not meet the one (1) year of continuous service requirements.

C. Active Military Service

1. Each full-time Fire Management Employee of the City who has been or is called to active military service with the Armed Forces of the United States in connection with the activation of the Military Reserves shall be entitled to military leave with full pay for the period of absence on military service in excess of the period covered by said Rule 10, Section 10.26.

2. The amount of pay each such Fire Management Employee shall be entitled to receive from the City for said additional period of military leave shall be the difference between the gross pay and allowances actually received by the officer or employee from the United States for such service and the gross wages that said Fire Management Employee have received from the City Of West Covina if he or she had not been called to active military duty, subject to all necessary and appropriate deductions and withholdings.

3. The City shall also provide continued health and dental benefits to the Fire Management Employee’s dependents, provided that the dependents were covered for those benefits prior to the Fire Management Employee being called to active duty. Further, contributions to deferred compensation from
the Medical and Dental Insurance benefit shall not be made during the time of activation.

4. The City shall not pay any wage or benefit provided for in this resolution until and unless the Fire Management Employee who requests such payment provides satisfactory proof and documentation of eligibility to receive payment in accordance with procedures established by the City Manager.

VIII. JURY DUTY

A. Jury Duty Policy

No deductions shall be made from the salary of a Fire Management Employee while on jury duty if he/she has waived or remitted to the City the fee for jury duty paid for hours the Fire Management Employee is scheduled to work. If he/she has not so waived or remitted the jury fee, he/she shall be paid only for the time actually worked in his/her regular position. A Fire Management Employee accepted for jury duty shall immediately notify the Fire Chief in writing whether or not he/she waives or remits his/her jury fee to the City.

B. Jury Fees Returned to the City

The City will grant a Fire Management Employee required to serve on jury duty, or to report for examination to serve on jury duty, one (1) time for a maximum of 160 hours, paid leave for such purposes during any three (3) consecutive years of employment. All fees received by the Fire Management Employee for jury duty, exclusive of mileage, shall be remitted to the City. City Administrative procedures will govern further details of this program.

A professional fire employee who is subpoenaed or required to appear in court as a witness on job related matters shall be deemed to be on paid leave of absence, while actually in court. Any notification of such appearance shall immediately be reported to the duty Fire Chief. The employee shall remit to the City Treasurer all fees received except mileage.

C. Witness Leave

A Fire Management employee who is subpoenaed or required to appear in court as a witness on job-related matters shall be deemed to be on paid leave of absence while actually in court.

IX. FAMILY CARE LEAVE

A. Birth or Adoption

Leaves due to pregnancy or subsequent to the birth or adoption of a child for parental care purposes, will be granted for a reasonable period of time by the Fire
Chief, provided such period, including paid leave and leave without pay, shall not exceed four months. Such leave shall not be conditioned on whether the Fire Management Employee is medically disabled but must be directly associated with the birth or adoption of a child. Only those Fire Management Employees with at least one (1) year of continuous City employment shall be eligible.

B. **Family Illness**
Leaves due to serious health condition of a child, spouse parent or registered domestic partner of a Fire Management Employee may be granted for a reasonable period of time by the Fire Chief, provided such period including paid and unpaid leave, shall not exceed twelve (12) weeks in any twelve (12) month period. Only those Fire Management Employees with at least one year of continuous City employment shall be eligible. Certification from a health care provider that the Fire Management Employee’s leave is necessary and the prospective length of such leave may be required upon request. Family care leave shall be administered in a manner consistent with Sections 12945, or 12945.2 of the California Government Code. California law shall prevail unless preempted by federal law.

C. **Use of Paid Leave**

1. Paid benefit time such as vacation, personal leave days, and compensatory time leave may be taken during any family leave period so long as the total time off does not exceed twelve (12) weeks. Such leave must be used prior to a Fire Management Employee taking leave without pay except during the disability period of a female employee, which is in conjunction with the birth of a child. Sick leave may only be used during the disability period or as provided under Personnel Rules. All Fire Management Employees on family care leave are entitled to return to the same or comparable position.


X. **SPECIAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITH PAY**

When a Fire Management Employee has exhausted all sick leave and vacation time to which he/she is entitled, the City Council may, upon showing of good cause and justifiable and deserving circumstances, grant to such Fire Management Employee a leave of absence with pay for a period not exceeding six months and subject to such conditions as the City Council may deem advisable. If temporary disability payments are paid to such Fire Management Employee during any such leave of absence with pay, they shall be credited to and considered a part of his/her salary, and the City shall pay only the difference which when added thereto would equal his/her full salary. The aggregate of all such leave shall not be more than one year.
XI. **LEAVES OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY**

A. **Unauthorized Absence – Automatic Termination**
   Any Fire Management Employee absent from his/her job for more than two (2) working days without prior permission of the Fire Chief, shall be considered to have automatically terminated his/her employment with the City, unless such leave is extended as approved by the Fire Chief for mitigating circumstances.

B. **Unauthorized Absence – Other Disciplinary Action**
   Any unauthorized absence may be cause for disciplinary action.

C. **Authorized Absence**
   1. Upon the request of the Fire Management Employee, a leave of absence without pay may be granted by the Council or City Manager to a Fire Management Employee who, immediately preceding the effective date of such leave, shall have completed at least one year of continuous service.
   2. A Fire Management Employee shall not be entitled to a leave of absence as a matter of right, but only upon good and sufficient reason.

D. **Leave of Absence Without Pay - Duration**
   1. Request for leave of absence without pay shall be submitted to the Fire Chief, and shall state specifically the reasons for the request, the date when leave is desired to begin, and the probable date of return to work.
   2. The Fire Chief may approve the request of leave of absence without pay, of one hundred twenty (120) calendar days or less.
   3. The City Manager may approve requests of more than one hundred twenty (120) calendar days, not to exceed one (1) full year.
   4. The City Manager may later, due to mitigating circumstances, extend such leave of absence without pay for one (1) additional full year.
   5. A physician statement shall be required of any Fire Management Employee who requests leave of absence without pay as a result of medical conditions.

E. **Leave of Absence – Employee Injured on Job**
   The City Council may grant a leave of absence without pay for an indefinite period of time to any Fire Management Employee who is injured on the job, or has a serious illness even though the Fire Management Employee does not meet the one-year of continuous service requirements.
F. **Accrual of Benefits**

Leave of absence without pay granted by the City shall not be construed as a break in service of employment, and rights accrued at the time leave is granted shall be retained by the Fire Management Employee; however, vacation credits, sick leave credits, increases in salary and other similar benefits shall not accrue to a person granted such leave during the period of absence. A Fire Management Employee reinstated after leave of absence without pay shall receive the same step in the salary range he/she received when he/she began his/her leave of absence. Time spent on such leave without pay shall not count toward service for increases within the salary range, and the Fire Management Employee’s salary anniversary date shall be set forward one month for each thirty (30) consecutive days taken.

XII. **FAILURE TO RETURN FROM LEAVE**

A. Failure of the Fire Management Employee to return to his/her employment upon the termination of any authorized leave of absence shall constitute an automatic termination from City service of that Fire Management Employee, unless such leave is extended.

B. The City reserves the right to revoke or cancel any authorized leave for reasons, which the City finds to be sufficient.
ARTICLE FIVE

I. DISCIPLINE – FIREFIGHTER BILL OF RIGHTS

Personnel rules XIV, Section 14.4 is hereby set forth in the attached Exhibit A, and amended thereafter.

II. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Refer to Personnel Rule XV, Grievance and Complaint Procedure.

III. DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION

A. The City’s policy shall be to make such efforts as are consistent with federal and state laws to place physically or mentally disabled employees in such positions that can be made available in the City service where their disabilities will not affect the performance of their duties. This policy will extend to all terms, conditions and privileges of employment.

The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) requires accommodation for individuals on a case-by-case basis. Prior to accommodation for individuals on a case-by-case basis. Prior to the City providing an accommodation, which would be contrary to negotiated agreements, the City shall provide written notice of intent to disregard provisions and shall meet and confer over options prior to implementation.

The City has a legal obligation to meet with individual employees as necessary to discuss possible accommodation before any adjustments are made to working conditions. The Association shall be notified prior to the implementation of proposed accommodations by the City, which affects an employee or group of employees within their respective bargaining unit. Accommodations provided to an individual protected by the ADA shall not establish a past practice, nor shall it be cited or used as evidence of past practice in any grievance process.

B. No employee shall hold any position in a class where such individual poses a risk to the health or safety of the individual or others.

IV. WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

The City will recognize applicable current Workers’ Compensation Law.

V. SAFETY EQUIPMENT

The City agrees to furnish or otherwise provide all safety equipment for each fire safety employee as may be required by law, judicial mandate, or administrative regulation.
VI. OTHER PROVISIONS NOT COVERED HERE

It is understood that all other items relating to employee salaries and benefits not covered in this MOU, are covered by existing ordinances, resolutions, and policies of the City Council, as well as the Personnel Rules and Regulations presently in effect.

VII. NOTICE OF FUTURE MEET AND CONFER

If the Association desires to meet and confer with representatives of the City of West Covina concerning improvements or changes in wages, hours, or other conditions of employment for the employee members represented by the Association, which would take effect on or after July 1, 2012, the Association shall serve upon the City Manager a written request to meet and confer.

VIII. RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

A. Acknowledgement

The City and Association acknowledge that this Memorandum of Understanding shall not be in full force and effect until ratified by those Association members voting who are in classifications represented by the Association set forth in this Agreement and adopted in the form of a resolution by the City Council.

B. Mutual Recommendation

This Agreement constitutes a mutual recommendation by the parties hereto, to the City council, that one or more ordinances and/or resolutions be adopted accepting its provisions and effecting the changes enumerated herein relating to wages, hours, fringe benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment for unit employees represented by the Association.

C. Ratification

Subject to the foregoing, this Memorandum of Understanding is hereby ratified by the authorized representatives of the City and the Association and entered into on this 17th day of July 2012.

D. Term of Memorandum of Understanding

The term of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be for a period of twenty-four months, commencing on July 1, 2012, and terminating after June 30, 2014.
WEST COVINA FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

Michael McGill, Chief Negotiator

Larry Whithorn, President

Bart Brewer, Vice President

CITY OF WEST COVINA

Peter Brown, Chief Negotiator

Thomas Bachman, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director

Chris Freeland, Deputy City Manager

Theresa St. Peter, Interim Human Resources Director
EXHIBIT “A”

FIREFIGHTER BILL OF RIGHTS PROCEDURE

The following appeals procedures are adopted pursuant to Government Code § 3254.5 of the Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights Act.

1. DEFINITIONS

   a. The term “firefighter” means an employee who is considered a “firefighter” under Government Code § 3251(a) except for the Fire Chief who is identified as such. The classifications of employees who are firefighters include: Firefighters, Firefighter/Paramedics, Fire Engineers, Fire Captains and Assistant Fire Chiefs.

   b. The term “punitive action” means any action defined by Government Code § 3251(c), i.e., “any action that may lead to dismissal, demotion, suspension, reduction in salary, written reprimand, or transfer for purposes of punishment.”

2. APPEAL OF A PUNITIVE ACTION NOT INVOLVING DISCHARGE, DEMOTION OR SUSPENSION OF A FIREFIGHTER FOR MORE THAN FIVE (5) Shifts/DAYS

   Pursuant to Government Code § 11445.20, the following informal hearing procedure shall be utilized for an appeal by a firefighter of a punitive action not involving a discharge, demotion or a suspension greater than five (5) shifts/days.

   a. Notice of Appeal- Within five (5) calendar days of receipt by a firefighter of notification of punitive action as set forth above, the firefighter shall notify the Fire Chief in writing of the firefighter’s intent to appeal the punitive action. The notice of appeal shall specify the action being appealed and the substantive and procedural grounds for the appeal.

   b. Presiding Officer- In an informal hearing, the Fire Chief or his/her designee shall be the presiding officer. The Fire Chief or his/her designee shall conduct the informal hearing in accordance with these procedures. The determination of the Fire Chief shall be final and binding. If the Fire Chief cannot serve as the hearing officer because of actual bias, prejudice or interest as defined by Government Code § 11425.40, then the City Manager or his/her designee shall serve as the Presiding Officer. In such cases, the determination of the City Manager shall be final and binding.

   c. Burden of Proof- The employer shall bear the burden of proof at the hearing.

   i. If the action being appealed does not involve allegations of misconduct by the employer, the limited purpose of the hearing shall be to provide the officer the opportunity to establish a record of the circumstances surrounding the action.
The Department’s burden of proof shall be satisfied if the Department establishes by a preponderance of the evidence that the action was reasonable. The Department’s burden of proof may be satisfied even though reasonable persons may disagree about the appropriateness of the action.

ii. However, if the punitive action involves charges of misconduct, the Department shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence the facts, which form the basis for the charge and that the punitive action was reasonable under the circumstances.

d. Conduct of Hearing-

i. The formal rules of evidence do not apply, although the Presiding Officer shall have discretion to exclude evidence, which is incompetent, irrelevant or cumulative, or the presentation of which will otherwise consume undue time.

ii. The parties may present opening statements.

iii. The parties may present evidence through documents and testimony.

aa. Witnesses shall testify under oath.

bb. Subpoenas may be issued pursuant to Government Code §§11450.05- 11450.50.

cc. Unless the punitive action involves a loss of compensation, the parties shall not be entitled to confront and cross-examine witnesses.

iv. Following the presentation of evidence, if any, the parties may submit oral and/or written closing arguments for consideration by the hearing officer.

e. Recording of the Hearing- If the punitive action involves the loss of compensation, then the hearing shall be stenographically recorded by a certified court reporter. Otherwise, the hearing may be tape recorded. The per diem cost of the court reporter shall be equally borne by the parties. The cost to receive a transcript of the hearing shall be borne by the party requesting the transcript.

f. Representation- The firefighter may be represented by an association representative or attorney of his or her choice at all stages of the proceedings. All costs associated with such representation shall be borne by the firefighter.

g. Decision- The decision shall be in writing pursuant to Government Code §11425.50. The decision shall be served by first class mail, postage pre-paid, upon the firefighter as well as his/her attorney or representative, shall be accompanied by an affidavit or certificate of mailing, and shall advise the firefighter that the time within which judicial review of the decision may be sought is governed by Code of Civil Procedure § 1094.6.
3. **APPEAL OF A DISCIPLINARY DECISION INVOLVING DISCHARGE, DEMOTION OR SUSPENSION OF A FIREFIGHTER FOR MORE THAN FIVE (5) SHIFTS/DAYS**

a. In those instances where the procedures in Government Code §§ 11400, et seq. are inapplicable to an administrative appeal, the administrative appeal shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the California Government Code.

b. Notice of Discipline as Accusation- The final notice of discipline which may be issued at the conclusion of any pre-disciplinary procedures shall serve as the Accusation as described in Government Code §§ 11500, et seq. The notice shall be prepared and served in conformity with the requirements of Government Code §§ 11500, et seq.

c. Administrative Law Judge- Pursuant to Government Code § 11512, the City has determined that appeals shall continue to be heard by the Human Resources Commission with the administrative law judge presiding at the hearing, pursuant to Government Code § 11512(b). The administrative law judge shall rule on the admission and exclusion of evidence and advise the Human Resources Commission on matters of law. The Human Resources Commission shall exercise all other powers relating to the conduct of the hearing.

d. Time and Place of Hearing- Pursuant to Government Code § 11508, unless otherwise decided by the Human Resources Commission, a hearing shall be conducted at West Covina City Hall at a time to be determined by the Human Resources Commission.

e. Notice of the Hearing- Notice of the hearing shall be provided to the parties pursuant to Government Code § 11509.

f. The Human Resources Commission (known formerly as, and sometimes referred to as, the Personnel Commission) may recommend to sustain or modify the disciplinary action taken when it appears in the record that there was a substantial violation or omission of procedure or where the specific evidence produced in the hearing warrants such recommendation. In all instances, the Human Resources Commission shall certify copies of its findings and recommendations to the City Manager, and to the appellant employee. The City Manager, shall then affirm, revoke or modify the original action taken. Such affirmation, revocation, or modification taken shall be final. Judicial review of the City Manager’s decision may be had pursuant to Government Code § 11523.
CITY OF WEST COVINA
FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATIONS AND SALARY RANGES

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2012

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HOLIDAY LEAVE TIME/HOLIDAY PAY

- Request Form -

Employee Name: ________________________________

Date: ________________________________________

Indicate your preference for Holiday Leave time to be either credited to your Holiday Leave Time record as 8 hours per month or payment of 12 hours of Holiday Pay per month. Holiday Pay is paid at straight time, but is subject to PERS.

Return this form to your Payroll Timekeeper no later than December 1st of the prior year to which the leave will be taken.

THIS SELECTION CANNOT BE CHANGED ONCE IT IS MADE

I ELECT:

☐ Holiday Pay

☐ Holiday Leave Time

___________________________________________
Employee Signature

___________________________________________
Date

Z: Forms Holiday Comp Time Holiday Pay Request Form - Fire