

AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
THE TOWNSHIP OF LOWER, CAPE MAY COUNTY  
AND  
LOWER TOWNSHIP POLICE SUPERIOR OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
LOCAL #59

January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019

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PREAMBLE

This Agreement entered into this 6th day of November, 2017 by and between the Township of Lower, in the County of Cape May, New Jersey, a Municipal Corporation of the State of New Jersey, (hereinafter called the "Township" or "Employer") and Local #59, the Lower Township Police Superior Officers' Association, hereinafter called the "Superior Officers Association").

This Agreement represents and incorporates the complete and final understanding and settlement by the parties on all bargainable issues which were or could have been the subject to negotiations. During the terms of this Agreement, neither party will be required to negotiate with respect to any such matter, whether or not covered by this Agreement, and whether or not within the knowledge or contemplation of either or both of the parties at the time they negotiated or signed this Agreement.

If any provision of the Agreement or any application of this Agreement to said employee or group of employees is held to be invalid by operation of law or by a court or other tribunal of competent jurisdiction, such provision shall be inoperative but all other provisions shall not be affected thereby and shall continue in full force and effect.

In the event the invalid provision afforded a direct economic benefit, the parties shall meet and negotiate a new provision reflecting equal cost.

ARTICLE 1 – RECOGNITION: DEFINITIONS

- A. The Township hereby recognized the SOA as the exclusive majority representative for all Lieutenants and Captains in the Police Department of the Township of Lower within the meaning of the New Jersey Employer -Employee Relations Act, N.J.S.A. 34:13A-1.1 et seq.
  
- B. When used in this Agreement, the following capitalized terms shall have the meanings set forth below:
  - a. "Act" shall mean the New Jersey Employer-Employee Relations Act, N.J.S.A. 34:13A-1 et seq.
  
  - b. "Administrative Code" shall mean Chapter II of "revised General Ordinances" of the Township of Lower, 1974 (hereinafter referred to as the "General Ordinances").
  
  - c. "Chief of Police" shall mean the Chief of the Department with those duties and responsibilities as set forth in the Township's Administrative Code.
  
  - d. "Police Department" shall mean the Township of Lower Police Department.
  
  - e. "Police Headquarters" shall mean the main office for the Department located at the Cape May County Airport complex in Lower Township, New Jersey.
  
  - f. "Superior Police Officer(s)", Member(s), and/or Employee(s) shall mean all Lieutenants and Captains of the Department. These terms shall also be defined to include the plural as well as the singular and to include males and females.

ARTICLE 2 - LEGAL REFERENCE

A. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to deny or restrict to any Police Officer such rights as he may have under any applicable laws and regulations. The rights granted the Police Officer hereunder shall be deemed to be in addition to those provided elsewhere.

B. The provisions of this Agreement shall be subject and subordinate to and shall not annul or modify existing applicable provisions of State and local laws except such particular provisions of this Agreement modify existing local laws.

ARTICLE 3 – MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

A. The Township hereby retains and reserves unto itself, without limitations, all powers, rights authority, duties and responsibilities conferred upon and vested in it prior to the signing of this Agreement by the laws and Constitution of the State of New Jersey and of the United States.

B. The exercise of the foregoing powers, rights, authority, duties and responsibilities of the Township, the adoption of policies, rules, regulations and practices in furtherance thereof, and the use of judgment and discretion in connection with the implementation thereof shall be limited only by the specific and express terms of this Agreement and by the Act.

ARTICLE 4 – LTSOA REPRESENTATIVES

A. Accredited representatives of the P.B.A. may enter Police Headquarters or the Office of the Chief at reasonable hours for the purpose of observing working conditions or assisting in the adjustment of grievances. When the P.B.A. decides to have its representatives enter the Police Headquarters or Office of the Chief, it will request such permission from the appropriate Township representatives and such permission will not be unreasonably withheld, as long as there is no interference with the normal operations of the business of Township government or with the normal duties of the Township's employees.

B. During collective negotiations with the Township, authorized LTSOA representatives, not to exceed two, shall be excused from their normal work duties to participate in mutually scheduled collective negotiation sessions that are reasonable and necessary and shall suffer no loss of regular pay.

C. Each member of the LTSOA collective bargaining committee shall be provided a copy of the present contract in its entirety.

## ARTICLE 5 – RETIREMENT

A. Employees shall retain all pension rights under the New Jersey law and General Ordinances, as defined in Article I.

B. Just prior to retirement, an Employee shall receive in a lump sum, all unused vacation time which had accumulated in the year of retirement and immediately preceding calendar year, together with all compensatory or other time off due him, or the time off at the Employees' option but, in either case, subject to approval of the Chief of Police and the Township Manager. If the lump sum option is not approved, the Employee shall be paid the amount due in equal monthly installments over a period not to exceed 12 months. For purposes of this paragraph B, other time off shall not include terminal leave set forth in paragraph C below of this Article 5.

C. Upon regular retirement, an Employee will receive a terminal leave benefit based upon the cash value of accumulated unused sick leave to a maximum of 180 days. The Employee shall have the option to be paid the accumulated sick leave (i) in a lump sum in cash (subject to the limitations set forth in Paragraph E below) or (ii) as regularly scheduled pay checks until fully exhausted. For Employees hired on or after January 1, 2000, the maximum terminal leave benefit will be \$15,000.00.

D. Each retiring employee shall notify the Township of their intention to retire 30 day prior to January 1 of the year of retirement, except in an emergency. If an employee fails to notify the Township of his intent to retire prior to January 1 of the year of retirement, the Township shall have the right to defer payment amounts due pursuant to Paragraphs B and C of this Article 5 until the next succeeding calendar year, but no later than March 1 of such succeeding calendar year.

E. The Employee shall have the option to defer the receipt of the amounts due pursuant to Paragraphs B and C of this Article 5, in whole or in part, to the next succeeding calendar year after retirement by notifying the Township, not less than 30 days prior to retirement.

F. If an Employee desires to cease work prior to his/her official retirement date and also desires to utilize vacation leave, personal days, terminal leave (pursuant to Paragraph C of this Article) and compensatory time that has been accrued and earned as of the date the Employee ceases work, the Employee shall provide written notice to the Manager of his/her intention to do so. Upon the Manager's approval, the Employee shall continue to receive such paid leave benefits in regularly scheduled installments up to the earlier of the official date of retirement or until such leave benefits are exhausted; provided, however, that no additional paid leave benefits shall accrue after the date the Employee ceases work. This provision shall be effective March 1, 2009.

G. If an Employee pending retirement continues to receive paid leave pursuant Paragraph F of Article 5, such Employee shall not be subject to any provision requiring the "recall" of Employees to work. Such Employee shall also not be subject to firearms qualification or drug testing unless otherwise mandated by federal or state law.

## ARTICLE 6 – LEAVE OF ABSENCE

A. Family/Medical Leave of Absence will be granted in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (“FMLA”) and the New Jersey Family Leave Act (“NJFLA”) and the regulations promulgated thereunder. Under the provisions of these statutes, the Employee is entitled to twelve (12) weeks of leave during a twelve (12) month period, which may be extended at the request of the Employee, upon good cause shown, for up to a total of six (6) additional months (excluding the initial twelve (12) week period). The Employee shall be entitled to leave for the Employee’s own serious health condition, or the need to care for a spouse, child or parent with a serious health condition. In addition, the Employee may take leave to care for a parent, child or parent-in-law. The circumstances under which leave may be taken vary depending on the type of leave requested and the Employer will grant leave in accordance with the provisions of each statute, the regulations issued for each statute, and judicial decisions interpreting the requirements of each statute. If the Employee takes FMLA or NJFLA Leave, the Employee may, at the Employee’s option use accrued sick leave, vacation and other administrative leave during the FMLA or NJFLA Leave. The Employer retains all rights to require proper certification from a healthcare provider pursuant to all Applicable Laws. Any other leave of absence shall be granted in the sole and absolute discretion of the Township Manager and shall not be for a period in excess of six (6) months.

B. Any unpaid leave of absence granted because of illness or disability will not result in cessation of insurance, health and welfare benefits set forth in Article 12. The Employee shall not earn any seniority during the period of such leave of absence, and there will be no additional accrual of vacation, sick and personal days during the period of such leave of absence.

C. As to any unpaid leave of absence granted for any reason other than illness or disability, the Township shall have sole discretion to determine if such leave will result in a cessation of insurance, health and welfare benefits during such leave of absence. The Employee shall not earn any seniority during the period of such leave of absence, and there will be no additional accrual of vacation, sick and personal days during the period of such leave of absence.

D. Unless otherwise specifically set forth in this Agreement to the contrary, all of the provisions of the New Jersey Department of Personnel Regulations concerning leaves of absence, as set forth in Title 4A of the New Jersey Administrative Code, Chapter 6, Subchapter 1, as applied to State service, shall apply to the P.B.A.

E. Before an Employee goes on FMLA or NJFLA Leave without pay, the Employee shall be entitled to use of all sick, vacation and personal days which have been credited to the Employee at the beginning of the year. The Employee also acknowledges that sick, vacation and personal days are not earned during an FMLA or NJFLA Leave or any other unpaid leave of absence. Accordingly, (i) if an Employee on such leave does not return to work, he shall reimburse the Employer for the paid

sick, vacation and personal days used in excess of his prorated entitlements as set forth in Paragraphs 9E, 11E and 15C of this Agreement, or (ii) if an Employee on such leave does not return to work, the sick, vacation and personal days to be credited in the future shall be reduced by such days used in excess of his prorated entitlements.

ARTICLE 7 – DEDUCTION FROM SALARY

A. The Township agrees to deduct from the salaries of the Employees, subject to this Agreement, dues for the LTSOA. Such deductions will be made in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-15.9(e), as amended. Said monies together with records of any collections shall be transmitted to the P.B.A. office during each month following the pay period in which deductions were made.

B. If during the life of the Agreement there shall be any changes in the rate of membership dues, the LTSOA shall furnish to the Township written notice in a timely manner, prior to the effective date of such change and shall furnish to the Township new authorization from its members showing the authorized deduction for each Employee.

C. The LTSOA will provide the necessary “check-off authorization” cards submitted by the LTSOA to the Township.

## ARTICLE 8 – WORK WEEK – OVERTIME

A. All Superior Officers shall be expected, if the Employer deems it necessary, to work a minimum of 40 hours per week, on a schedule established by the Chief of Police.

B. Nothing herein contained shall infringe on or limit the power or duty of the Employer to act to provide for the health, safety or welfare of the Township in an emergency situation through special emergency directives pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-118.

C. As management, the Superior Officers shall not be entitled to overtime pay regardless of the number of hours worked in any day or week.

D. Nothing contained herein shall limit or infringe on the power of the Employer, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-118 and subject to the operational control and day to day management of the Chief of Police, to adopt policies, rules and regulations to (i) establish reporting procedures for all Superior Officers and (ii) require the scheduling of Superior Officers for special assignments, functions and events within the Township; provided, however, that the actual schedule will be determined by the Chief of Police.

E. In the event that the Chief of Police directs an LTSOA member to work more hours than a normal workweek that member shall be compensated in hour for hour compensatory time. The current practice of requiring LTSOA members to use compensatory time within the same pay period that it is earned is ended. Members of the LTSOA will be allowed to bank a total of 60 hours of compensatory time. Such time will be scheduled with the approval of the Chief or his designee. Said bank of compensatory time has no cash value. In the event that a member of the LTSOA retires and has banked compensatory time to his credit, that time shall be forfeited.

E. In the event that the Chief of Police directs an LTSOA member to work more hours than a normal workweek that member shall be compensated in hour for hour compensatory time. The current practice of requiring LTSOA members to use compensatory time within the same pay period that it is earned is ended. Members of the LTSOA will be allowed to bank a total of 60 hours of compensatory time. Such time will be scheduled with the approval of the Chief or his designee. Said bank of compensatory time has no cash value. In the event that a member of the LTSOA retires and has banked compensatory time to his credit, that time shall be forfeited.

F. Superior Officers may be permitted to work non-operational off-duty assignments and be compensated at the rate of time and one-half his hourly rate (determined by dividing his base salary plus longevity by 2,080); provided, however, that such additional compensation is subject to the Township receiving funding from an outside source, such as federal or state grant or other reimbursement from an

outside source for such off-duty assignment. Off-duty assignments do not include emergencies and may not be accumulated as compensatory time.

ARTICLE 9 – VACATIONS

A. The annual vacation period for Police Officers shall be as follows:

Up to the first year of working service	1 day per month worked
After 1 year and up to 5 years	12 working days
After 5 years and up to 10 years	15 working days
After 10 years and up to 15 years	20 working days
After 15 years	25 working days

B. Vacation leave must be taken during the current calendar year at such time permitted or directed by the appointing authority and Chief of Police unless the appointing authority and/or Chief of Police determines that it cannot be taken because of the pressure of work. Any vacation leave accruing in any calendar year after 1981 which is unused by an Employee within that calendar year must be used within the following calendar year or it shall be lost to the Employee.

C. Vacation leave entitlements for the entire year shall be credited to the Employee at the beginning of each calendar year in anticipation of continued employment for the full year. In the event the employee terminates employment, takes a leave of absence, or has any other change in status where such leave is not earned for a portion of the year, the Employer shall recover the prorated value of vacation leave. For the purposes hereof, the prorated value of the vacation leave, and if the Employee utilizes more leave than is earned, he shall be required to reimburse the Employer for the value of the used, but unearned, leave. For the purposes hereof, the prorated value of the vacation leave shall be determined by (i) dividing the number 52 into the number of full weeks in such years as of the date of such termination of employment, leave or change in status, then (ii) multiplying such fraction by the total number of vacation days credited at the beginning of such year, and then (iii) subtracting the vacation days used in such year.

ARTICLE 10 – HOLIDAYS

A. Employees shall be entitled to the following 14 holidays:

New Years Day  
Martin Luther King Day  
Lincoln's Birthday  
Presidents Day  
Good Friday  
Memorial Day  
Fourth of July  
Labor Day  
Columbus Day  
General Election  
Veteran's Day  
Thanksgiving  
Day After Thanksgiving  
Christmas Day

B. Employees actually working on the above legal holidays will not receive compensation, but shall be entitled to equal time off for such holidays worked within the same calendar year. Any such time off accruing in any calendar year which is unused by an employee within that calendar year must be used within the following calendar year where it shall be lost to the employee.

## ARTICLE 11 – SICK LEAVE

### A. Service Credit for Sick Leave.

- (i) All permanent Employees shall be entitled to sick leave with pay based on their aggregate years of service.
- (ii) Sick leave may be utilized by Employees when they are unable to perform their work by reason of personal illness,, accident or exposure to contagious disease.
- (iii) If an Employee in the line of duty is incapacitated and unable to work because of an injury, he shall be entitled to injury leave with full pay during the period in which he is unable to perform the duties, as certified by the Township's and Employee's own doctor. Such payment shall be discontinued when an employee is placed on disability or pension.

### B. Amount of Sick Leave.

- (i) The minimum sick leave with pay shall accrue to any full-time Employee on the basis of 16 days per year.
- (ii) Any amount of sick leave allowance not used in any calendar year shall accumulate to Employee's credit from year to year to be used if and when needed for such purpose.
- (iii) An employee shall not be reimbursed for accrued sick leave at the time of termination of his employment. Upon termination, the Township shall certify to the Department of Civil Service, the Employee's accumulated sick leave which shall be made part of the Employee's record.
- (iv) The Township may, at its option, but only upon the Employee's request, annually buy back up to five days of unused sick leave in January of any calendar year; provided that the Employee has not used more than five sick days in the preceding calendar year ending December 31. The purchased sick leave shall reduce the terminal leave benefit in days or hours due to the Employee at the time of retirement pursuant to Paragraph C of Article 5.

### C. Reporting of Absence on Sick Leave.

- (i) If an Employee is absent for reasons that entitle him to sick leave, his supervisor shall be notified prior to the Employee's starting time.
- (ii) Failure to so notify his supervisor may be cause for denial of the use of sick leave for that absence and constitute cause for disciplinary action.
- (iii) Absence without notice for five consecutive days shall constitute a resignation pursuant to Civil Service Regulations.

### D. Verification of Sick Leave.

- (i) An Employee who shall be absent on sick leave for three or more consecutive working days shall be required to submit acceptable medical evidence substantiating the illness. The Township may require proof of illness of an Employee on sick leave, however, whenever such requirement appears reasonable. Abuse of sick leave shall be cause for disciplinary action.
- (ii) In case of leave of absence due to exposure of contagious disease, a certificate form the New Jersey Department of Health shall be required.
- (iii) The Township may require an Employee who has been absent because of personal illness, as a condition of his return to duty be examined, at the expense of the Township by a physician of the Employee's choice, or Township's choice. Such examination shall establish whether the Employee is capable of performing his normal duties and that his return will not jeopardize the health of other employee of the Township.

E. Sick leave entitlements for the entire year shall be credited to the Employee at the beginning of each calendar year in anticipation of continued employment for the full year. In the event the Employee terminates employment, takes a leave of absence, or has any other change in status where such leave is not earned for apportion of the year, the Employer shall recover the prorated value of sick leave, and if the Employee utilizes more than is earned, he shall be required to reimburse the Employer for the value of the used, but unearned lave. For the purposes hereof, the prorated value of the sick leave shall be determined by (i) dividing the number 52 into the number of full weeks in such years as of the date of such termination of employment, leave or change in status, then (ii) Multiplying such fraction by the total number of sick days credited at the beginning of such year, and then (iii) subtracting the sick days used in such year.

ARTICLE 12 – INSURANCE, HEALTH & WELFARE

A. The Township shall provide the following health benefits for all permanent and provisional Employees working 30 hours per week or more, and their dependents, beginning on the first day and third month after two months of active employment.

- i. The Health Insurance benefits will be equal to or greater than the New Jersey State Health Plan NJ Direct 2030 (#052). See attached Schedule D. The Township reserves the right to change the third party administrators and/or health plans as long as the benefit levels set forth in this Article (including retirees) are equal or greater. The Township agrees that should the change result in less coverage, the Township will make up the difference to the affected individual.
- ii. A prescription drug plan equal to or greater than the New Jersey State Health Plan NJ Direct 2030 (#052) prescription plan (The Township may maintain the current #206 plan if the #52 plan is unavailable through SHBP). See attached Schedule D.
- iii. Dental plan with payment limitations as follows:
  - i. Preventative maintenance, etc. 100%
  - ii. Diagnostic 85%
  - iii. Restorative Treatment 85%
  - iv. Endodontics and periodontics 85%
  - v. Orthodontics 85%
  - vi. Prosthodontics-fixed and removed 85%
  - vii. Oral surgery-includes extraction and other oral
  - viii. Surgery procedures usually employed by a
  - ix. Dentist, including pre and post-operative care 85%
  - x. Maximum benefit: \$1,300 per person per calendar year; \$3,100 lifetime maximum per person for orthodontic service, for the term of this Agreement. There shall be a zero deductible.
- iv. A vision care plan with benefits payable only once every 24 months, as follows:
  - i. Vision Analysis \$80
  - ii. Single Vision Lenses \$70
  - iii. Bifocal Lenses \$85
  - iv. Multi Focal Lenses \$100
  - v. Contact Lenses \$110
  - vi. Frames \$85

- v. These benefits start, in their amended form, as soon as practicable after execution of this Agreement by both parties, and will continue for the life of this Agreement and thereafter unless otherwise negotiated, subject to the provision in Paragraph D below.
- B. The Township shall provide the following SHBP retiree health benefit coverage for retired Employee up to 65 years age or whenever the retired Employee is first eligible for Medicare:
- i. Eligibility
    - a. Employee retires at age 62 or older with at least 15 years service with the Township.
    - b. Employee retires before age 62 with at least 20 years service with the Township and 25 years of service credit as required under N.J.S.A. 40A:10-23 and/or N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.38.
    - c. Coverage is for the retired Employee, spouse and dependents until Medicare eligibility. In the event of a retired employee's death, the spouse will continue to receive the described benefits until remarriage or Medicare eligibility. Upon retired employee's death, dependents ~~will~~ receiving benefits will continue to receive the same until they are in eligible due to age or otherwise.
    - d. Employee receives an accidental disability retirement and/or ordinary disability retirement resulting from an on-the-job injury.
  - ii. Benefits

All benefits set forth in Paragraphs A(i) through A(v) above except, retirees shall be enrolled in the SHBP NJ Direct 2030 for retirees. See Schedule E.
  - iii. Coordination of Benefits.

If the retired Employee takes a job with an employer who provides health benefits, he/she must obtain primary coverage thereunder, and the Township will be the secondary insurer. When the Employee is no longer employed by the subsequent employer, all health benefits provided by the Township hereunder shall be restored as primary benefits under this section. If the retired Employee's spouse has or takes another job which provides health benefits, the Employee's

spouse may or may not accept primary health benefits from such employer. If he/she accepts such benefits, the Township will be the secondary insurer. The failure of the spouse to accept primary health benefits under his/her employer shall result in a waiver of health benefits by such spouse hereunder. In the event the Employee's spouse is no longer employed, all health benefits provided by the Township hereunder shall be restored as primary benefits under this section.

C. The Township shall provide the following health benefits coverage for retired Employees who have reached Medicare eligibility.

(i) Eligibility

- a. Employee retired at age 62 or older with at least 15 continuous service with the Township at the time of retirement.
- b. Employee retired with at least 20 years service with the Township, not necessarily continuous, and 25 years of service credit as required under N.J.S.A. 40A:10-23 at the time of retirement.
- c. Employee retired at age 65 or older but less than 15 years service with the Township, shall be allowed to participate in any Township group plans for supplemental Medicare Insurance (if the Township provides one) and prescription program as long as the Employee pays the premiums.
- d. Coverage is for retired Employee and spouse, both of who have reached Medicare eligibility. When either Employee or spouse reaches Medicare eligibility, the other will continue to receive coverage as described under Paragraph B, until he/she also reaches Medicare eligibility. In the event of a retired Employee's death, the spouse will continue to receive the described benefits until remarriage. Upon a retired employee's death, the employee's dependents receiving benefits will continue to receive the same (at retiree co-pay rates) until they are ineligible to do age or otherwise.
- e. Employee receives an accidental disability retirement or receives an ordinary disability retirement from an on-the-job injury.

(ii) The Township shall provide health benefits to retirees age 65 and over as follows:

- a. The retiree may choose not to enroll in the Supplemental Plan maintained by the Township, in which case the retiree shall be paid the sum determined below respectively to defer the cost of obtaining alternate health insurance. If married, and the spouse is Medicare eligible, an additional sum of the same amount shall be paid for the retiree's spouse. Such amounts shall be adjusted annually commencing January 1, 2016 by the percentage of wage increases set forth in this Agreement. The 2015 amount is \$1051.73; and each year of the contract shall be as follows:

2016 - \$1,071.19  
2017 - \$1,091.00  
2018 - \$1,111.19  
2019 - \$1,131.74

- b. Regardless of whether or not the retiree elects to participate in the group health insurance plan maintained by the Township, the Township shall maintain coverage for Medicare eligible retirees and spouse in the Township's vision, dental and prescription plans, to the extent benefits are not duplicated.

- (iii) If retired Employee takes a job with an employer who provides health benefits, he/she must obtain primary coverage thereunder, and the Township will be the secondary insurer. When the employee is no longer employed by the subsequent employer, all health benefits provided by the Township hereunder shall be restored as primary benefits under this section. If the retired Employee's spouse has or takes another job which provides health benefits, the Employee's spouse may or may not accept primary health benefits from such employer. If she/he accepts such benefits, the Township will be the secondary insurer. The failure of the spouse to accept primary health benefits from his/her employer shall result in a waiver of health benefits by such spouse hereunder. In the event the Employee's spouse is no longer employed, all health benefits provided by the Township hereunder shall be restored as primary benefits under this section.

- D. The Township reserves the right to change the third party administrators and/or health plans as long as the benefit levels set forth in this Article (including retirees) are equal or greater. The Township agrees that should the change result in less coverage, the Township will make up the difference to the affected individual.

- E. When both husband and wife are Township Employees, family coverage will be provided under only one contract, with the supplemental benefit of 100% coverage for vision and dental, and 100% reimbursement of in-and out-of-network deductibles and copayments.

- F. There will no longer be a medical fund to reimburse deductibles, co-payments, or other out-of-pocket expenses.
- G. The provisions under this Agreement do not affect the health benefits coverages of Employees who retire prior to the effective date of this Agreement, all of which benefits are to be determined by prior contracts in effect at the time of the retirement; provided, however, that prior retirees may opt for coverage under the terms of this Agreement during the enrollment period, as long as they meet the eligibility criteria contained herein.
- H. The Township shall continue to provide a \$10,000 life insurance policy on the active Employee's life only, in addition to the insurance provided by the State pension plan.
- I. Whenever a police officer is a defendant in any action or legal proceeding arising out of, or incidental to the performance of his duties, the governing body of the Township, subject to the limitations set forth in the New Jersey Tort Claims Act, N.J.S.A. 59:1-1, et seq., shall provide said Police Officer with necessary means for the defense of such action or proceeding, but not for his defense in a disciplinary proceeding instituted against him by the Township or in a criminal proceeding instituted as a result of a complaint on behalf of the Township. If any such disciplinary or criminal proceeding institute by or on the complaint of the Township shall be dismissed or finally determined in favor of the Police Officer, he shall be reimbursed for the expense of his defense. In the event that this Paragraph is brought into effect, the Police Officer involved shall request legal representation from the Township in writing as soon as he is a defendant in such action. Within five days, the Township will respond in writing assigning the Police Officer's legal representation. If the affected Police Officer objects to the assigned legal representative, he may request a meeting with the Township's Manger and Solicitor in order to discuss and resolve any issues regarding the representation.
- J. In the event a Police Officer is killed in the line of duty, health insurance coverage for his surviving spouse shall be continued until remarriage of such spouse, and for any surviving children until they would have been no longer eligible had the death not occurred. This coverage shall include any and all health insurance benefits subsequently negotiated by the P.B.A. for its members.
- K. When the Employee is required to use his own vehicle, he shall be compensated at the mileage rate published by the Internal Revenue Service plus tolls.

- L. Should the Township exercise their statutory right under P.L. 2010, c.2 (S-3) to provide payment to employees who seek to opt-out of the Employer's health benefit insurance, the Township will pay police officers 50% of this amount by July 15 and the balance by January 15.

ARTICLE 13 – EXCHANGE OF DAYS OFF

The Chief, or his designee, may grant the request of any permanent Member of the Department, to exchange hours, duties or days off. Such requests, if granted, shall be on a uniform basis with standard rules and regulation established by the Chief and applying to all permanent members of the Department who make such requests. Such requests may not be arbitrarily or unreasonably withheld.

ARTICLE 14 - CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

A. All Lieutenants and Captains shall receive the same uniform and equipment as supplied to police officers or required by the Chief of Police.

ARTICLE 15 - TIME OFF

A. Each Employee shall be granted 6 personal days off annually with no loss of compensation. These days shall be requested at least 72 hours before the requested time off. Requests for such time off shall not be unreasonably denied.

B. All personal days must be used in the calendar year earned and will not be carried over to any succeeding calendar year.

C. Personal leave entitlements for the entire year shall be credited to the Employee at the beginning of each calendar year in anticipation of continued employment for the full year. In the event the Employee terminates employment, takes a leave of absence, or has any other change in status where such leave is not earned for a portion of the year, the Employer shall recover the prorated value of personal leave, and if the Employee utilizes more leave than is earned, he shall be required to reimburse the Employer for the value used, but unearned leave. For the purposes hereof, the prorated value of the personal leave shall be determined by (i) dividing the number 52 into the number of full weeks in such years as of the date of such termination of employment, leave or change in status, then (ii) multiplying such fraction by the total number of personal days credited at the beginning of such year, and then (iii) subtracting the personal days used in such year.

## ARTICLE 16 – GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

### A. Purpose.

- (i) The purpose of this procedure is to secure, the lowest possible level, an equitable solution to the problems which may arise affecting the terms and conditions of employment of Police Officers.
- (ii) Nothing contained herein shall be construed as limiting the right of any employee having a grievance to discuss the matter informally.

### B. Definition.

- (i) For the purposes of Steps One, Two and Three of Paragraph C as set forth below, the term “grievance” shall be defined to mean any controversy arising from the interpretation, application or violation of policies, agreements, and administrative decisions affecting the member of a bargaining unit.
- (ii) For the purposes of Step Four of Paragraph C as set forth below, the term “grievance” shall be defined to mean any controversy arising from the interpretation or adherence to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- (iii) Any grievance may be raised by any member of the bargaining unit or by the LTSOA.
- (iv) In relation to the grievance procedure as outlined in Subsection C infra, the term “working days” are defined as the time period from Monday through Friday inclusive.

### C. Steps of the Grievance Procedure.

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

#### (i) Step One:

- a. An aggrieved Employee shall institute action under the provisions hereof within 30 working days of the occurrence of the grievance, and an earnest effort shall

be made to settle the differences between the aggrieved party and the Chief or his designee, for the purpose of resolving the matter informally. Failure to act within the said 30 working days shall be deemed to constitute an abandonment of the grievance.

- b. The Chief or his designee, shall render a decision within 10 working days after receipt of the grievance.

(ii) Step Two:

- a. In the event the grievance is not settled through Step One, the same shall be reduced to writing by the LTSOA and signed by the aggrieved and filed with the Township's Manager within 10 working days following the determination of the Chief of Police.
- b. The Township's Manager, or his representative, shall render a decision within 10 working days from the receipt of the grievance.

(iii) Step Three:

- a. In the event the grievance has not been resolved through Step Two, within 10 working days following the determination of the Township Manager, the matter may be submitted to the Township Council.
- b. The Township Council shall review the matter and make a determination within 10 working days from the receipt of the grievance.

(iv) Step Four:

- a. If the grievance is not settled through Steps One, Two or Three, either party may refer the matter to the Public Employment Relations Commission ("PERC") within 10 working days after the determination by the Township Council. An arbitrator shall be selected pursuant to the Rules of PERC.
- b. No arbitration hearing shall be scheduled sooner than 30 calendar days after the final decision of the Township Council. In the event the aggrieved elects to pursue Civil Service Procedures, the arbitration hearing shall be cancelled and the matter withdrawn from arbitration.

The LTSOA shall pay whatever costs may have been incurred in processing the case to arbitration.

- c. The arbitrator shall be bound by the provisions of this Agreement and restricted to the application of the facts presented to him involved in the grievance. The arbitrator shall not have the authority to add to, modify, detract from or alter in any way the provisions of this Agreement or any amendment or supplement thereto. The decision of the arbitrator shall be binding upon the parties.
- d. The costs for the services of the arbitrator shall be borne equally between the Township and the PBA. Any other expenses, including but not limited to the presentation of witnesses, shall be paid by the party incurring the same.

D. Miscellaneous.

- (i) A grievance may be instituted at the lowest step having the power to resolve it.
- (ii) Failure to respond to any step in this procedure by the Township shall be determined to be a negative response, and upon the termination of the applicable time limits, the grievant may proceed to the next step.

E. No Strike Pledge.

The LTSOA covenants and agrees that during the term of this Agreement neither the LTSOA nor any person acting in its behalf will cause, authorize or support, nor will any of its Members take part in any strike (i.e. the concerted failure to report for duty, or willful absence of any Employee from his position, or stoppage or work of abstinence in whole or in part from the full, faithful and proper performance of the Employee's duties of employment), work stoppage, slowdown, walkout or other illegal action which interferes with the full and complete normal operation of the government of the Township. The LTSOA agrees that such action would constitute a material breach of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 17 – AWARDS COMMITTEE

There is hereby established an awards committee composed of the Chief, a designated member of Council and one representative of the PBA. This committee shall have the authority to award certificates of commendation to Superior Officers performing outstanding heroic acts. Recipients of such awards shall also receive a maximum of two days off with no loss of pay.

ARTICLE 18 - PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE TOWNSHIP

The Employee may leave the Township during time off without receiving permission unless instructed otherwise during any specific emergency situation.

ARTICLE 19 – WAGES

- A. The wage increases shall be as follows for LTSOA members.  
Based upon the economic concessions in this agreement each unit member shall have their base salary increased by \$1,250.00 .  
Thereafter the following increases will be paid.

Effective 01/01/16 – 1.85%

Effective 01/01/17 – 1.85%

Effective 01/01/18 – 1.85%

Effective 01/01/19 – 1.85%

Backpay under this agreement shall be limited to unit members who actively work in a covered position after the date of ratification of this Agreement and shall not include unit members who retired, are on leave with intent to retire, or for other reasons are not actively employed in a covered position after the date of ratification.

- B. All employees hired before May 10, 2012 shall receive longevity pay in accordance with their years of service as follows:

2% of base pay after 5 years of service

4% of base pay after 10 years of service

6% of base pay after 15 years of service

8% of base pay after 20 years of service

10% of base pay after 24 years of service

The years of working services for the purposes of this paragraph C shall mean years worked as Superior Officer, Police Officer or Sergeant in the Police Department.

- C. All employees hired after May 10, 2012 of this Agreement shall not be entitled to longevity pursuant to Paragraph B above or otherwise.
- D. In addition to the proceeding paragraphs all LTSOA members shall be paid in accordance with Schedule B & C.
- E. Upon execution of this Agreement, all police officers working “extra duty” assignments shall be compensated at the rate of \$60.00 per hour.

ARTICLE 20 – COLLEGE CREDITS

- A. Effective January 1, 2017 compensation for college credits shall be eliminated.

ARTICLE 21 – SAVINGS BOND

Upon written authorization, the Township shall deduct appropriate amounts so specified by the Employee from his paycheck to be used in purchasing savings bonds for said Employee.

ARTICLE 22 - COURT TIME

- A. Should it become necessary for any Employee to appear in any court when not on duty as a result of a matter arising out of his duties as a Superior Officer, he shall not be entitled to any additional compensation or time off.
  
- B. Any retired Superior Officer required to appear in any court in cases where the Township is a party and the retired Superior Officer shall be called as a witness shall be entitled to compensation for such court time at an hourly rate based upon the salary payable to such retired Superior Officer at the time of his or her retirement. In order to be entitled to compensation for such court time, the retired Superior Officer shall be required to provide a voucher to the Township along with documentation of the time spent in court related to the retired Superior Officer's testimony. Such compensation shall be limited to time actually spent in court, and shall not include other expenses. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no retired Superior Officer shall be entitled to compensation for court time in any action brought by that retired Superior Officer against the Township.

## ARTICLE 23 – POLICE RIGHTS

- A. The Superior Officers hold a unique status as public officers in that the nature of their office and employment involves the exercise of a portion of the police powers of the Township.
  
- B. The wide ranging powers and duties given to the Department and its members involve them in manners of contacts and relationships with the public. Out of these contacts may come questions concerning the actions of the members of the Department. These questions may require investigations by the Superior Officers. In an effort to ensure that these investigations are conducted in a manner which is conducive to good order and discipline, the following rules are hereby adopted:
  - (i) The interrogation of a member of the Department shall be at a reasonable hour, within the light of all circumstances involved, preferable when a member of the Department is on duty.
  - (ii) The Superior Officer shall be informed of the nature of the investigation before any interrogation commences. If the informant or complainant is anonymous, then the Superior Officer shall be so advised. Sufficient information to reasonably appraise the member of the allegations should be provided. If it is known that the member of the Force is being interrogated as a witness only, he should be so informed at the initial contact.
  - (iii) The questioning shall be reasonable in length. Reasonable respites shall be allowed. Time should also be provided for personal necessities, meals, telephone calls and rest periods as are reasonable necessary.
  - (iv) The Superior Officer should not be subject to any offensive language, nor shall he be threatened with transfer, dismissal or other disciplinary punishment. No promise of reward shall be made as an inducement to answering questions. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the investigating Superior Officer from informing the member of the possible consequences of his act.
  - (v) If a Superior Officer is under arrest or is likely to be, that is, if he is the suspect or the target of a criminal investigation, he shall be given his rights pursuant to the current decisions of the United States Supreme Court.
  - (vi) If a Superior Officer, as a result of an investigation is being charged with a violation of rules and regulations or is about to be so charged, he shall be afforded an

opportunity to consult with counsel, or LTSOA representatives before any further interrogation.

- (vii) If any Superior Officer is being charged with a violation of the rules and regulations, the preliminary notice of disciplinary action shall be filed with the Township's Clerk no later than 45 days from the date of the Township learns that said member has committed the violation in question. Failure to file said preliminary notice within the allotted 45 days shall act as a bar to the bringing of said charges.

ARTICLE 24 – FULLY BARGAINED PROVISIONS

This Agreement represents and incorporates the complete and final understanding and settlement by the parties on all bargainable issues which were or could have been the subject to negotiations. During the terms of this Agreement, neither party will be required to negotiate with respect to any such matter, whether or not covered by this Agreement, and whether or not within the knowledge or contemplation of either or both of the parties at the time they negotiated or signed the Agreement.

ARTICLE 25 – SEPARABILTY AND SAVINGS AND APPLICATION

- A. If any provision of the Agreement or any application of this Agreement to said employee or group of Employees is held to be invalid by operation of law or by a court or other tribunal of competent jurisdiction, such provision shall be inoperative but all other provisions shall not be affected thereby and shall continue in full force and effect.
- B. In the event the invalid provision afforded a direct economic benefit, the parties shall meet and negotiate a new provision reflecting equal cost.

ARTICLE 26 – MAINTENANCE AND MODIFICATION OF WORK RULES

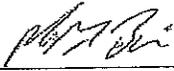
- A. All conditions of employment relating to wages, hours of work, and general working conditions contained in the rules and regulations of the Department, General Ordinances, or Resolutions of the Township pertaining to Superior Officers, or directives from the office of the Chief of Police, which are of universal application within the Department, currently in effect, shall be maintained for the life of this Agreement.
  
- B. Proposed new rules or modifications of existing rules governing working conditions, as set forth above, which are not exclusively within the discretion of management, shall be negotiated with the majority representative prior to implementation.

TERM AND RENEWAL

This Agreement shall be in full force and effect as of January 1, 2016 and shall remain in effect up to and including December 31, 2019, without any reopening date except as to any provision specifically stated. This Agreement shall continue in full force and effect from year to year thereafter, unless one party or the other gives notice, in writing, no sooner than 150 days nor later than 90 days prior to the expiration date of this Agreement of a desire to change, modify or terminate this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have hereunto set their hands and seals at the Township of Lower, New Jersey on this 6th, day of November, 2017.

LOCAL #59 POLICEMAN'S  
BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION



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TOWNSHIP OF LOWER  
LOWER TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY



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**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER SOA  
SCHEDULE A**

	<u>1/1/2015</u>	<b>Add to Base:</b> <b>\$ 1,250.00</b>	<u>1/1/2016</u>	<u>1/1/2017</u>	<u>1/1/2018</u>	<u>1/1/2019</u>
<b>Lieut.</b>	109,750.98	111,000.98	113,054.50	115,146.01	117,276.21	119,445.82
<b>Captain</b>	116,778.78	118,028.78	120,212.31	122,436.24	124,701.31	127,008.28

Schedule B

(1 of 2)

Lieutenant Salary

- A. For any employee hired prior to May 10, 2012, such Lieutenant shall receive longevity pursuant to Article 19, ¶C
- B. For any employee hired after May 10, 2012, such Lieutenant shall not receive longevity.
- C. Lieutenants pursuant to ¶A above shall be paid their longevity. In the event that a Lieutenant pursuant to ¶B (Lieutenants no longer eligible for longevity) is entitled to and receives a higher base salary pursuant to ¶D below, then Lieutenants with longevity (See ¶A above) shall be paid that amount.
- D. Lieutenants pursuant to ¶B above shall be paid 18.6% more than a Police Officer at 15 years and 18 years.

Schedule C

(2 of 2)

Captain Salary

- A. For any employee hired prior to May 10, 2012, such Captain shall receive longevity pursuant to Article 19, ¶C.
- B. For any employee hired after May 10, 2012, such Captain shall not receive longevity.
- C. Captains pursuant to ¶A above shall be paid their longevity. In the event that a Captain pursuant to ¶B (Captains no longer eligible for longevity) is entitled to and receives a higher base salary pursuant to ¶D below, then Captains with longevity (See ¶A above) shall be paid that amount.
- D. Captains pursuant to ¶B above shall be paid 26.2% more than a Police Officer at 15 years and 18 years.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIVE EMPLOYEES - MEDICAL PLAN DESIGNS - PLAN YEAR 2017  
 AETNA PLANS and HORIZON PLANS  
 HA-0989-1078

	Aetna Freedom10 NJ DIRECT10	Aetna Freedom15 NJ DIRECT15	Aetna Freedom1525 NJ DIRECT1525	Aetna Freedom2030 NJ DIRECT2030	Aetna Freedom2035 NJ DIRECT2035	Aetna HMO Horizon HMO1	Aetna Liberty Horizon OMNIA	Aetna Value HD4000 NJ DIRECT HD4000*	Aetna Value HD1500 NJ DIRECT HD1500*
Medical Cost Sharing									
Primary Care Copayment	\$10	\$15	\$15	\$20	\$20	\$10	TIER 1/TIER 2		
Specialist Care Copayment	\$10	\$15	\$25	\$50 adult/\$30 child**	\$35	\$10	\$15.00/\$30.00		
Emergency Room Copayment	\$75	\$100	\$100	\$125	\$300	\$68	\$100.00/\$100.00		
In-Network Deductible <sup>1</sup>							None/\$1500.00***	\$4,000	\$1,500
In-Network Coinsurance <sup>2</sup>	10%	10%	10%	10%	20% after deductible		None/20%	20% after deductible	20% after deductible
In-Network Coinsurance (Maximum Individual/Family)		\$400/\$1,000	\$400/\$1,000	\$900/\$2,000	\$2000/\$5,000		None/None	\$1,000/\$2,000	\$1,000/\$2,000
In-Network Out-of-Pocket (Maximum Individual/Family)		\$400/\$1,000	\$5,720/\$11,440	\$5,720/\$11,440	\$5,720/\$11,440		None/None	\$5,000/\$10,000	\$2,500/\$5,000
Out-of-Network Deductible (Individual)	\$100/\$250	\$100/\$250	\$100/\$250	\$200/\$500	\$300/\$2000		NA/NA	See In-Network Deductibles <sup>5</sup>	See In-Network Deductibles <sup>5</sup>
Out-of-Network Coinsurance <sup>4</sup>	20%	30%	30%	30%	40%		NA/NA	40%	40%
Out-of-Network Out-of-Pocket Maximum (Individual/Family)	\$2,000/\$5,000	\$2,000/\$5,000	\$2,000/\$5,000	\$5,000/\$12,500	\$6,500/\$13,000		NA/NA	\$5,000/\$12,000	\$3,500/\$7,000
Out-of-Network Inpatient Hospital Deductible	\$200/stay	\$200/stay	\$200/stay	\$500/stay	\$600/stay		NA/NA		
Employer Health Savings Account Fundings <sup>6</sup>							NA/NA		\$900
Prescription Drug Copayments <sup>7</sup>									
Retail: Generic Copayments	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$7.00	\$3.00	\$7.00	\$3.00	\$7.00		
Retail: Preferred Copayments	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$21.00	\$10.00	\$16.00		
Retail: Non-Preferred Copayments	member pays difference <sup>8</sup>		Subject to deductible and coinsurance						
Mail: Generic Copayments	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$18.00	\$5.00	\$16.00	\$5.00	\$18.00		Subject to deductible and coinsurance
Mail: Preferred Copayments	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$40.00	\$36.00	\$52.00	\$15.00	\$40.00		
Mail: Non-Preferred Copayments	member pays difference <sup>8</sup>								
Prescription Drug Annual Out-of- Pocket (Maximum Individual/Family)	\$1,450/\$2,860	\$1,450/\$2,860	\$1,450/\$2,860	\$1,450/\$2,860	\$1,450/\$2,860	\$1,450/\$2,860	\$1,450/\$2,860		

1. No - High Deductible Health Plan  
 \*\*Age 26 and under  
 \*\*\* Family amounts are a x per member amounts listed  
 1. Service areas for Horizon HMO plans are limited to New Jersey, New Castle County in Delaware, and surrounding counties of Pennsylvania and New York.  
 2. On select services.  
 3. Out-of-Network Deductible is combined with In-Network Deductible.  
 4. After Deductible.  
 5. Health Savings Accounts can be used for qualified medical expenses without federal tax liability.  
 6. This publication is produced and distributed by the Health Services Division of Pennington and Bennett's - www.aetna.com/healthplans  
 7. Local government employers are subject from the SHIP's Prescription Drug Plan, purchase their own prescription drug coverage plan, or receive prescription drug coverage through the SHIP medical plan.  
 8. Copayments 15% for NJ DIRECT10 and NJ DIRECT15; Copayments 20% for NJ DIRECT1525 and NJ DIRECT2030; Copayments 25% for NJ DIRECT2035; Copayments for Aetna Freedom10, Aetna Freedom15, Aetna Freedom1525, Aetna Freedom2030, Aetna Freedom2035, Aetna Liberty, and Horizon OMNIA as shown in chart above. For High Deductible Health Plans, prescription drug coverage must be through the SHIP medical plan and are subject to the plan's deductible and coinsurance amounts.  
 9. For maintenance prescription drugs, mail order is mandatory under the 2025 plans (Aetna Freedom2035, NJ DIRECT2035).  
 10. Applies to services that do not require a copayment.  
 11. Not pay the applicable generic copayment as listed above, plus the cost difference between the brand drug and the generic drug.

